



FSS Update



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to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers

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Spotlight



FSS Bulletin (Vol. 3&4, no. 3
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Articles:

- *The Ethio-Eritrean Border/ Boundary: A Seesaw Puzzle* (Bahru Zewde)
- *Socio-economic Dimensions of Horticultural Crop Production in Ethiopia* (Zemedu Worku)
- *The dilemma of Food-for-Work in Ethiopia: Soil and Water Conservation vs. Rain-water Harvesting Practices* (Daniel Kassahun)

FSS Workshop on Decentralization in Ethiopia

The Forum for Social Studies (FSS) launched a one-day workshop on Decentralization in Ethiopia, which was held at the Ghion Hotel on 19th December 2006. The workshop was organized to disseminate the results of a scoping study on decentralization which FSS conducted from June to November 2006 with the financial support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The scoping study had two major components: a review of the literature on the decentralization process in Ethiopia, and a rapid assessment of the implementation of the woreda-level decentralization programme launched in the four major regional states.



The literature review was aimed at identifying the literature available on the subject, determining the major issues raised in previous studies and identifying knowledge gaps that need to be addressed in subsequent research. The rapid assessment was aimed at scanning the progress made in implementing the decentralization programme, using data generated from a sample of eight woredas in the four regions and two sub-cities in Addis Ababa, identifying the challenges encoun-

tered and the areas that need in-depth research.



At the workshop, Dr Tegegne G/ Egziabher and Dr Kassahun Berhanu presented the results of

their literature review while Dr Meheret Ayenew presented the main findings of the rapid assessment in the sample woredas.



The literature review indicated that among the many observations made by previous studies,

points highlighted include:

- Relative improvement in the form of expanded space and increased resource flows resulting from inter-governmental transfers.
- An increase in length of rural road, a clear benefit of decentralization; greater role of regional health bureaus in planning, coordinating and implementing.
- Serious capacity constraints and inadequacies (i.e., resources including skilled manpower, service provisioning, etc.).
- Top-down approaches in setting development priorities and planning; limited space for grassroots & CSO representation in planning and decision-making arrangements at the local level.

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- Prevalence of a process characterized more by deconcentration rather than genuine devolution.



The review underlined the paucity of independent research assessing the progress, impact and effectiveness of the woreda-level decentralization programme and the realization of its objectives.



Among the findings of the field survey of the sample rural woredas are:

- Generally, more people have got access to education than to health and clean water in all the Woredas sampled for this study.
- There is a relatively better representation of women in Woreda Councils than in executive committees.
- Generally, there is a shortage of personnel with sufficient educational qualification and training, as the bulk of Woreda permanent personnel are elementary and secondary school teachers, and there were many vacant positions.
- The lines of authority and accountability between Woreda and regional governments are not clearly defined.
- Much of the functional and authority relationships is governed by political considerations rather than by a clearly defined set of parameters of authority and accountability at each level of government.

During the discussion of the presentations and the priorities areas for future research, the workshop participants made a number of useful comments and suggestions. Some of the recommendations focused on:

- The need for collecting and analyzing time series data,



- The need for allocating adequate time and resource for undertaking future studies, and involving both woreda and kebele level actors in the studies,
- The need to review a series of recent studies undertaken by various organisations and government agencies,
- The need for benchmarking to determine success in decentralization processes, and to consider other country experiences in future studies,
- The need for methodological variations in the study of urban and rural local governments,
- And the need for limiting the scope and focus of a future in-depth research.

The workshop was appreciated by many of the participants for providing them with a platform to discuss the nexus between research and policy and to involve key stakeholders and policy implementers in determining future research agendas. This was lauded as a novel approach.

The participants were drawn from among the woreda functionaries and experts who were informants for the field survey of the sampled woredas and sub-cities, the research community, representatives of government agencies, international organizations and diplomatic missions, and other development partners.



Workshop on the 2006 Flood Disaster in Ethiopia

A one-day workshop to assess the 2006 flood disaster in Ethiopia was held at the Hilton Hotel on the 13th of December 2006. The workshop, organized by the Forum for Environment (FfE), aimed at sharing the findings of the rapid assessment of flooding, conducted in Dire Dawa town, Fogera plain, Omo-Ghibe basin, and Awash River valley. The research was conducted by graduate students of Addis Ababa and Hawassa Universities and overseen by the Core Taskforce drawn from the academic and research institutions. Dr. Daniel Kassahun, from Forum for Social Studies (FSS) and member of the taskforce, was in charge of supervising the technical aspects of the research project. This event was attended by representatives of donor agencies, various CSOs, government ministries, and other stakeholders. Ms Senait represented the FSS at the workshop.

