



## PRESS RELEASE

# Ethiopian Academy of Sciences

## Harnessing the youth potentials for sustainable development

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) holds its 3rd Science Congress on “**Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: Ethiopia’s Emerging Challenge**” from **07 - 08 December 2017** (on Thursday & Friday) starting 8:30 am at the **Conference Hall of Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritages (ARCCH)**.

With a population approaching 100 million, Ethiopia is becoming one of the demographic giants in Africa. By the end of this century, the country’s population size is projected to reach about 240 million with a remarkable shift on the age structure whereby the working-age population surpasses the dependent age groups. A contextualized discussion on the demographic dividend in Ethiopia is, therefore, timely and critical for understanding how Ethiopia can address the needs of its expanding working-age population.

In the presence of high profile government officials, the Congress will pick-up and deliberate a critical development agenda to the country. The occasion will serve as a platform for stakeholders including researchers, policymakers, academics, civil society organizations, and international stakeholders to discuss this timely issue. It will further spotlight diverse perspectives and empirical findings on contextual issues underpinning the demographic dividend in Ethiopia.

The major objectives of the Congress are to:

- assess the status of demographic transition and the prospect of harnessing demographic dividend in Ethiopia;
- encourage and stimulate contextualized discussion on the issues surrounding demographic transition and demographic dividend;
- bring demographic dividend to the priority of the policymakers’ agenda; and
- recommend evidence-based and context-specific policy measures for sustaining the demographic transition in Ethiopia to harness demographic dividend.

The congress sub-themes will further explore the Features of Ethiopia’s Population, Improved Access to Reproductive Health and other Health-Care Services, Quality Education and Skill Development, Youth Employment and Empowerment and Empowering Girls and Women. These sub-themes will be presented by specialized scholars in their respective areas and discussed thoroughly by the participants.