SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL HUMAN RESOURCE DEMAND AND SUPPLY IN ETHIOPIA WORKSHOP

EAS organized the first Workshop to discuss the preliminary findings of the study entitled: ‘Assessing for Scientific and Technological Human Resource Demand and Supply in Ethiopia’ on Wednesday January 28, 2015 at the Ghion Hotel. The study has been commissioned to EAS by the Ministry of Science and Technology to assess the existing human resources demand and supply and the ten-year projections for science and technology professionals.

H.E. Woz. Demitu Hambisa, Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) officially opened the Workshop. In her opening speech, H.E. Woz. Demitu remarked that the growth and development that Ethiopia is registering and its plan of transformation towards achieving middle-income status must be strengthened by science and technology. She urged participants to be actively engaged in the deliberation of the Workshop to enrich the study with valuable inputs.

The preliminary findings of the assessment were presented in three parts by the Study Team. The first presentation was on ‘Study Objectives, Scope, Study Framework, Approach and Methodology,’ followed by preliminary findings on ‘Supply Side Findings, Implications of the Findings and Summary’ and finally on ‘Demand side Findings and Implications of Findings and Summary.’

Representatives from various government offices, relevant regional bureaus, private sector actors, research institutes, professional associations, academia, and industry leaders had attended.
MAIDEN MEETING ETYAS HELD AT THE NATIONAL HOTEL

The Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences (EtYAS) was established on January 26, 2015 when members held their Maiden Meeting at the National Hotel. EAS had taken the initiative to establish EtYAS and began the process of electing founding members in mid 2014. The first fellows were elected by the General Assembly held on November 29, 2015. The fellows were selected from a wide variety of disciplines, comprising Agriculture, Engineering, Health, Natural and Social Sciences.

The objective of EtYAS include identifying, bringing together and supporting the very best young scientists/scholars to champion excellence and innovation in national scientific research as well as to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and representation among young scientists in Ethiopia.

Professor Woldeamlak Bewket and Dr. Mariamawit Yonatan were elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Academy, respectively. Terms of Reference of EtYAS have also been established at the meeting.

CONSENSUS STUDY REPORT ON OPERATIONAL MODALITIES OF A NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL IN ETHIOPIA

EAS held a National Workshop to discuss the Consensus Study Report on modalities of the National Research Council in Ethiopia (NRC) on February 12, 2015 at the Sarem International Hotel. The Consensus Study has been carried out by a Team consisting of fellows from the Academy, representing various disciplines.

H.E. Ato Mahamouda Ahmed Gaas, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology officially opened the Workshop. In his opening speech, H.E. Ato Mahamouda conveyed his gratitude to EAS for organizing the Workshop to deliberate on such an important issue. He further stated that the Academy would be in a position to come up with facts and recommendations with a convincing power to the Government.

Mr. Michael Nxumalo, Director of International Relations and Cooperation, NRF presented the experience of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. The lessons learnt from the German Research Foundation (DFG) were
also delivered by Prof. Tsige Gebre-Mariam, Chairperson of the Consensus Study Team. Members of the Consensus Study Team also made presentations under five topics followed by general and group discussions.

OPEN ACCESS (OA) FORUM HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA

Professor Masresha, EAS Executive Director, attended a two-day Consultative Forum on Open Access hosted by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) held in Nairobi, Kenya 29-30 January 2015. NASAC organized the Forum in collaboration with and support from UNESCO and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

Open Access is an unrestricted online access to peer-reviewed research articles published in scholarly journals. It is a system of making scholarly and scientific information available to users, important to the developing world. The tradition started in Brazil with SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online) and many countries have followed suit. Although the idea was primarily promoted for scholarly journals, it is increasingly used for theses, book chapters, and scholarly monographs.

Underpinning the promotion of Open Access is the understanding that communication and optimal sharing of research results and tools is central to open scholarship - given its networked, collaborative and interdisciplinary nature. Science academies and global research and education institutions are at the heart of the movement to enhance Open Access for institutional research repositories and educational materials.

In the Consultative Forum, Open Access developments in South America and Europe were presented. Also well known examples of Open Access, including the African Journal Online (AJOL) and SCiELOS of South Africa, the latter run by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), were presented. Discussions were held on what constituted the regulatory frameworks under which Open Access initiatives operated and on how science-policy dialogue could be facilitated through the medium and on what role science academies could play.

