



Issue No. 3	An email newsletter to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers
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Spotlight

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Invitation to present papers at the FSS Panel in the Annual Conference of the Ethiopian Economic Association (10-12 June 2006)

Register at fss@ethionet.et
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FSS Book Launch

The Forum for Social Studies launched its third monograph titled **“Poverty and the Social Context of Sex Work in Addis Ababa: An Anthropological Perspective”** on 22 March 2006 at the Semien Hotel in Addis Ababa.

A total of 57 representatives of government and non-government organizations, researchers, journalists and other invited guests attended the launch ceremony. Prof Bahru Zewde, Executive Director of FSS, welcomed the guests and introduced the author, Ms Bethlehem Tekola, and her research work. Ms Bethlehem Tekola is a graduate of Addis Ababa University (BA History, MA Social Anthropology). She is currently studying for her doctoral degree at the University of Bath, UK.

Ms. Bethlehem made a brief presentation of the situation of commercial sex workers in Addis Ababa, the objectives and methodology of her study, her major findings and policy recommendations to address the problems related to commercial sex work. Two experts working to improve the livelihoods of commercial sex workers supplemented her presentation by highlighting some salient

features of the monograph. The two guest speakers were Wro Konjit Berhan, Executive Director of Family Health International (FHI), and W/ro Beletu Mengistu, Executive Director of Integrated Service for AIDS Prevention and Support Organization (ISAPSO), both of whom have rich experience in interventions in the research area addressed by the study. Following this, members of the audience had a lively discussion and exchange of views on the issues raised by Ms Bethlehem's work.

The monograph is available for sell at FSS head office and major bookshops in Addis Ababa.

Roundtable Discussion on Draft PASDEP

A roundtable discussion on the draft “Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty” (PASDEP), organised by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED), was held on February 25, 2006, in Addis Ababa.

The meeting brought together members of the Poverty Action Network of Civil Society in Ethiopia (PANE), experts and officials representing various line ministries such as the

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Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Women's Affairs Office.

2nd General Assembly of UECESO

Speaking on the occasion, Ato Getachew Adem, head of MOFED's Development Planning and Research Department, said that the Ethiopian government was interested in engaging civil society in regular dialogue and exchange of information on the PASDEP. He pointed out that the inputs of civil society as well as those of other stakeholders were being taken into consideration and would be encapsulated in the final version of the PASDEP, which is currently under revision.

PANE members and other CSOs welcomed the consultation process as an important step forward in CSO-Government partnership. It was learned that further discussions would be held to decide the modalities and schedules of the future roundtable discussions.

The consultations were aimed at making the PASDEP as comprehensive and country-owned as possible, since the strategy document is expected to serve as the main framework for the country's development efforts, particularly in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in the next five years. The current approach contrasts with experiences in other African countries, where PRSPs were often not linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as to other national strategies or programs.

PANE members had already deliberated on the draft Plan and submitted their written recommendations to MOFED. The roundtable meeting gave PANE members another opportunity to hold face-to-face discussions with government representatives on a number of issues relating to the sectoral programs of the draft PASDEP document and suggest improvements. PANE and MOFED had in the past collaborated in regional awareness campaigns on the SDPRP, MDGs, as well as in the Annual Progress Reviews of the SDPRP. MoFED and PANE also agreed to work on the upcoming regional and Wereda consultations on the PASDEP and MDGs.

The Poverty Action Network of Ethiopia (PANE) is a new network of civil society organisations working to reduce poverty in Ethiopia by influencing the PASDEP and other policy-making processes. PANE hopes to do this through research, policy analysis, advocacy and information sharing. PANE has regional chapters throughout Ethiopia and its membership represents a broad range of civil society organisations.

On March 6, 2006, the General Assembly of the Union of Ethiopian Civil Society Associations (UECSO) held its second meeting within a short time. The meeting was held to elect the Board of Directors, the Chair and Secretary of the General Assembly, and to discuss a working document prepared by the Secretariat for the forthcoming civil-society internal dialogue. The document was earlier enriched by the outgoing Board Members.

The following two persons representing their respective organizations were elected for the General Assembly:

1. Ato Debebe Habte Gebreal, from Action Professionals Associations for the People (APAP) – Chair of the General Assembly meetings, and
2. W/ro Tsige Haile, from Women In Self Employment (WISE) - Secretary of the General Assembly meetings.

