



**Ethiopian Academy of Sciences  
Annual Report  
(November 2011 – October 2012)**

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***Presented to***  
**Royal society – Pfizer Workshop**  
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# 1. Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS)

## Main activities planned for the year

- Building a strong secretariat
- Organizing and convening its First Science Congress
- Increasing visibility of the Academy
- Securing and renovating its headquarters
- Increasing membership
- Undertaking consensus studies and creating consensus building platforms
- Establishment of Youth Science Fora
- Ensuring sustainability and autonomy of the Academy

## 2. Progress of EAS in the past year

- The Academy made encouraging progress with success in milestone activities
- The high level of commitment of Board Members and Founding Fellows was pivotal
- Support from the Government was encouraging
- Strong collaboration with the Royal Society and the National Academy of Sciences, US provided resources and important lessons
- Lessons drawn from experiences of sister African science academies were also used
- Details are outlined below

### **3. Building a strong Secretariat**

- Executive Director employed as of July 1, 2012
- Secretariat personnel grew from 6 to 15 (including two part-time staff)
- HQ modestly furnished and equipped
- Improved capability to plan and manage academy activities
- Adequate working space and conducive environment
- Good working relations and collaboration with organisations within and outside Ethiopia

# 4. Organising and convening of the First Science Congress of EAS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Science Congress of EAS: “Science and Technology - Survival of a Nation” successfully held on 15 – 16 December 2012
- Objectives:
  - Assess status of science and technology in Ethiopia;
  - Deliberate on the way forward;
  - Enhance commitment of stakeholders to science by Government, Universities, Research Institutes, Professional Societies: and
  - Increase visibility of the Academy.
- Over 230 people participated:  
policy makers, researchers, young academics, EAS Fellows, representatives of sister academies

# First Science Congress of EAS (Results)

- State of different branches of science and technology within the nation outlined
- Research gaps and needs identified
- Experiences of sister academies in promoting sciences shared
- Aspirations and Strategic Plan of the Academy shared with the major stakeholders
- Recommendations of the Congress to serve as spring board for consensus studies by the five Working Groups of EAS
- Publication of the proceedings of the Congress is in progress



# First Science Congress (continued)

## Sponsors of the Congress

- the RS-Pfizer African Academies Program (major support)
- ASADI Program (support to Working Groups)
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- UNESCO
- UNECA
- Ethiopian Airlines

## 5. Increasing visibility of the Academy

- Established Public Relations Standing Committee
- Employed Public Relations Officer
- Launched Official website: **eas-et@eas.org**
- Uploaded documents and news on the website
- EAS Brochure published and circulated
- Issued press releases and held press conferences at different occasions
- Visibility efforts are still wanting-needs to be done much more

## 6. Securing and renovating headquarters

- EAS secured custodianship of a historical government building to use as its headquarters, February 2012
- The Premises used to be a residence of a scholar and diplomat *Blaten Geta Hiruy Wolde Selassie*
- The grounds of the new EAS HQ are spacious-close to 1.5 ha
- The Secretariat was relocated to the new premises at the end of May 2012
- HQ was inaugurated on 25 October 2012
- Renovation and development plan prepared
- The plan is being shared with collaborators
- Considerable asset towards EAS's sustainability



## 7. Increasing membership

- Election guideline adopted
- Criteria focused on contributions of the candidates (publications, institutional building, international stature and contributions outside ones field)
- 27 fellows, 2 Associate Fellows and an Honourary Fellow inducted at in October 2012
- This brings the total number of fellows to 76; providing more human resource to the activities of the Academy

## 8. Workshops

### Workshops held

- Workshop on state of Agricultural S&T, 28 – 30 Nov. 2011
- Workshop on State of Natural Sciences, 2 Dec. 2011
- Consultative Workshop for scientists and policy makers, 14 Dec. 2011
- Consultative Workshops to establish Youth Science For a in seven Universities
- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of IOC for AMASA-9 to be hosted by EAS in November 2013, 18 – 19 Oct. 2012

### Workshops planned (Nov. 2012 – Dec. 2012)

- Expert Review of Nutrition-Agriculture Integration study
- National Workshop on Status of Health Research in Ethiopia
- Workshop on Quality of Primary Education in Ethiopia
- National Workshop on Integration of Nutrition with Agriculture

# 9. Establishment of Youth Science Fora

- Consultative workshops to establish Youth Science Fora held Addis Ababa, Adama, Bahir Dar, Gondar, Hawassa, Haramaya and Jimma universities between September 2011 and April 2012.
- Supported by the Royal Society, UK
- Purpose was to deliberate on the need for establishment of youth science fora at the universities with the major objectives of:
  - ✓ Creating a conducive environment for development of young scientists;
  - ✓ Instituting a platform for exchange of information, knowledge, experience and ideas among the young academics;
  - ✓ Actively involving universities and research institutions in the attainment of EAS goals.

# Establishment of Youth Science Fora (cont,d)

- The need to establish a youth science forum at their respective universities confirmed
- Ad-hoc committees to establish the respective youth science forum were formed.
- The AAU Youth Science Forum Ad-hoc Committee has taken practical measures to establish the envisaged forum very soon with support from EAS.

# 10. Public Lectures

- Lecture on **“the Role of S&T and Scientific Institutions in Developing Government Policy”** Dr. Kerry-Ann Jones, the US Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
- Lecture on **“Integrating Plant Genetics with Molecular Biology and Chemistry to Overcome an African Pandemic”**, Prof. Gebissa Ejeta, US Presidential Science Envoy to Africa
- Lecture on **“Plagues and People-Planning for Pandemics”**, Professor Sir Roy Anderson, Chairperson of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology in the School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine at the Imperial College, London

# 11. Networking

EAS has been making concerted efforts to network with the public, potential stakeholders, a number of science academies from Africa, USA, UK and Germany, and other like-minded regional and international organizations

- Meeting with a delegation from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, 14 November 2011
- Meeting with Dr. Kerry-Ann Jones, the US Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs , 13 February 2012
- National Academies of Science (USNAS) mission to EAS to conduct consensus study training and nutrition/agriculture integration outreach, 19 – 21 March 2012
- **Pfizer Delegation Visit to EAS**

A delegation from Pfizer, led by Dr. Jack Watters, V/ President for External Medical Affairs, paid a working visit to EAS, 25 April, 2012

## 12. Sustainability of the Academy

- The Academy acquired custodianship of a Government building as its headquarters
- A bill to recognize EAS as an Independent organization for evidence based policy advice tabled at the Council of Ministers - with Government subventions
- EAS strengthening linkages with potential donors to support its activities, including embassies
- Has initiated sponsored advisory service to government institutions – income generation
- Thinking about to use the new premises as source of income.

# 13. Conclusions

- EAS has now a modestly furnished, equipped and staffed Secretariat
- Successful conduction of the First science Congress is the major success story of EAS
- Acquisition of the new premises represents a major step forward towards sustainability of the Academy
- Establishment of Youth Science Fora not progressing as planned
- Adoption of the Act of Parliament expected soon
- The Academy plans to engage in massive networking and public relations activities
- Needs to mobilize more resources for its activities

# 14. Acknowledgments

**EAS is very grateful to the following organizations for their support and collaboration**

- The Office of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- The RS-Pfizer African Academies Program
- The African Science Academies Development Initiative of the USNAS
- UNESCO and ECA-AA
- International Network for Accessibility of Scientific Publications (INASP)
- Addis Ababa University
- Universities of Adama, Bahr Dar, Gondar, Haramaya, Hawassa, Jimma for supporting the Youth science forum workshops
- Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA)
- Ethiopian Airlines

**Thank you for your  
attention**