EAS Held Its Fifth General Assembly

Professor Tsige Gebre-Mariam Elected as the New President of EAS

EAS held its Fifth General Assembly on 12 November, 2016 at the Academy’s Headquarters. Professor Demissie Habte, President of EAS, opened the Assembly with brief welcoming remarks. The Assembly inducted 17 new Fellows and 9 Associate Fellows. A total of 22 new Fellows (14 Fellows and 8 Associate Fellows) were elected by the Assembly to be members of the Academy.

Professor Masresha Fetene, Executive Director of EAS, briefly presented the Academy’s annual report for the year 2015/2016 (8 July, 2015 – 7 June, 2016). Following the presentation by Professor Masresha, Wudu Techane & Co. Chartered Certifies Accountant and Au-
Authorized Auditors’ representative, Ato Wudu Techane, presented the Academy’s independent audit report of the fiscal year. The two reports were approved by the Assembly.

Professor Gobena Ameni, a newly inducted Fellow of the Academy, gave the Annual Induction Lecture of the year 2016 entitled ‘Vaccination as the Best Strategy in Combating Infectious Diseases: Success, Challenges and Prospects.’

The General Assembly elected Professor Tsige Gebre-Mariam as the new EAS President. The Assembly also elected Mrs. Zenebework Tadesse as Principal Vice President, Professor Sileshi Lulseged as Vice President and Professor Abebe Getahun as Treasurer of the Academy. Professor Abebe Dinku, Professor Daniel Kitaw, Professor Shibru Tedla and Dr. Solomon Bekure were also elected as members of the EAS Board of Management.

**The New Executive Board Members**

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EAS Secured the Full Ownership of the Historical House, the Former Residence of Blatten-Geta Hiruy Woldeselassie.

Through the continuous effort of the EAS Secretariat and full cooperation from the FDRE Agency for Government Houses, the Academy obtained full property ownership of the historical house and the former residence of Blatten-Geta Hiruy Woldeselassie. The Agency for Government Houses handed over the house to the Academy on the 80th Assembly of the Agency that took place on November 3, 2016.

EAS Hosted the Fontes Historiae Africane (FHA) Meeting

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) hosted the Fontes Historiae Africane (FHA) conference in collaboration with the International Union of Academies (IUA) on 5 December, 2016 at the Academy’s Headquarter. The meeting was aimed at assessing the work that has been done since the last FHA meeting which took place in Maputo, Mozambique in April 2012. The theme of the Conference was “Preservation of sources of Africa’s Pasts: Publication and/or Digitization of African
Manuscripts and Historical Archives, Challenge and Prospects.”
Following welcoming remarks by Professor Bahru Zewde from the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, the Conference heard presentations on several focus areas. Professor Viera Pawlikova from Slovakia presented on the “Sources for the Pre-Colonial History of the East African Lacustrine Area, Their Preservation, Publication and/or Digitization.” Similarly, Professor Malyn Newitt from Royal Academy of Sciences UK presented on “Making Available the Sources for the Pre-Colonial History of East-Central Africa.” On the other hand Professor Senyi Moumouni from Niger presented on “Préservation et Valorization des Manuscrits Arabes et Ajami du Niger”. Also, Professor Isabela Boavida from Portugal, Professor Bahru Zewde from the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, Mr. Daniel Mamo from the Institute of Ethiopian Studies and Mr. Solomon Tena from the Ethiopian National Archives and Library Agency gave presentations to the meeting.

Representatives of different Academies of Sciences, historians, library experts and representatives of concerned organizations took part in the Conference.

The Second EAS Public Lecture of the Year Held

The Second EAS Public Lecture of the Year in a monthly series was held on December 08, 2016 at the Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa Institute of Technology (AAiT) Auditorium. The Public Lecture was titled, “Substituting Imported Agricultural Products with Local Agricultural Products: Why we couldn’t attain the national food demand.” Dr. Amdissa Teshome, an Agricultural Economist and private consultant, gave the Public Lecture.

Dr. Solomon Bekure, Fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and Secretary of the Agricultural Working Group, chaired the lecture.

The main focus area of the Public Lecture was on imported agricultural products to Ethiopia and the challenge in substituting them with locally produced agricultural goods. Dr. Amdissa briefly introduced the commonly known agricultural practices and their
Ethiopian import/export trade data indicate that imported agricultural products over the last several years are higher than the exported agricultural goods. Moreover, he pointed out that a wide range of commonly used agricultural practices result in low productivity. Hence, agriculture has been unable to meet the raw material demands of industries across the country. Despite the fact that the country is undergoing fast economic growth, it is still a daunting task to realize food security.

A number of reasons can be listed as to why Ethiopia could not satisfy the food demands of its people. Poor land management and technology, weak link between agricultural research and the extension programs across the country, and insufficient irrigation infrastructure and poor management are among the major factors. In conclusion, Dr. Amdissa suggested various approaches that could increase productivity in the nation’s agricultural system. Educating the farmer and introducing best practices that have proved effective in other countries, engaging NGOs and the private sector in the agriculture extension programs and increasing production and applicability of fertilizers, proper land management, introducing improved seeds for farmers and working to reduce pre and post-harvest crop loss are among the suggestions forwarded by Dr. Amdissa Teshome for sustainable agricultural productivity.

Representatives of governmental and non-governmental agricultural organizations, university and high school students, agricultural researchers, EAS and EtYAS Fellows and members of the general public attended the Public Lecture.
The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences is an autonomous, non-profit, non-governmental organization established to promote the sciences and bring about development, prosperity and improved health services for the peoples of Ethiopia. The Academy aims to advance the development of all the sciences, including the natural sciences, mathematics, the health sciences, agricultural sciences, engineering, social sciences, humanities, fine arts and letters. In an effort to achieve its goal of promoting a culture of scientific inquiry and innovation in the country, the Academy is establishing a Creative Arts Center in addition to the Science Center currently under establishment within the premises of the Academy.

The establishment of the Creative Arts Center is aimed at promoting fine arts and highlighting the role of the arts in the understanding and advancement of the sciences and in national development, serving as a bridge between fine arts and the society and creating a platform where art can serve as a means to innovative thinking. The Center will be housed at the historical house and former residence of Blatten Geta Hiruy Wolde sellassie at the Academy’s Headquarters. The former Blatten Geta Hiruy Residential House will also house the EAS Library and the Blatten Geta Hiruy Wolde sellassie Museum in addition to the Creative Arts Center.

The Academy has been working to obtain valuable materials of historical heritage value and books from members of Blatten Geta Hiruy’s family and from numerous admirers of the works of Blatten Geta Hiruy. The EAS Library, which will contain books of historical, cultural and ethnographic nature and works of literature, and the Blatten Geta Hiruy Wolde sellassie Museum will be inaugurated on March 27, 2017 together with a new book of Blatten Geta Hiruy that will be published by the newly established Ethiopian Academy Press.

The EAS Creative Arts Center will be a place where young and amateur artists can display their works and innovations and where prominent and elite artists can share their wisdom with the young and diversified groups of people.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit the EAS Headquarters and the Blatten Geta Hiruy’s House located at Gullele Sub-city near Commercial Bank of Ethiopian Gulele Branch.

### Upcoming Events

- **January 5** — The Third EAS Public Lecture
- **February 2** — The Fourth EAS Public Lecture

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