

## **CALL FOR ETHIOPIANS LIVING ABROAD TO COME AND SERVE IN ETHIOPIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

It is clear that education is a key to the development and advancement of the nation. It is a leading instrument for promoting economic growth, creating social cohesion, advancing knowledge and improving the living standard of the people. Higher education in this respect is pivotal and plays a crucial role.

Irrespective of the paramount importance and understanding, the pace of expansion of higher education which dawned in Ethiopia about six decades ago remained strikingly slow, slower even to the levels of Sub-Saharan countries. A single university, Hailesselasie I University (Addis Ababa University with its current name) and a few junior colleges existed until recently with a notably low intake and enrolment capacity.

Since the last ten years, however, the MOE of the government of Ethiopia embarked on the task of the expansion and access of higher education, and the higher education system is tuned towards meeting more directly the national strategy for economic growth and poverty reduction. A lot of public universities were established throughout the country, and consequently the number of universities under the auspices of the Ministry of Education alone reached twenty two. The establishment of additional nine new universities is under way. A lot of regional colleges appeared to the scene and, also importantly, the private sector showed a great interest in the sector which in turn made a vital contribution to the expansion of higher education.

Enrolment has grown significantly in the last ten years in both the undergraduate and graduate levels reaching 344,107 and 13,412 respectively in the 2009/10 academic year in public Higher Education Institutions alone. This expansion, besides undoubtedly putting pressure on infrastructure and resources, it created an urgent demand for qualified instructors as the quality of education in any educational institution mostly depends upon the quality of the academic staff. The universities and the government exerted a strenuous effort to fulfill the academic staff required. Nevertheless, our universities still are encountered with a shortage of qualified and experienced instructors and researchers. In order to overcome this problem, it has been planned to train about 23,000 candidates at the post graduate level in the coming five years, basically targeting the fulfillment of the human resource needs of the higher education institutions.

In light of the above facts, it is time to look for the support and service of qualified and experienced Ethiopians living in foreign lands. Hence, our universities and the Ministry of Education of Ethiopia call upon all qualified and experienced Ethiopians living abroad to come and give a short and/or long term service in teaching and/or research in our universities. We believe that participation and contribution of Ethiopians living abroad can play a major role in the capacity building program in education and development of the nation in general. To this effect, all interested Ethiopians living abroad are kindly invited to send their applications in the address listed below.

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