The Tenth EAS Public Lecture Titled “Historical Towns and Building in Ethiopia and the Conservation Towards them” Held

The tenth and the final Public Lecture of the year in a monthly series titled “Historical Towns and Building in Ethiopia and the Conservation Towards Them” was held on Thursday 7 July, 2016 at the Auditorium of the Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa Institute of Technology (AAiT). The Public Lecture was delivered by Ato Fasil Geyorgis, a prominent architect and Fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences. Professor Alemayehu Tefera, Fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and Chairman of the EAS Engineering and Technology Working Group, chaired the lecture.

Ato Fasil began his presentation by introducing the concept of conservation of ancient buildings and historical towns for the realization of sustainable development and preserving the identity of the people. Historical and cultural heritages can easily and effectively represent the identity of a given people. Yeha, one of the oldest towns in Ethiopia, for instance, still stands holding the significant marks of the people that lived over 2000 years ago. Similarly historical towns and buildings tell the history of the people together with their life style from very ancient period.

Moreover, re-using older, historical and delicately engineered buildings for various purposes go hand-in-hand with the concept of building sustainable and green economy in the country. Similarly, tourism plays a vital role in the effort to realize economic sustainability and overall development. Thus, conservation of ancient and historical towns and buildings all around the country need to be incorporated with any developmental strategy of the country.

Finally, Ato Fasil noted that introducing curriculum that helps professionals in the area to be-
come heritage and history conscious will help for the effectiveness of the effort towards conservation and effective utilization of our historical and cultural heritages. Participants from various tourism sectors, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations that work in the area of conservation of heritage and studies, students from various technology and building construction universities, EAS and EtYAS Fellows attended the Public Lecture.

**Julie Mehretu Visits EAS Headquarters**

Julie Mehretu, an Ethiopian/American abstract printmaker and painter visited the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences headquarters on Wednesday July 13, 2016. The President, the Vice President and the Executive Director of the Academy welcomed her on arrival.

Julie Mehretu was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1970. She moved to the United States at the age of seven. Julie joined the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar in 1990, and obtained her BA degree from Kalamazoo College. In 1997 she joined the Rhode Island School of Art and Design and obtained her MA in Fine Arts.

Julie Mehretu’s works of art are unique in their nature. She mainly focuses her works on architecture and the urban and highly populated settings. Her works of art earned her a place among few of the most celebrated and influential artists. She took part in numerous and significant exhibitions throughout the world. Her first exhibition in Ethiopia at the Modern Art Museum: Gebre Kristos Desta Center is currently on display.

Her visit to the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences was aimed at introducing and supporting the efforts of the Academy to establish the EAS Creative Art Center. Her visit is significant in creating a link between the Academy and the art community both inside and outside the country.

Professor Demessie Habte, President of the Academy, Professor Bahru Zewde, Vice President of the Academy, Professor Masresha Fetene, Executive Director of the Academy, Professor Dagmawi Woubshet, Professor Shiferaw Bekele, Ato Bekele Mekonnen and several art lovers and students of art accompanied Julie Mehretu and took part in the discussion with her.
A Workshop on Assessing the Scientific and Technological Human Resource Demand and Supply in the Agricultural and Health Sectors in Ethiopia Held

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) organized a half-day stakeholders Workshop entitled “The Scientific and Technological Human Resource Demand and Supply in the Agricultural and Health Sectors in Ethiopia”. The Workshop was held on Friday, August 12, 2016 at the Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa.

The Study has been carried out since January 2016 by an EAS Study Team consisting of prominent researchers among the Academy’s Fellows. The Study Team undertook a wide range of assessment of the country’s human resource demand and supply on the two significant sectors.

The Workshop’s presentations and discussions on the preliminary findings of the Study included the study objectives, scope, study framework, approach and methodology, supply and demand findings, implications of findings and supply and demand forecasts and projections for the coming ten years.

Following the presentation by the researchers’, participants from various associations, research institutes, higher learning institutes and experts in the health and agriculture sectors provided valuable inputs for the remaining activities of the study.

The Workshop brought together over 60 experts in the area of health and agriculture.

A Workshop on National Biotechnology Research and Development Plan Held

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) organized a one day stakeholders Workshop entitled “National Biotechnology Research and Development Plan”. The Workshop was held on Thursday, September 01, 2016 at the Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa.
The Study was commissioned by the FDRE Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and it has been carried out by a team of biotechnology experts assigned by the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences since January 2016. The main objective of the Study is to chart the use of Biotechnology as a main engine for national development in Ethiopia through appropriate training, well planned and organized infrastructure development, thorough marketing and investment plans and awareness creation programs.


Following the presentations, discussions on the major findings of the Study and on points that needed to be added or considered for the final report were conducted in break-out sessions.

The Workshop brought together over 50 participants from various associations, research institutes, higher learning institutes and experts in the various sectors.

Professor Getachew Abebe and Professor Gobena Ameni, who are Fellows of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS), have been awarded Certificate of Excellence for “Best Professional Services” by the Veterinary Association of Ethiopia.

