

Press Release

A National Workshop to discuss the Consensus Study Report on the Structure and Operation of the National Research Council in Ethiopia (NRC)

February 12, 2015

Sarem International Hotel, Addis Ababa

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) has organized a one-day National Workshop to present the draft Consensus Study Report and gather feedback on the organizational structure and operation modalities of a National Research Council in Ethiopia. The Workshop will be held on Thursday, 12th of February 2015 at Sarem International Hotel, Addis Ababa. The Workshop is expected to bring together over 100 policy makers, research managers and researchers representing major stakeholders involved in managing, supporting and performing research and technology transfer activities in Ethiopia.

The Consensus Study has been carried out by a Team consisting of prominent academics from the Academy's Founding Fellows, representing various disciplines. The Consensus Study Team undertook an extensive review of relevant policies, reports, guidelines and documents on the subject and assessed experiences of similar research councils of other countries. The Team also made an assessment of the research landscape of the country.

At the Workshop, the experience of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa will be shared by its representative. Lessons learnt from the German Research Foundation (DFG) will also be presented. Members of the Consensus Study Team will deliver presentations on the following specific aspects of the Study:

- Purpose, Mandate, Statutory Framework,
- Strategic Directions, National Strategic Programs,
- Research Funding, The Review Process,
- Human Capacity and Research Infrastructure Development,
- National Research Facilities, Partnership & Coordination.

Group discussions will also be held to gather valuable inputs to enrich the draft report.

It is expected that the Study will contribute towards strengthening the already established Science and Technology Research Council. It is also envisaged that the Study will provide the basis for the formation of an independent National Research Council in Ethiopia in the future.

The Study and Workshop are sponsored by the US National Academy of Sciences (USNAS) and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) was established on April 10, 2010 by 49 founding fellows drawn from a variety of disciplines with the objective of promoting the development of all the sciences. Its mission is to foster scientific culture and innovation, and advance the knowledge of the sciences including indigenous knowledge. It was recognized by an Act of Parliament in March 2013 (Proclamation 783/ 2013).