



**Ethiopian e-Journal
for Research and Innovation Foresight**

Vol 1, No 2 (December 2009) - Inaugural Issue: pp (1 – 4)

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

It is with pride and happiness we introduce to the Ethiopian knowledge, research, quality training and higher education world the new online and open Ethiopian electronic Journal on Research and Innovation Foresight (Ee-JRIF).

There is an acute need to train the active and venturesome graduates that seek to create, innovate and invent rather than be passive and job-consuming, risk-averting, timid and uncourageous learners and creators. In today's learning and knowledge economy, there is an acute challenge that Ethiopians around the world face to respond with research, inventive and innovative foresight to deal with the manifold problems the country is lumbered with both inherited from history and on account of the myopia of the current generation.

The youth and future Ethiopian generations must and can do better without condescending attitudes towards previous generations to build a future that removes inter-generational tyranny from Ethiopia for good. This can be done if the current generations are open to work closely and join active and enlightened networks to create the necessary energy and conditions to solve all the problems the country has not been able to solve to date.

This new journal should bring those at home and abroad to create active networks through sharing knowledge, research and innovation. Together, they should join to foster problem-solving culture and foresight. The journal should create a platform whereby all generations old and young come together to bond and communicate through knowledge, in order to avoid past failures of miscommunication, which usually led to locking out the potential paths for networking by piling problems rather than expanding opportunities. We in Ee-JRIF will thrive to make sure the all opportunities for Ethiopia are used to overcome the problems, and not as it has always been the case to allow the problems undermine the country's great potential and opportunities.

THE ETHIOPIAN ELECTRONIC JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FORESIGHT (Ee- JRIF)

Ee-JRIF will be developed and promoted to become a leading rated, multi-disciplinary and refereed international journal on knowledge, research and innovation foresight for the development and transformation of Ethiopian society, economy, communities , states and citizens regardless of gender,

age, ethnic origin, religion and any other differences. The Ethiopian locale, problems, challenges and issues however varied they may be will be explored by Ethiopians who now find themselves scattered around the world. This journal will bring Ethiopians around the world to join the global knowledge, research and innovation observatory to create knowledge channels that facilitate bonding, communication and exchange between what exists in the sphere of the abroad and also that of at home for visioning the future with foresight and intelligence.

Ee-JRIF encourages research output to be published covering a range of areas such as the role of knowledge, research and innovation in the processes of Ethiopia's transformation and development. Research on how agriculture, industry, university, community, business and Government make systemic interactions and linkages in the context of bringing about Ethiopia's broader socio-economic development will be covered. The exploration of how producer-users interact in Ethiopia to transform Ethiopia into a viable and functioning society, economy and state will be undertaken. Critiques of how outside help has often hindered domestic innovation will be open to investigation and reflection. Specific themes on food, biodiversity, forestry, health, water, land, agriculture, horticulture, crops, and a variety of necessary plants and species will be prioritized. Further research will be undertaken by exploring co-evolutions, broad-based innovations and indigenous knowledge systems in the context of Ethiopian development including how new technologies (nano, bio, info, cogno) influence development, transformation and life style changes in Ethiopia. In addition scientific papers will be welcome from those who explore sustainable use of resources, infrastructure, electricity, telecommunication and energy uses, and those who also explore conflicts, violence, wars both internal and regional, emergence of institutions and practices to make Ethiopia learn to self govern for development and human wellbeing in an environment for human justice.

Ethiopia has contributed to Africa in ways that none can challenge or take away how much it paid for holding the African resistance and independence imagination. There is thus a need to put the record straight regarding Ethiopia's over five hundred years epic struggle against the attempts by outside powers to colonize the country and highlighting Ethiopia's historic role in holding the primary place in Africa's overall liberation imagination. The relevance of this to complete the unfinished business of African liberation will be highlighted so that Ethiopia's historic role is fully acknowledged.

AGRICULTURE SELECTED FOR THE FIRST ISSUE OF Ee- JRIF

For the first issue of Ee-JRIF we have selected, along with education and health, agriculture as the main theme for soliciting, reviewing and publishing the peer reviewed papers. We think that agriculture is critical for Ethiopia's future. In spite of the declarations made by both the UN system, the African Union and even specific Government, agriculture remains still in a state where a country like Ethiopia has not been able to achieve food security. Every year around the Christmas period, there has been reports of

food shortages and scarcity reported by both the World Food Programme and the Government in Ethiopia. Very often the numbers of people that need food aid reported by the World Food Programme is bigger than those reported by the local Government. This is a recurrent dilemma that has defined the country and given it a brand name that it is incapable of feeding itself.

