EAS organized the Final Workshop to present the findings of the study entitled, ‘Assessing the Scientific and Technological Human Resource Demand and Supply in Ethiopia’ on Wednesday, 3 June 2015 at the Ghion Hotel. The study has been commissioned to EAS by the Ministry of Science & Technology and has been led by a team of senior professionals, drawn from the Academy and other organizations.

H.E. Ato Mahamouda Ahmed Gaas, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, officially opened the half-day Workshop. In his opening address, H.E. Mahamouda Ahmed remarked that the growth and development that Ethiopia is registering and its plan of transformation to become middle-income country must be strengthened by Science and Technology. He encouraged all stakeholders to stand by the Ministry and support the efforts being undertaken to advance the science and technology sector in Ethiopia.

Prof. Demissie Habte, President of EAS, also maintained that one of the objectives of EAS is to provide evidence-based advice to the Government. The Study, according to Prof. Demissie, is part of this commitment to the Government which EAS will continue to foster.
The Workshop was well-attended and representatives from various government offices, relevant regional bureaus, the private sector, research institutes, professional associations, academia, and industry leaders participated in the Workshop.

**TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ‘MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)’ HELD**

EAS held a two-day Training Workshop on STI issues for professionals 17-18 April 2015 at the Ghion Hotel. The Workshop was aimed at enhancing the capacity of the staff of the Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) and its affiliate organizations to initiate, guide, facilitate, monitor and evaluate implementation of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.

Ato Mitiku Deressa, Head of the Minister’s Office, officially opened the Workshop. In his opening speech, he pointed out that MoST and EAS are engaged in various collaborative activities with the objective of increasing Science, Technology and Innovation and their applications in the social and economic development of the country. He stated that the ongoing project on, “Assessing the Scientific and Technological Human Resource Demand and Supply in Ethiopia” is an example of the many joint undertakings by the two organizations.

Concluding his speech, Ato Mitiku urged participants to actively engage in the deliberations of the Workshop to enrich the Training with valuable inputs.

The specific topics covered included: STI and National Development; Modes of Technology Transfer: International Experiences and Trends in Ethiopia; Promotion of STI – Roles of Stakeholders; and Review of International Experiences in Science and Technology Outreach. Senior professionals presented a review of international and local experiences in an interactive manner that fueled animated discussion by participants. Mr. Shadrack Mkansi, guest speaker from the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, presented the STI promotion experience of NRF. A breakout session also took place on the themes of the Training that provided participants with the opportunity to reflect on the presentations and the elements that are relevant to their professional careers in managing and coordinating STI activities at the national level.

Dr. Brhane Gebrekidan, Vice President of EAS, gave the closing remarks and observed that the Training was successful both in terms of meeting the objectives of the Training and the active involvement of the participants. He also stated that EAS will in the future organize similar workshops to address various issues led by EAS Fellows and other professionals.
About sixty professional staff from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Science and Technology Information Center (STIC), Ethiopian Radiation Protection Authority (ERPA), Ethiopian Standards Agency, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Ethiopian National Accreditation Office, Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise, National Metrology Institute of Ethiopia, and the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office attended the Training Working.

**EAS NATURAL SCIENCE WORKING GROUP (NSWG) HELD A REVIEW MEETING**

The NSWG held a retreat on 9 May 2015 at the Tommy International Hotel in Bishoftu to evaluate the performance of the Group and develop a plan of action for 2015/2016 in light of EAS’ goals and objectives.

The meeting stressed the importance of developing a workable statute which could later be adapted to the specific goals and objectives of the rest of the Working Groups of the Academy.

A committee has also been established to draft bylaws that all EAS Working Groups could make use of.

Finally, activities were enumerated and various committees were set up to discharge specific responsibilities and address gaps.

**EAS HEALTH WORKING GROUP (HWG) LANDMARK MEETING**

The HWG held a retreat on 29 May 2015 at the Kuriftu Resort in Adama. The objectives of the meeting were to assess the performance status of the Group and identify future areas of engagement.

The meeting weighed HWG activities in line with EAS’ Annual Work Plan of 2007 E.C Fiscal Year, and stressed the need for creating bylaws that clearly stipulated the duties and responsibilities of the Working Group.

The need to establish an income-generating Foundation, affiliated to the Academy, was one of the issues discussed at the Meeting. The Foundation promotes the objectives of the Academy while generating income, and there was a recommendation to conduct a feasibility study prior to the establishment of the Foundation.

The Group also agreed to identify issues in the nation’s health sector and carry out a consensus study. The Executive Committee was assigned to develop a timetable for the activities to be carried out.