H.E. Girma G/Ghiorgis, President of FDRE, made a keynote

speech underscoring the necessity of protecting the forest resources of the country and better management of land in general and floods in particular. President Girma’s keynote speech was followed by the presentation of Dr. Daniel Kassahun, which addressed the overall methodologies employed in the research project.

Dr. Daniel’s presentation was followed by four presentations by representatives of each flood sample area. In the presentations, it was reported that the floods claimed the lives of more than 700 people, displaced over 242,000 people, affected more than 674,000 people, and washed away property worth hundreds of millions of birr. It was disclosed that the 2006 rainfall was not the sole factor of flood hazard in the country. Historical weather data as well as accounts by elders confirm that rainfall levels higher than in 2006 had been witnessed in in the past several years. recently, however, rapid depletion of forest resources due to population pressure, especially on steeper slopes, and unsustainable population settlements and investments in the sensitive catchments have been responsible for most of the flood hazards. It was underscored that in addition to the rescue and rehabilitation of flood victims, the rehabilitation of degraded environment, compliance with sustainable land use, strict implementation of environmental impact assessment on development projects, and establishment of a flood early warning system should be promoted. At the wrap-up session, draft recommendations of the research were tabled for discussion.

**Panel Discussion on
“Environment and Health in the
New Ethiopian Millennium”**

A half-day panel discussion on “Environment and Health Issues in the New Ethiopian Millennium”, jointly organized by the Geo-Society of Environmental Club and Department of Geography, was held at the FBE Hall of Addis Ababa University on December 31, 2006. Attending the conference were invited guests from various institutions and members of the Geo-Society. Representing FSS at the panel discussion was Dr. Daniel Kassahun.

Following the opening remarks by the Club’s President, Ato Kibreab, three presentations were made in a session moderated by Dr. Yohannes G/Michael from the AAU. The first presentation, by the representative of the Ethiopian Millennium National Committee, dwelt on the health-related activities to be undertaken by the Millennium Programme. The second presentation, by a representative from the Addis Ababa Health Bureau, discussed the linkages between health and environmental mismanagement in the light of policy, finance, institutional role, and awareness creation. The third presentation, by Dr. Daniel Kassahun (FSS), addressed the global and national issues pertaining to the global climate and environmental changes vis-à-vis the implications for health. These were followed by discussions on the issues raised by the panelists.

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በተመለከተ የቴሌቪዥን ውይይት
ተካሄደ**

በአዲስ አበባ የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ቢሮ አስተባባሪነት ረቡዕ ታህሳስ አስራ ስምንት ቀን “በገና በዓል የጥድ ዛፍ ጭፍጨፋን ለመከላከል የሚያስችል ግንዛቤ መፍጠር” በሚል መርህ የግማሽ ቀን ውይይት በሸገር ፓርክ ተካሄደ። በዝግጅቱ ጥሪ የተደረገላቸው በርካታ ባለሙያዎች የተገኙ ሲሆን የማኅበራዊ ጥናት መድረክን ወክለው የተሳተፉት ዶ/ር ዳንኤል ካሳሁን ነበሩ። በውይይቱም የጥድ ዛፍን ለገና በዓል መጠቀም ሃይማኖታዊም ሆነ ባህላዊ መሰረት እንደሌለውና ድርጊቱ ግን ከጊዜ ወደ ጊዜ እየተስፋፋ መምጣቱ ተወስኗል። በዚህም ሳቢያ በአዲስ አበባና አካባቢዋ ብቻ በበርካታ ሄክታር የሚገኙ የሀበሻ ፅደች በያመቱ በመውደማቸው ለሌሎች ተያያዥ ችግሮች፡- ማለትም ለጤና መታወክ፣ ለአየርና ውሃ ብክለት፣ ለአፈር መሸርሸር፣ ለአየር ሙቀት መጨመር፣ ለጎርፍ ተጋላጭነት፣ ወዘተ፣ መንስዔ ሊሆን እንደሚችል ተብራርቷል። በመፍትሄነትም የግንዛቤ ማዳበር ሥራዎችን በትምህርት ቤቶች፣ በእምነት ተቋማት እና በወጣት ማህበራት ዙሪያ መሥራት እንደሚገባ ከስምምነት ተደርሶ ውይይቱ ተጠናቋል።

**Soros Justice Advocacy
Fellowships**

(Open Society Institute , Center on Crime, Communities and Culture; Fellowships)

Deadline: September 13, 2007

Deadline note: Anticipated deadline.