Given this concern, it is nothing but natural for the first maiden issue of EE-JRIF, we have selected agriculture to provide an overriding concentration on issues and themes. We hope that real knowledge that can make a difference to both learning and policy, will be produced mainly by Ethiopian researchers scattered around the world. This will help create a knowledge, research and high – level culture that can contribute to the society and bring all the knowledge producers of Ethiopians in the world to make impact to the lives of the people in Ethiopia constructively by hopefully also creating viable knowledge-anchored enduring networks.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, “the total amount of available food is not the problem; the world produces plenty of food to feed everyone.”ⁱ

The fact that the world produces enough food has not changed the issue that countries like Ethiopia have been categorized amongst the large number of countries that cannot feed themselves.ⁱⁱ

In Ethiopia there are now reports that something like 3 % of the arable cultivable land is being leased to foreign companies. The extent to which such company ownership may help solve the food security problem or undermine it is still open. This leased land does decrease the supply of land to serve food production, especially if the companies concentrate in changing such arable land to commercial exports. This new development which is affecting not only Ethiopia but also much of the rest of Africa is a new challenge that has brought controversy and requires close investigation all the implications involved..

It remains a fact that no matter how this new lease of arable land works out, the overriding objective by all Ethiopians whoever they are and wherever they may be is to turn Ethiopian agriculture productive and change the country from being food insecure to a land with food security. Failure to achieve this goal is failure to reverse the famine brand name the country has unfortunately been labeled for a generation now. Anyone who cannot understand this challenge is likely to face a negative judgment by both history and commonsense.

AFTER AGRICULTURE HEALTH AND EDUCATION FOR SUBSEQUENT EE- JRIF

We would like to continue thematically by selecting for subsequent issues health, education, natural resources, infrastructure, transport, telecommunication, population, land, energy, water, forestry, electricity, food, environment and so on. We also hope to put together thematically held works and convert them into e-books by doing appropriate editorial work.

In this first issue contributions have come from both at home and abroad. We are pleased that the intellectual interaction between home and abroad has started naturally without much difficulty. Contributions from home for this issue have come from: Tesfaye Teshome (Addis Ababa), Zenebe Mekonnen, and Hussien Mohammed (Arba Minch), and Mehari Getaneh Temachu (Ethiopia). The rest

are Ethiopian scientists from the Diaspora: Zerihun Gudeta (South Africa), Badege Bishaw(USA), Fekadu Fullas (USA) and Amare Desta (Britain). The book review by Worku Abebe (USA) on traditional medicine raises the important problem of the knowledge people have that Ethiopia has not built upon but rather ignored. The network on Senamoksh clinic is by Mammo Muchie (South Africa, Denmark and UK), and the layout and design is created by Kumnegere (Finland) and Tihtina from Canada. This is thus a work of coordination and networking as NES Global truly is to become a global network of Ethiopians which involved many Ethiopians from different continents. The establishment of knowledge communication through a journal run and managed by Ethiopian scholars with support from the rest of the world is critical to bring the scattered energy of Ethiopians to combine and make a difference to the future and the transformation challenge this most ancient nation faces in today's rather difficult world. This e-journal is part of the NESGLOBAL effort to create a virtually expanded knowledge frontier with a global reach, scale and development to build the Ethiopian knowledge world on a robust foundation using modern technology to solve any problem or barrier.

We welcome you all to join and use and diffuse this journal as vehicle to bring Ethiopians in the knowledge world to come closer and unite, network and freely create new research, science and quality training to make a difference in Ethiopia's bright future. We wish you all a happy New decade and beyond.

On behalf of the Editorial Board Ethiopian e-Journal for Research and Innovation Foresight (Ee-JRIF)
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December 2009. Vol. 1, No. 1, 1-200 ISSN- 2042-6356

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ⁱTom Tietenberg & Lynne Lewis, Environmental Economics & Policy. Sixth edition Pearson Publishers, p.226

ⁱⁱ ibid