The Board of the Union has nine members. The following five active members of the outgoing Board were re-elected:

1. W/t Bizuwork Ketete - Chairperson of UECESO
2. Ato Sahilesilassie Abebe - Vice Chairperson UECESO
3. W/ro Tsigu Woldeesenbet - Member
4. Ato Mandefro Tegegn - Member
5. Ato Tatek Kassa - Member

The following four organizations were elected as new Board Members. They are expected to be represented by permanently assigned staff:

1. Forum for Social Studies (FSS)
2. Agri-Service Ethiopia
3. Rift Valley Women and Children Development Association
4. Africa Initiative for Democratic World Order (AIDWO)

The working document sets forth the following objectives of the Civil Society internal dialogue:

- To contribute to the clarification of the contentious issues amongst the three perspectives as regards voluntarily organized entities;

- To highlight commonalities among various types of voluntarily organized entities;
- To make issues of civil society a centerpiece of the democratization and development process; and
- To enable members of the sector to reach consensus among themselves on the designation of CSOs in the Ethiopian context.

It was proposed to organize a public forum at which experts would present papers and invited panelists would reflect on the presentations to enrich the discussions. The CSOs internal dialogue is provisionally scheduled to take place in mid-April 2006.

Public Meeting on Natural Gum and Incense

The Forum for Environment (FfE), in collaboration with Non-Timber Products Research & Development Project (NTFP), Ethiopian Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF) and Ethiopian Foresters Association (EFA) organized the first public meeting under the theme “*Non-timber forest products: A win-win for poverty reduction and environmental protection*”. The meeting was held at Semien Hotel, Addis Ababa on 17 March 2006. It was attended by participants drawn from NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, private and government institutions that are involved in the Natural Gum and Incense economic sector. FSS was represented by Dr. Daniel Kassahun, the Environment Researcher.

Two papers on the botanical and socioeconomic aspects of gum and incense resources, authored by Dr. Mulugeta Lemeneh, Teshome Soromessa and Teshale W/Amanuel, were presented and discussed at the meeting. While the annual potential production of gum and incense in Ethiopia is 300,000 tones per annum, the actual production is only 2000 tones, of which 50% is exported. The production process is reported to generate employment opportunity for 20,000-30,000 persons. During the discussions following the presentations, the current resettlement program taking place in the western lowlands of Ethiopia was pointed out as the major threat to the sustainability of gum and incense production. In addition, factors such as cross-border illegal trading, rapid forest degradation, poor infrastructure in the resource area, poor quality control system, and issues related to the ownership/tenure and absence of forest policy in the country were discussed during the meeting.

ESSSWA Holds 5th Annual Conference

The Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Anthropologists (ESSSWA) held its 5th Annual Conference at the Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel on March 3 & 4, 2006. The theme of the conference was “HIV/AIDS Orphan and Vulnerable Children in the Eyes of Social Scientists and Development Practitioners”. Six papers on various topics under the conference theme were presented and discussed during the two-day meeting.

Attending the conference were representatives of government ministries, UN agencies, bilateral organizations, and NGOs, including FSS.

The conference underlined the importance of the participation of all concerned in curbing the multifaceted problems of 4.6 million orphans in the country. Speaking at the conference, Dr Bulti Gutema, Head of the Children and Family Affairs Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, said although there are laws and policies that provide for the protection of orphans and vulnerable children, many children who are in dire need of assistance are not reached for a range of problems.

The number of vulnerable orphans has been increasing due to poverty, drought, HIV/AIDS and other social crisis, noted the UNICEF Youth and HIV/AIDS Department Head, Richard Mabala.

The Society has endorsed a three-year Strategic Plan after thorough discussions by its members. ESSSWA also accorded a special Award to Shimelis Adugna and Hirut Imru in recognition of their long years of dedicated service in the fields of Education and national development.

The ESSSWA was founded in June 1996 and officially registered in April 1997.

MELCA Mahiber's Workshop on Advocacy Strategy Development

A workshop under the theme “*Advocacy Strategy Development*”, organized by the MELCA Mahiber was held from 21st to 23rd March 2006 at Ararat Hotel, Addis Ababa.

The workshop started with the presentation of three papers which focused on the state of the ecological, socio-economic and anthropological aspects of the Sheka Forest. After brief discussions on the issues raised in the presentations, participants dwelt on major challenges of advocacy strategy through “mind mapping” techniques, which was followed by prioritization of specific goals, sketching of logical framework, analysis of stakeholders, and preparation of the draft strategic plan.

The workshop offered a valuable platform for the exchange of information on policy issues and implications for forest conservation advocacy strategy. The participants agreed to set up a taskforce that will finalize the advocacy strategy document in the coming months so as to launch the advocacy campaign effectively. Approximately 20 participants drawn from government, civil society, local and regional NGOs attended the workshop. Attending the workshop from FSS was Dr. Daniel Kassahun.