Professor Getachew Abebe is a Veterinary Medicine professional. He served his country for more than 25 years as a university lecturer, researcher and as research manager at various levels of management. He has made significant contributions to the study and practice of Veterinary Medicine in Ethiopia. Professor Getachew has over 60 publications in international and national peer-reviewed journals.

Professor Gobena Ameni is an Immunologist and Microbiologist with several awards as an accomplished young researcher with significant impact. He has authored and co-authored over 100 articles that are published in peer-reviewed journals. Dr Gobena has been elected to be one of the youngest Fellows of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and he will be formally inducted in November 2016.

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences would like to congratulate Professor Getachew Abebe and Professor Gobena Ameni for their remarkable achievement.

Image source: http://www.aau.edu.et/alipb/gobena-ameni/
The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) was established to advance the development of all sciences. In an effort to advance its goal of promoting a culture of scientific inquiry and innovation, the Academy is establishing a science center where visitors will be able to learn about science through interactive and educational displays.

The Center, which is housed at the headquarters of the Academy at the former residence of Blaten Geta Hiruy Woldesellassie, will have units spanning through various disciplines of science. Since the beginning of the construction of the Science Center, the Academy has been involved in identifying, scouting and collecting display items for the Center in consultation with its Fellows. The Academy is also working to solicit the support of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in acquiring display items for the Center.

The Science Center of EAS will provide an alternative learning space where visitors can learn about science outside of the formal classroom. The Center, currently in the final stages of construction, will be launched and open to visitors within the first quarter of 2017.
UNESCO Visits EAS Headquarters

A team of UNESCO representatives led by Dr. Benno Böer, Ecological Science Advisor of the UNESCO, visited the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) headquarters on September 22, 2016. Professor Masresha Fetene, Executive Director of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS), welcomed the team.

Professor Masresha gave a brief presentation on the history, establishment, objectives and on the various projects that the Academy has been undertaking since its establishment.

Dr. Mariamawit Yonathan, Vise Chair of the Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences (EtYAS), on the other hand, gave a brief introduction on the overall aspects and activities of EtYAS.

Acknowledging the Academy’s effort to promote scientific culture in Ethiopia, Dr. Benno Böer stressed on the areas of cooperation that the two organizations can work in partnership. He noted that the Academy and UNEASCO could work in collaboration in Science, Culture and Education sectors.

On a similar note, Dr. Böer recognized the establishment of the Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences (EtYAS) under the umbrella of the EAS. Furthermore, he also expressed UNESCO’s appreciation on the establishment of the EAS Science Center.

Finally, Professor Masresha Fetene expressed his interest on behalf of the Secretariat to work in close collaboration with UNESCO.

Ato Ale Felege Selam, In Memoriam

Artist Ale Felege Selam, one of the Founding Fellows of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS), passed away on July 11, 2016 at the age of 93. His funeral and burial service was completed at Debre Libanos Church in the presence of his family, friends and colleagues on July 13, 2016.

Artist Ale Felege was the founder and the first Director of the Addis Ababa Fine Arts School. He joined the Chicago University and obtained his BA degree in Academics and Fine Arts and specialized in painting, portrait painting and art education.

Artist Ale Felege served in different positions of the Ministry of Education and Fine Arts. His ambition to establish the first Ethiopian art school came to realization when he opened an art studio in 1955. He opened the new art school with the help of the public and the Ministry of Education in 1958. Emperor Haile Selassie officially opened the school.

Artist Ale Felege Selam has trained countless modern art professionals and served his country with great dedication and selflessness. He helped many artists to re-innovate the old Ethiopian art and tradition.

Artist Abate Mekuria, In Memoriam

Condolences
Abate Mekuria, one of the Founding Fellows of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and the most famous and celebrated playwright and director of Ethiopian Theatre, passed away on July 20, 2016 at the age of 72. His funeral and burial service was completed at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in the presence of his family, friends and colleagues on July 22, 2016.

Abate Mekuria joined Haile Silassie I University in 1965 and obtained his BA degree in English with minor drama. He also received various trainings in the area of film, media, theatre and music directing from German Public Broadcasting Institution, London Opera Center, Abbey Theatre in Ireland and from different American theatre studios.


**Professor Ensermu Kelbesa, In Memoriam**

Professor Ensermu Kelbesa, a Fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, passed away on August 14, 2016 at the age of 63. His funeral and burial service was completed at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in the presence of his family, friends and colleagues on August 15, 2016.

Professor Ensermu Kelbessa was a Plant Taxonomist at Addis Ababa University (AAU). He served in various positions up until his death. He was a Curator of the National Herbarium from 1995 to 2010 and an Associate Leader of the Ethiopian Flora Project between 1996 and 2009. Professor Ensermu was a member of various national and international professional societies. He was Founding and Executive Committee Member of the Biological Society of Ethiopia from 1996 to 2000. Similarly, Professor Ensermu was the Founding and Executive Committee Member of the Regional Biodiversity Consortium of Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, and a Member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

Professor Ensermu has published extensively, with over 100 publications.

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences would like to extend its condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Artist Ale Felege Selam, Artist Abate Mekuria and Professor Ensermu Kelbessa.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 12 — EAS General Assembly**

**December 8 — The Second EAS Public Lecture**

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