



ALUMNI CONFERENCE

North-South-Dialogue – From knowledge to practice

Bahir Dar; April 22-23, 2009

The North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme has proved to be a useful instrument in supporting science and research for development. The programme contributes to poverty reduction by strengthening personal and institutional capacities of the developing countries in the area of higher education and research, by taking into account the regional and thematic priorities of Austrian Development Co-operation (ADC). In the last 25 years, about 200 students and researchers from Ethiopia have successfully completed their MSc, PhD and research at various Austrians institutions with the support of this programme. Therefore the first Alumni conference will be held in Ethiopia.

Objectives

- Enhance networking and exchange of experiences amongst Ethiopian North-South-Dialogue alumni and the Austrian Coordination Office
- Discuss experiences of scientific cooperation with Austrian institutions, and at European level
- Discuss capacity building in the Amhara region against the background of the bilateral program SRMP-NG and the new strategy on higher education

Target group

- Alumni of the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme

Registration

Send the attached registration form via e-mail to Ms. Elke Stinnig, elke.stinnig@oead.at by March 30, 2009.
Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research OeAD-GmbH (former ÖAD)
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Organisation

The conference is jointly organised by the Bahir Dar University, the Coordination Office for Development Cooperation in Addis Abeba and the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research OeAD-GmbH (former ÖAD).

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009

08:30 – 9:00 Registration

Session one - Opening and introduction

Chair: Dr. Fentahun Mengistu, General Director of ARARI

- 9:00 – 09:45 **Welcome addresses** (10 minutes each)
 Dr. Rudolf Agstner, Austrian Ambassador to Ethiopia
 Ato Yinager Dessie, Head of Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
 Dr. Yeshimebrat Masresha, President of Bahir Dar University
 Elke Stinnig, OeAD-GmbH
- 09:45 – 10:05 **Opening speech: Overview of Austrian Development Cooperation in Ethiopia**
 Dr. Leonhard Moll, Head of Coordination Office for Development Cooperation
- 10:05 – 10:30 **Austrian project/programme experience from Amhara Region**
 Dr. Zerfu Hailu, German Development Cooperation GTZ
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Research and education prospects of Bahir Dar University**
 Dr. Mulugeta Kibret, Bahir Dar University
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Institutional and policy means for mitigating deforestation**
 Dr. Teshome Tesema, Amhara Region Agricultural Research Institute
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Presentation of Alumni by-law**
 Dr. Teshome Soromessa, Addis Ababa University
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

Session two - Scientific cooperation with Austrian institutions

Chair: Dr. Getachew Alemayehu, Bahir Dar University

- 14:00 – 15:30 **Role of enclosures for improved productivity of farms in Gondar (kef-project)**
 Abraham Abiyu Hailu, PhD Student, Institute of Forest Ecology, BOKU
Common indigenous tree and shrub species (kef-project)
 Dr. Kindu Mekonnen, Holetta Agricultural Research Centre
Experiences from 2 different funding schemes (kef, ADA)
 Dr. Maria Wurzing, Division of Livestock Sciences, BOKU
 Discussion
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

Session three - Scientific cooperation at the European level

Chair: Dr. Mulugeta Kibret, Vice president of Bahir Dar University

- 16:00 – 17:30 **Joint Master's Programme in Transboundary Animal Disease Management- EDULINK**
 Dr. Kelay Belihu, Addis Abeba University
Strengthening the international Dimensions of African Universities; Good experiences from EDULINK
 Fitsum Asmerom Abreham, Mekelle University
The Arba Minch town ROSA project experience, a Specific Target Research Project funded within the 6th EU Framework Programme
 Wudneh Ayele Shewa, ROSA - Local project coordinator, Arba Minch
 Discussion
- 18:00 Dinner



THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

Thematic areas for discussion- Working groups

I. Capacity building programme in the Amhara region

(Strengthening integration between extension-education-action research)

The working group should come up with clear suggestions and proposals about

- a) possible partnerships between Austrian and Ethiopian institutions against the background of the Austrian bilateral programme in the Amhara region
- b) strengthening of the partnership programme through close linkage with the Master/PhD programme and
- c) reducing barriers for female candidates

II. Linkage establishment between Ethiopian and Austrian academic and research institutions

(Institutionalization strategy)

Possibilities of cooperation between Ethiopian and Austrian institutions for establishing linkages and partnerships

III: Establishment of the Alumni association on a strong foundation

(Networking-popularization-actions)