It was agreed that NASAC produce a statement on Open Access and that every Academy should be encouraged to champion and spearhead the cause of Open Access in their respective countries and to organize Open Access dialogues and platform.
MOBILIZING AND STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, the Education Strategy Center (ESC) of the Ministry of Education, Addis Ababa University (AAU) and Thomson Reuters, jointly organized a two-day Workshop for university leaders and researchers at the Ghion Hotel 26 – 27 January 2015. Thomson Reuters is a New York-based leading company in the development of enterprise-wide systems to disseminate research outputs and measure research impact.

The objective of the first Workshop was to discuss and outline best practices of top-ranked universities. The Workshop brought together Presidents, Vice Presidents, Directors and management selected by the universities. The issues discussed included what research leaders and researchers in universities can do to promote research in their respective institutions.

The Training Workshop, held on the second day, was aimed at training researchers and research leaders on how to use research management tools and on how to position oneself as a researcher. Professionals, university leaders, research institutes and organizations involved in managing, coordinating and sponsoring research activities had attended the Training Workshop.

Topics included: discovering global research and IP; finding possible collaborators; where to publish – and how to innovate; introduction to research management tools; managing research and building personal brand; and evaluating and measuring research impact.

THE ALI MAZRUI “IN MEMORIAM: CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AN AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL” EVENT

EAS and the Addis Ababa University (AAU) jointly organized the ‘Ali Mazrui In Memoriam: Celebrating the Life of an African intellectual’ event to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Professor Ali Al’amin Mazrui, who passed away in October 2014 in Binghamton, the New York.

The Kenyan-born Ali Mazrui was a distinguished political scientist, teacher, political thinker, prolific writer, and a critic. One of his greatest contributions and remaining legacy is perhaps disengaging African studies from colonial discourse.

In his introductory remarks on the commemoration, Professor Masresha Fetene stated that the loss of this prominent African intellectual would greatly be felt in Africa and indeed the world over. He added that Mazrui’s contributions to African Studies, politics, and African social reality were unparalleled.
Dr. Admasu Tsegaye, President of Addis Ababa University, in his welcoming address, described Ali Mazrui as a pioneer, role model and an inspiration not only to Africans but also to others across the world.

H.E. Catherine Mwangi, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Ethiopia, described Mazrui as the “giant mind of Africa.” She highlighted his fearless personality in confronting and commenting on contentious issues and in condemning Western intervention in the affairs of African countries. Thus, she concluded that we should not mourn but celebrate his life.

The first guest speaker H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former Nigerian President, focused on three issues: Mazrui’s immense contributions to African history, his down-to-earth personality and strong criticism of the cold war. He called Mazrui a “champion of the unification of Africa” and an “embodiment of courage and humanity.” He also took the opportunity to talk about the status of science in Africa and African scientists at length. Brain drain, under-investment of African governments and African private sector in science and technology infrastructure, deprecating research skills, and the shrinking level of adventurism by African scientists are among the reasons he enumerated for Africa’s lagging behind in the fast changing world.

Prof. Mohammed Salih, International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University, paid tribute to Ali Mazrui under the title ‘Apprehending the Possibilities.’ The themes which characterize Ali Mazrui’s intellectual heritage, he reflected, are his attempt to define and demystify the meaning and identity of Africa and his attempt to defend Africa with a deep knowledge of its strength, shortcomings and tribulations. He added with emphasis that Mazrui’s call for “African liberalism” challenged the dominant prevalent paradigms on governance and democracy.

Ms. Zenebework Taddesse, Sociologist and International Consultant, in her speech entitled ‘An African Public Intellectual’ called Ali Mazrui “intellectual par excellence.” Her speech emphasized the contribution of Ali Mazrui to Pan Africanism. She also underlined the passion of Mazrui to the people of Africa.

Prof. Bahru Zewde, the moderator of the panel, in his final remarks suggested the role of academy of sciences should be to harness their knowledge and expertise to solve Africa’s problems.

Around 280 people from the university communities and from different walks of life were in attendance.

