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Special Issue on Creativity and Innovation

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Editorial Notes: Special Issue on Creativity and Innovation

The series of papers in this special issue on creativity and innovation emerged as a result of an optional training advanced course on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship that was delivered in 2016 at the Industrial Engineering Institute (AaiT) of Addis Ababa University. Professor Daniel Kitaw invited me to mentor emerging industrial engineering doctoral candidates, where I had a rich experience spending from morning to evening every day and going through all the research processes that are critically important to achieve high quality doctorates by exploring, discovering and examining with these promising young researchers who I found are very intelligent, collaborative, generous, humours, emphatic, dedicated, gracious, committed and inspiring.

In addition to the research methodology lectures, I also offered them an advanced course on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. The purpose for it was to create an innovative start-up track where these emerging doctorates can become daring risk –takers by developing a shared journey to think out of the box by trying to develop things that are

not thought before by remaining inspired with the creativity and inventiveness spark not to seek jobs but while they are learning create jobs.

I have suggested that they learn to become life- long friends and share knowledge and work together. They took the encouragement to work in groups seriously by undertaking practically work that makes them long-time friends by sharing the challenges for creating new ventures to become real inventors, innovators, creators and entrepreneurs. If they develop new start-ups, they can compete for awards and seed funding. There is now the Africa Innovation Hub and the African Entrepreneurship Award that can stimulate job creation and motivate younger engineers and graduates to be creators, and innovator on their own right.

The classes linked theory and practice to create the learning objectives of the skills and knowledge required to promote the spirit and action of undertaking venturesome activities with creativity and innovation. The concepts of creativity, invention, innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship were explored so that as groups through business plans together they can explore in detail how to undertake real and new venture creation. They had a number of assignments all calling for them to create and not regurgitate what they have learned from class. They undertook tasks that included literature review, a real-life venture case exploration and investigation, and group work to learn how to develop real ventures, identifying what they can select as a real specific venture to do and find a role model and interview how job creation rather than job seeking can be attained. The development of plans for promoting ventures driven by social entrepreneurship was also recommended. The interactive learning with these doctoral candidates was so enriching that their literature reviews have been re-written with the objective to submit them for peer-

review and finally to be produced in Ee-JRIf as the current special issue. This is truly an achievement and we congratulate their creative work.

There are four papers in this special issue. We expect another four to follow up and after peer review; they will be presented to Ee-JRIF for publication.

In this issue the following four papers are included. The first paper is by Ameha Mulugeta, Mammo Muchie and Daniel Kitaw is on Technological Capability Development Opportunity for Africa through Infrastructure Development Projects. It focus on mega infrastructural challenges with concrete case studies.

The second paper by Haileluel Mammo and Mammo Muchie on **Equipment maintenance policies from two different perspectives explores the human and machine dimensions of both** Total Productive Maintenance (human) and Reliability Cantered Maintenance (machine) how they have been implemented at different industries to enhance the competitiveness.

The third Paper by Gezahegn Tesfaye and Mammo Muchie is on Hybrid Push/Pull Strategies for a Footwear Production System by evaluating the three dimensions namely push, pull and the hybridity and recommending the later from the case of footwear leather.

The fourth paper by Merartu Wakuma and Mammo Muchie on Trade Policy: free Trade versus Protectionism evaluates the advantages and disadvantages to the global value chain free trade or protectionism with a recommendation of learning case by case from the advantages and disadvantages from each side.

The book review is by Fekadu Fullas is on **Leaf of Allah: Khat & Agricultural Transformation in Harerge, Ethiopia 1875-1991**, by Ezekiel Gebissa, Addis Ababa University Press--Research & Publications Office

Together, all the papers and the book review demonstrate new insights that are worth sharing as a special issue to inspire learners in Ethiopia to use as future examples. The doctoral programme that Prof. Daniel Kitaw has developed is a combination of research with also training through courses. This provided the opportunity through the course to generate these papers which can be resourceful ways to keep on building upon successful and productive doctor programme.