Strategies for building up a network / association of North-South-Dialogue alumni

- 09:00 – 10:30 **Working group I** - Moderator: Zerfu Hailu
Resource persons: N.N.
Working group II - Moderator: Gebremeskel Kahsay Gebremariam, Mekelle University
Resource persons: Dr. Maria Wurzinger, Division of Livestock Sciences, BOKU;
Elke Stinnig, OeAD-GmbH
Working group III - Moderator: Dr. Teshome Soromessa
Resource persons: Andreas Knapp, World Bank; Redeat Habteselassie Demissie, East African Water
Association (EAWA); Berhanu Berhe, Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany (AEEG)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Working groups** to be continued
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Presentation of the results of the working groups**
Moderator: Dr. Abiy Yigzaw, Bahir Dar University
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00 – 17:50 **Plenary session**, Chair: Dr. Abiy Yigzaw, Bahir Dar University
- 17:50 – 18:00 **Closing remark** by Dr. Yeshimebrat Masresha, President of Bahir Dar University
- 18:00 Dinner & Social event



SPEAKERS

Dr. Rudolf Agstner

[Austrian Ambassador to Ethiopia](#)

He was born 1951 in The Hague, Netherlands. He joined the Austrian Foreign Service in 1977, served in Paris (1980-1981), Brussels (1981), Tripoli (1981-1984), New York/UN Mission (1984-1987), Cairo (1991-1996) and Bonn (2005-2006). Since October 2006 he is the Austrian ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union. He is expert on the history of the Austrian (Austro-Hungarian) Foreign Service and Austrian presence in the Middle East and East Africa; author of 15 books and over 200 articles on the history of the Austrian (Austro-Hungarian) Foreign Service and Austrian presence in Egypt, Ethiopia, Israel, Libya and Sudan. Dr. Agstner lectures at Innsbruck University Institute of Contemporary History.

Ato Yinager Dessie

[Head of Bureau of Finance and Economic Development](#)

Dr. Yeshimebrat Masresha

[President of Bahir Dar University](#)

Dr. Yeshimebrat Masresha was working as the Academic Programs Officer and the Academic and Research Vice President of Bahir Dar University and is currently the President. She has also vast experience in teaching in undergraduate and post graduate programs in Higher Education Institutions and is a gender expert. She founded and headed the Girls education Center; she was the chair person of the Women and Staff Association (WSA) and of the Gender forum. Additionally she founded and facilitated the Gender, Development and Cultural studies Institute at Bahir Dar University.

Elke Stinnig

[Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research \(OeAD-GmbH\)](#)

Elke Stinnig is a MSc graduate of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna. Since 2005 she is working for the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, formerly known as the ÖAD, in the Academic Cooperation and Mobility Unit (ACM). She is the manager of the North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme and the One-World-Scholarship Programme.

Dr. Leonhard Moll

[Head of Coordination Office for Development Cooperation Austrian Embassy Addis Abeba](#)

He obtained a PhD from the University in Innsbruck/Austria in Geology and Mineralogy. After working for Austrian consulting companies in the field of hydrogeology and geotechnics he got involved in development cooperation in the field of rural water supply. He was the project manager for different NGOs and consulting companies in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Uganda. In 1996 he became the head of the coordination office of the Austrian Development Cooperation in Ethiopia, and in 2002 head of the Austrian Representative Office in Ramallah responsible for the West Bank and Gaza. Since 2006 he is once again head of the coordination office of the Austrian Development Cooperation in Ethiopia.



Dr. Zerfu Hailu

[German Development Cooperation \(GTZ\)](#)

Zerfu Hailu G/Wold is, since 2006, the manager of the project Global Environmental Facility, (GEF-IFAD supported) Community – based integrated Natural Resources Management. Before that he was the responsible deputy general manager for Environmental Protection, Land Administration & Use Authority (EPLAUA). He was also working as the environment protection team leader at the Bureau of Agriculture (BoA) and as a forestry management senior expert at the Bureau of Natural Resources Development & Environmental Protection (BoNRDEP). In 2002 he received a PhD from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

Dr. Mulugeta Kibret

[Vice president of Bahir Dar University](#)

Mulugeta Kibret is since 2008 the Academic and Research Vice President of Bahir Dar University. Before that he was the Dean of the Faculty of Education and the acting head of the Department of Biology at Bahir Dar University. From 2003 to 2004 he headed the Department of Environmental Engineering at the Arba Minch Water Technology Institute. In 1999 he received a PhD degree in Biology (with specialization in Microbiology) from the Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria.