**AFRICAN SCIENCE ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (ASADI) WORKSHOP**

Professor Demissie Habte and Professor Masresha Fetene, invited by the South African Academy of Science (ASSAf), attended a three-day Workshop organized by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in Pretoria, South Africa 17-19 February 2015. Representatives of African science academies, other science academies and organizations such as USNAS, Royal Society, IAP and ICSU (the International Council for Science Unions) had attended the meeting.

The idea of the Workshop originated at the Tenth Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA-10) held in Uganda in November 2014, which marked the formal ending of the US NAS-driven ASADI program.
Agreements were reached at the AMASA-10 by the academies represented at the Meeting that a wider academy development program be prepared.

An understanding was reached at this Meeting that: the future academy development program would involve all science academies in Africa; there is a need for a three-year transition period to maximize capacity, focusing on fundraising, strengthening the capacity of the NASAC secretariat, and building further collaborative relationships amongst academies in the continent and engaging African governments through organizations such as the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and representatives of the national science academies of Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda, working with representatives of USNAS and NASAC develop a Strategic plan for discussion at a Workshop.

The current Workshop discussed the African Science Academies Development Initiative agenda. The Strategic Plan presented at the Workshop positioned NASAC as the coordinator of ASADI and as the primary voice of African science academies at a pan-African level after a transition period of three years. It also envisaged NASAC to initiate and strengthen science academies on the African continent in order to promote scholarly activities and fulfill their science advisory role to governments and their nations and to foster collaboration among science academies for the advancement of capacity development and science within Africa.

Professor Masresha gave a five-minute presentation on potential collaboration areas with science academies of the Eastern Africa region which included possible programs on science education, science center and open access of scholarly publications. He also outlined that EAS would take on the Strategic Plan, supporting the essence of the document with suggestions for more work on the creation of an Africa-wide science academies fund from contributions of African governments.

The Uganda National Academy of Sciences and the Kenyan National Academy of Sciences and EAS met separately at the workshop and agreed to jointly develop an action plan for collaborative projects and activities.

**AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT**

Professor Masresha Fetene took part in a three-day continental summit titled, “Revitalizing Higher Education for Africa’s Future,” held in Dakar, Senegal 10 – 12 March 2015. The purpose of the Summit was to build a movement of like-minded institutions to transform the African higher education sector.

The objectives of the Summit were to build a constituency for transformation and investment in Africa’s higher education; create a shared vision for Africa’s higher education; harness and highlight exemplary efforts and initiatives in African higher education; harness disparate efforts and interventions in Africa’s higher education; and spur and sustain innovation in African higher education.

Some of the issues discussed were governance in the higher education sector; innovation and harmonization of policies in Africa in terms of lessons learned in other parts of the world. Other discussion topics included rise in higher education institutions in Africa, resulting from
meetings in primary and secondary education and increasing private investment, due to higher policies aimed at reducing the role of the state in higher education.

**MEETING OF THE AFRICAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON MALARIA**

Professor Ahmed Ali Ahmed, fellow of EAS, attended a *Consultative Meeting of the African Research Initiative on Malaria (AFRIMAL)* representing the Academy. The Meeting was held on 3 - 4 February 2015 at Elilly International Hotel, Addis Ababa. The purpose of the meeting was to agree on how to restructure a comprehensive network of basic Malaria scientists to enhance African-led Health and Biologic Research which could have the potential to reduce the burden of Malaria and improve health of the African population.

The Meeting engaged African and European Malaria scientists who would involve in the decision-making process pertaining to the development, funding and implementation of Afri Malar R, the African Research Initiative on Malaria Network of Excellence. The need to come up with a basic inventory of all issues related to Malaria in Africa was also underscored.

The research priority areas were Chemotherapy and Mechanisms of Emergence of Resistance against Antimalarial Drugs; Health Research to Improve Malaria Control in Africa; Malaria Vector Control; Development of Malaria Control from products of indigenous plants; Evolution of Malaria Control Interventions; New Strategies and Policies and Malaria Pathogenesis.

**Contact Address**

House No. 199, Woreda 9, Gulele Sub-city
Near Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Gulele Branch
P. O. Box: 32228, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tele: +251 112 595745/50
E-mail: eassecretariat@gmail.com
Website: www.eas-org.et