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Notes from the Editors

Foreword Introducing the Selected Papers from the Ethiopian Knowledge conference

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Inspiration

”The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found but made, and the activity of making them changes both the makers and the destination.” (John Schaar)

One of the most difficult challenges of countries like Ethiopia is the dispersal of the knowledge community across the world for a variety of reasons. It has become clear that the scattered knowledge and research force needs to find creative ways of re-engaging with the effort of those inside the country in order to create novel knowledge, research and training synergies. NES-Global (www.nesglobal.org) and Ee-JRIF are some of the innovative means to facilitate the interaction between those in Ethiopia and the Ethiopians scattered sadly around the world by creating a science

space for knowledge, research and learning communication and circulation. The brain drain can turn into brain gain if efforts to create network synergies between home and host, and the inside and the outside, through the free and accessible flow of scientific knowledge continue.

As it is very clear now, the growing number of universities is not matched by an equally growing number of high quality researchers and educators that can introduce a research based education system in Ethiopia. The knowledge exchange forum is meant to be a broad church for science communication free from the narrow church of political arguments and debates. The appeal is to reach through this NESGLOBAL and Ee-JRIF open access effort to open the broad church of science for various epistemic communities to engage with each other and those at home. No matter what political views or positions, religions or any other differences scientists have, the knowledge exchange forum will be an arena where science is the dominant matter of concern for all to share and not other things that must not be permitted to interfere. Scientists aspiring and the emerging or the established and senior scientists to join to do science and not express their other worries or concerns they feel strongly about. They have the right to express other concerns in other forums. In the knowledge exchange forum, they are encouraged only to be committed to change Ethiopia through science, technology, engineering and innovation capacity building, skill, training and learning activities.

It is thus that with great pleasure that editors of Ee-JRIF and the founders of NESGLOBAL initiated a global Ethiopian Knowledge Communication and Exchange Forum. This has started to run the first international multi-disciplinary knowledge exchange conference in UK in September 2011.

The objectives of the knowledge exchange forum are stated as follows:

- Initiate, improve, strengthen and sustain knowledge communication amongst Ethiopians across the world
- Exchange information to support younger Ethiopian researchers to succeed in their chosen professional fields
- Exchange ideas on what the key priorities are for Ethiopia to build knowledge with relevance to improve livelihoods of the people

- Exchange how to identify sources for support to improve quality training in research to increase the harvest in publications and patents
- To create a global knowledge forum that continues to connect the homeland with those outside the homeland to make tangible and measurable contributions with respect, devotion and commitment in training doctoral and post doctoral research to strengthen Ethiopia's national research system.
- To exchange ideas and novel best practice how to convert knowledge into innovation and practical activity to stimulate an Ethiopian knowledge-based economic development by transforming the current primary resource and agriculture based economy and society.
- To encourage and imbue the younger generations with a culture of creative thinking, problem solving and foresight in invention and innovation through hard work as joy and fun(<http://www.nesglobal.org/wshop/node/12>)^{er.1.4}

The Nesglobal network will facilitate knowledge, research and innovation linkages between homes and abroad to build high level research training by concentrating on the following research thematic areas.

- *The Theory of Productive Power*
- *Building the Ethiopian System of Innovation*
- *Combining Indigenous Knowledge with Knowledge gleaned outside Ethiopia*
- *Moving from the Domination of Knowledge Transfer to Knowledge Exchange*
- *Engaging in smart, inclusive and sustainable and integrated Ethiopian transformation*
- *An Ethiopian unity project identity for providing a shared value, purpose and passion to build the welfare of the people and the deeper anchored dignity of Ethiopians.*

Ethiopia appears to lack two key resources as much needed as they are on a scale that can transform the Ethiopian economy on an independent trajectory: capital of the mind and trust capital and a massive engineering education that all the citizens of Ethiopia should be equipped with to enable them in addressing competently all the travails and storms of practical life with self-owned capabilities and competences.

Productive power, competence building, learning and innovation for economic growth that is smart, inclusive and sustainable by applying a robust science, technology, engineering innovation system are

needed to build the capital of the mind (mental capital) and the social (trust) capital. Building the alternative will make it possible to stimulate interactive inter-Ethiopian trustful and confident relationships and learning in order to make it feasible and possible to use the natural, physical and financial resources and capital

There were 23 reviewed papers that were presented in the conference. We have selected five of the papers for publication in Ee-JRIF after undergoing a second review process. Unfortunately due to the selection and review process amongst the communication of the editors, the peer reviewers and the authors, the publication of the volume was delayed. One of the papers on knowledge exchange selected has been put in the research note section.

The papers are varied. The first paper is on Prospects of Knowledge Sharing among Ethiopian Institutions of Higher Learning by Rahel Bekele and Ermias Abebe from School of Information Science, Addis Ababa University. The second paper is on Putting research knowledge into Action: The missing link for sustainability of Lake Tana Ecosystem, Ethiopia by Dessalegn Molla Ketema, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia, Nick Chlosom University College Cork (UCC) and Pat Enright University College Cork (UCC), Ireland. The third paper is on the Role of the Diaspora in Knowledge Exchange Network for National Growth and Social Change by Tewabetch Bishaw, CEO, ABIDE, Ethiopia. The fourth paper is by Haile Michael Teshome Demissie on The Nano-Revolution and Economic Development: Is Africa Ready? He has been accepted as a post-doctor fellow under the South African Chair Initiative on Innovation Studies (SARChI-IERI, Tshawne University of Technology. The fifth paper is on: The Implications of Problems of Good Governance in FDI Flow and Transfer of Knowledge to Ethiopia by Semahagn Gashu, Faculty of Law, and University of Göttingen, Germany. We have included the six papers on Promises and Perils of the Virtuous Knowledge Exchange Cycle in Ethiopian Higher Education Institution by Elizabeth Ayalew, University of East London, UK. Finally a book review on Energy Transitions by Mammo Muchie.

Together these papers are the fruits of research that can encourage more quality research to be produced in and for Ethiopia by Ethiopian emergent and senior researchers along with those they collaborate with scholars from the rest of the world. The main goal of Ee-JRIF is to create inter-Ethiopian researcher network synergies by decreasing the collaborative distance, encouraging co-publishing, co-patenting, co- knowledge creation and co-training amongst Ethiopian researchers, learners and educators.