Dr. Teshome Tesema Kebede

[Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute \(ARARI\), Forestry research director](#)

Teshome Tesema Kebede is, since October 2008, the director of the Forestry Research Directorate (ARARI, Bahir Dar). Before that he was the head of the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Department and of the Forestry and Agroforestry Conservation and Development Department, at the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development, in Bahir Dar. In 2008 he obtained a PhD (Hon.) in Natural Resources Management from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

Dr. Teshome Soromessa

[Addis Ababa University](#)

He obtained his PhD degree from the University of Vienna. Currently he is an academic staff of Addis Ababa University where he teaches, supervises graduate students and conduct researches. In the University, he has been and is coordinating many research projects, inter alia, administering college's graduate researches of many graduate students managing over 5 million Birr annually and working on projects of his research area. His research interest focuses on community and ecosystem ecology with great emphasis on phytodiversity and species richness. He is currently working on Indigenous Woody Species of Ethiopia.

Ato Abraham Abiyu Hailu

[Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute \(ARARI\), PhD student at BOKU](#)

Abraham Abiyu Hailu is born in Bahir Dar. He got a BSc in Forestry from the Wondo Genet College of Forestry in 2000, and a MSc in Mountain Forestry from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, BOKU, Vienna, Austria, in 2005. Currently he is a PhD student at the Institute of Forest Ecology, at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU).



Dr. Kindu Mekonnen

[Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research \(EIAR\), National Case Team for Integrated Watershed Management \(IWM\)](#)

Kindu Mekonnen is currently leading the National Case Team for Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) research of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). Moreover, he is coordinating the African Highlands Initiative (AHI) project at Holetta Agricultural Research Center (HARC). In addition to the coordination responsibilities he is serving as an associate editor of the Ethiopian Soil Sciences Society and technical committee members for sustainable land management initiatives in Ethiopia. In 2008 he received a PhD degree from Boku.

Dr. Maria Wurzinger

[BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna, Division of Livestock Sciences](#)

Maria Wurzinger is on a joint appointment between BOKU, Austria and ILRI-International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya since 2007. Her position at BOKU is dedicated to tropical animal husbandry and tropical animal breeding, at ILRI she is a member of the working group "Improving utilization of farm Animal Genetic Resources". Her focus is characterisation and modelling of production systems, evaluation of indigenous knowledge related to animal breeding, and development of breeding strategies at a local level. She is involved in several projects world-wide (e.g., Bolivia, Argentina, Syria, Tunisia, Uganda, Ethiopia) related to improving the livelihood of smallholder farmers and pastoralists. She has a MSc in Agricultural Sciences and a PhD in Animal Breeding from BOKU-University, Vienna.

Dr. Kelay Belihu Desta

[Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Addis Abeba University](#)

Kelay Belihu Desta is an associate professor in the department of animal production studies of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Addis Ababa University. He is a veterinarian by profession and specialized in animal breeding. Currently, he is also serving the faculty as an associate dean for graduate studies and research. His research interest is dairy and poultry production and health. Currently he is project coordinator in the MTADM Edulink project.

Ato Fitsum Asmerom Abreham

[PhD student at Addis Abeba University](#)

Fitsum Asmerom Abreham was the Head of the Public and International Relations Office, at Mekelle University. In this position he was the representative to Edulink and to Erasmus Mundus lot 10 External cooperation windows. He attended the selection consortium program in Enschede (The Netherlands). In 2008 he was also visiting international offices of some European Universities in Belgium, Italy and France (Germany). Additionally he was working as English reporter and close up weekly program producer at the Ethiopian Television. Currently he is a PhD student at Addis Abeba University in Applied Linguistics and Communication.

Ato Wudneh Ayele Shewa

[ROSA - Local project coordinator, Arba Minch](#)

Wudneh Ayele Shewa is by profession an Environmental engineer and has a BSc in Sanitary Engineering and a master degree in Environmental Engineering. He has a total of 13 years work experience in water supply, sanitation and housing development sector. More over, he has been teaching water supply and waste water engineering courses in Arba Minch University and Hawassa University in Ethiopia on part time basis. At present, Wudneh Ayele Shewa is working for an EU funded specific target research project called ROSA as a Local project coordinator in Arba Minch, Ethiopia.



Organisers


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