**GENERAL MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP (AWG) HELD**

EAS Agricultural Working Group held a landmark General Meeting on 4 June 2015 at the EAS Headquarters. Dr. Seme Debela, Chair of AWG,
pointed out that the main purpose of the Meeting was to create the necessary platform for working together as active members of the AWG, and to share experiences which could be used as a major tool for effective contribution in supporting the development and transformation of Ethiopian agriculture.

The Meeting evaluated the activities of the Working Group carried out thus far, and reached a consensus to strengthen the membership of the Group. It was decided to conduct a consensus study, organize public lectures and contribute articles to the upcoming EAS newsletter.

The Meeting raised the number of Executive Committee members to nine, and Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions of the Group will be occupied by Fellows of the Academy only, whereas non-Fellows could fill other positions. Dr. Seme Debela will continue as chair of AWG till the end of his term.

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY (AAU) AWARDED EAS AND EtYAS FELLOWS

For the second time in a row, AAU awarded a total of 37 senior and young researchers, academic and supporting staff amongst whom are EAS and Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences (EtYAS) Fellows for their outstanding contributions and achievements in their respective fields. The awards were bestowed by H.E. Ato Kassa Tekleberhan, Speaker of the House of Federation, on Wednesday, 20 May 2015. The University also promoted and awarded 11 researchers with the rank of professorship.

Prof. Baye Yimam, Dr. Ing. Daneil Kitaw, and Dr. Birhanu Besha were among the awardees in the best researcher category. Prof. Woldeamlak Bewket, Chair of EtYAS and EAS Fellow, was also awarded as distinguished researcher. Prof. Masresha Fetene, the Executive Director of EAS, was also recognized for outstanding services he rendered as former Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer at the University.

THE PAN-AFRICAN-GERMAN SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

The Academy of Science of South Africa, EAS, the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, jointly organized a symposium on Environment and Health from 1-3 June 2015 in Pretoria, South Africa. The objectives of the event were to scientifically analyze key environmental challenges and their implications for human health in sub-Saharan Africa and Germany in order to identify future research needs and to assess possible solutions to current environmental health issues and how these can
be mainstreamed into science, society and policy making. Furthermore, the symposium provided possibilities for young scientists (PhD-candidates and post-docs) from sub-Saharan Africa and Germany to enhance their scientific skills and create a platform for scientific collaboration and networking.

The Symposium focused on four key issues pertinent to environmental health vis-à-vis Air pollution, Water pollution, Metals exposure and Solar ultraviolet radiation, and the interrelationship among them. It gave due emphasis to the African challenges in the area of environmental health. Mutual exchange of scientific experiences and the existing know-how in Germany and the sub-Saharan Africa have also benefited participants.

Prof. Tenalem Ayenew, Fellow of EAS and staff member of the School of Earth Sciences of AAU served as scientific coordinator of the Ethiopian side and made presentations on the status of Environment and Health in Ethiopia and the challenges of geogenic and anthropogenic water pollution. Prof. Fisseha Itanna and Dr. Gizaw Mengistu presented papers on exposure to metals and ultraviolet radiation, respectively.

A total of over 60 people, including expert speakers, a keynote speaker, young scientists, and staff members from the co-organizing academies (Ethiopia, Ghana and Germany), staff members from the local organising academy, ASSAf, a science writer, a moderator and invited guests took part in the symposium. EAS staff was represented by Ato Abebe Mekuriaw, a Program Coordinator. Two members of the newly established Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences (EtYAS), Dr. Abuna Fufa (AAU) and Dr. Awoke Gudae (Arbaminch University), also participated as young scientists.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- EAS hosts the Proposal Writing Training Workshop for young scientists organized by the African Academy of Sciences and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Workshop will take place 20-22 July 2015 at the Ellily Hotel.

- In partnership with the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academy of Sciences, EAS organizes the Investing in Young Children Globally interactive Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for 27-29 July 2015 at the Addis Ababa Hilton.

- Launch of EPCC First Assessment Reports is slated for August 19, 2015. More than 60 Lead Authors, Authors and Review editors – drawn from private, public and international institutions - engaged in the preparation of the Reports for nearly a year.

- The Symposium on Nature and Qualities of Traditional Education: Lessons for modern education will take place 25 November 2015 as a pre-congress event of the Second Science Congress.

- This year’s theme of the Second Science Congress is Re-envisioning Higher Education and Research in Ethiopia. The Congress is a joint venture by EAS, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Educational Strategy Center and Consortium of Public and Private University Presidents and will be convened on 26-27 November 2015.

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