Amount: \$56,250

Amount note: The award for Advocacy Track II Fellows consists of the following: a stipend of \$71,250 (\$47,500 for the first year, \$23,750 for the remaining six months), \$3,750 for health insurance, funds to attend the annual fellows meeting, and access to on-going technical assistance resources.

Eligibility: Applicants for Advocacy Track I must have: - between two and six years of advocacy experience in criminal justice reform - are not required to have an undergraduate or graduate degree. Applicants for Advocacy Track II must have demonstrated expertise and a minimum of 10 years experience in their fields and 5 years of advocacy experience in criminal justice reform.

Activity location: Unrestricted

Abstract: The Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowships fund outstanding individuals including lawyers, advocates, grassroots organizers, and activist academics to initiate innovative policy advocacy projects. The program seeks to identify and nurture emerging leaders at local, state, or national levels. Projects may range from litigation to public education to coalition building to grassroots mobilization to action research and must identify a clear policy goal. Advocacy Fellowships are 18 months in duration and may be implemented in conjunction with not-for-profit organizations.

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New Acquisitions of FSS Documentation Centre

Publications on Ethiopia

Aklilu Amsalu Taye. 2006. *Caring for the Land: Best Practices in Soil and Water Conservation in Beressa Watershed, Highlands of Ethiopia*. Wageningen: Wageningen University and Research Center

Arba Minch University. 2005. *Proceedings of the 9th Symposium on Sustainable Water Resources Development*. Arba Minch: Arba Minch University.

Lentakis, Michael. 2005. *Ethiopia: A View from Within*. London: Janus Publishing Company.

Solomon Negussie. 2006. *Fiscal Federalism in the Ethiopian Ethnic-based Federal System*. Postbus: Wolf Legal Publishers.

Tekeste Negash. 2000. *Brothers at War: Making Sense of the Eritrean-Ethiopian War*. London: James Currey.

Other Publications

Cypher, James M. 2004. *The Process of Economic Development*. London: Routledge.

Elliott, Jennifer. 2006. *An Introduction to Sustainable Development*. London: Routledge.

Glover, Judith. 2006. *Women, Employment and Organizations*. London: Routledge.

Goatz, Stephan. 2005. *Land Use Problems and Conflicts: Causes, Consequences and Solutions*. London: Routledge.

Kenway, Jane. 2006. *Haunting the Knowledge Economy*. London: Routledge.

Lejano, Raul P. 2006. *Frameworks for Policy Analysis: Merging Text and Context*. London: Routledge.

Levey, Lisbeth A. 2003. *Higher Education in Tanzania: A Case Study*. London: James Currey.

Manji, Ambreena. 2006. *The Politics of Land Reform in Africa: From Communal Tenure to Free Markets*. London: Zed books.

Mele, Christopher. 2005. *The Urban Sociology Reader*. London: Routledge.

Mohan, Giles. 2004. *The Politics of Transition in Africa: State, Democracy and Economic Development*. London: James Currey.

Ndulo, Muna. 2006. *Democratic Reform in Africa: Its Impact on Governance and Poverty Alleviation*. London: James Currey.

Parker, Siman. 2005. *Urban Theory and the Urban Experience: Encountering the city*. London: Routledge.

Robison, Jennifer. 2006. *Ordinary Cities: Between Modernity and Development*. London: Routledge.

Spencer, Steve. 2006. *Race and Ethnicity: Culture, Identity, and Representation*. London: Routledge.

UNDP. 2006. *Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis*. Human Development Report 2006. New York: United Nations Development Program.

Woodis, Anthony. 2005. *Human Rights*. London: Routledge.

Publishing Opportunities Offered by FSS

Since its establishment in 1998, FSS has been producing a variety of good quality publications on different development issues. While a lot of these publications are products of its research and public debate programs, a number of them are also the outputs of independent research carried out by individuals outside FSS and selected for publication by FSS on the bases of the originality of their research and the social significance of their subject matter.

FSS would like to encourage authors of such good quality works to submit their manuscripts for publication in its book and monograph series.

FSS also invites authors to submit contributions for publication in the quarterly *FSS Bulletin*, which carries short articles on current development and policy issues, book reviews, communications and short notes on ongoing research.

FSS provides a modest honorarium for approved manuscripts that can be published as books, monographs or *Bulletin* articles and book reviews.

For more details, contact:

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