Sensitization Workshops for Grassroots Communities of Lideta Sub-city

The Poverty Action Network of Ethiopia (PANE), in partnership with Save the Children Sweden (SCS) and Handicap National, conducted a series of training workshops in the Lideta Sub-city (Addis Ababa), over a two-week period, from 20 to 31 January 2006.

The sensitization workshop was conducted separately for adults and children, while the trainings on the District Development Plans involved selected participants from both groups.

The workshops for the children mainly focused on defining poverty from a child’s perspective and on child-focused MDGs, including their targets, indicators, and ways of localizing them. Those for the adults dealt with the genesis of the PRSPs and MDGs, their status in Ethiopia, and ways of localizing them. The main strategies, priority sectors, and the systems for monitoring and evaluating the government’s new Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP), the second version of the PRSP, as well as participatory development planning were also discussed at length. PANE has been active in designing a strategy for localizing the MDGs in Ethiopia through the Sub-city Development Plans. This project would be tested and implemented in selected Weredas, with financial support from

SNV and UNDP during the PASDEP implementation period.

The trainings on Sub-city Development Plans were focused more on grounding the participants with some planning techniques, namely, the Logical Framework Approach (LFA), with the aim of enabling the participants to formulate tentative plans for their own localities, including the development of the Sub-city’s stakeholders’ Interest Analysis Matrix, a Problem Tree, and, through a Project Planning Matrix, to partly formulate a plan for some prioritized projects. Most of the children were primary and secondary school students, while those in the ‘adults group’ were from government offices, Women Associations, Youth Association, NGOs, *iddirs* and other community-based organizations in kebeles 12, 15, 16 and 17 of the Lideta Sub-city.

The workshops on sensitizing the PASDEP/MDGs, as well as the trainings on preparation of District Development Plans were carried out as a pilot project of PANE, which intends to carry-out similar exercises on a larger scale in the Weredas and regions.

New Acquisitions of FSS Documentation Center

Publications on Ethiopia

Eide, Øyvind. 2000. *Revolution and Religion in Ethiopia. 1974-85*. Eastern African Studies. Oxford : James Curry.

Freeman, Dena, and Alula Pankhurst. 2003. *Living on the Edge: Marginalized Minorities of Craft Workers and Hunters in Southern Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa: Department of Sociology and Social Administration.

Mandefro Nigussie. 2005. *Statistical Procedures for Designed Experiments*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization.

Stevenson, Lois, and St-Onge Annette. 2005. *Support for Growth-Oriented Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopia*. Geneva: International Labour Office.

St.Mary's College. 2005. *Proceedings of the Third National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) in Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa.

Tesfaye Zegeye, Legesse Dadi, and Dawit Alemu. eds.

2004. *Agricultural Systems Analysis and Constraints Identification*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization.

_____. *Agricultural Technology Evaluation Adoption and Marketing*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization.

Tilahun Amede, Habtu Assefa and Ann Stroud. *Participatory Research in Action: Ethiopian Experiences*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopian Agricultural Research.

Uhlig, Siegbert. ed. 2003. *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

Other Publications

Fontes, Lisa Aronson. 2005. *Child Abuse and Culture: Working with Diverse Families*. London: Guilford Press.

Havnevik, Kjell, Tekeste Negash and Atakilte Beyene. 2006. *Of Global Concern: Rural Livelihood Dynamics and Natural Resource Governance*. Stockholm: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

UNESCO. 2005. *Education Resource Projections in the Context of Sector Wide Development Planning*. Education Policies and Strategies. Paris.

UNESCO, 2005, *Information Tools for the Monitoring of Education Plans*. Education

Publishing Opportunities Offered by FSS

Since its establishment in 1998, FSS has been producing a variety of good quality publications on different development issues. While a lot of these publications are products of its research and public debate programs, a number of them are also the outputs of independent research carried out by individuals outside FSS and selected for publication by FSS on the bases of the originality of their research and the social significance of their subject matter.

FSS would like to encourage authors of such good quality works to submit their manuscripts for publication in its book and monograph series.

FSS also invites authors to submit contributions for publication in the quarterly *FSS Bulletin*, which carries short articles on current development and policy issues, book reviews, communications and short notes on ongoing research.

FSS provides a modest honorarium for approved manuscripts that can be published as books, monographs or Bulletin articles and book reviews.

For more details, contact:

Research and Publications Department, email: fss@ethionet.et, phone: 011-1572990/91

FSS Public Lecture

on

Experiences in Urban Planning in Addis Ababa

Speaker:

Ato Getachew Mahteme Sellassie

Venue: Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel

Date & Time: 14th April at 6 o'clock

All Welcome to Attend!



FSS Update

A free medium for sharing information among CSOs on their initiatives, activities, challenges and achievements

Send your contributions to:
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