

# FSS Update



Issue No. 15  
March 2007

An email newsletter  
to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers

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## FSS Holds 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Forum for Social Studies held its 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at its head office. The meeting started with a screening of the FSS documentary film which featured the growth and diversification of FSS programme activities. This was followed by a two-minute silence to remember the late Dr Mekonnen Bishaw, who was a member of the first FSS Board.



- creation of partnerships for joint programmes;
- Ensuring public visibility of the Forum's head office; and
- Prospects for construction of FSS' own office building.

**Spotlight**



**FSS Bulletin**

Vol. 5, No. 1 (March 2007)

**In this issue:**

- *The mismeasure of the Ethiopian man: A Response to "IQ and the Wealth of Nations" by Richard Lynn & Tatu Vanhanen* (Girma Berhanu )
- *Transforming State Broadcasting into Public Service Broadcasting in Ethiopia: Challenges and Prospects* (Solomon Hailemariam)
- *Landmines and Mine Action: An Overview* (Senait Seyoum)

During the business session, the chairperson presented the annual activity report, followed by the external auditor's report of the financial transactions in 2006FY. During the discussion of the Forum's activities, members raised a number of issues revolving around the following points:



- Revival of the thematic dialogue series;
- Creation of a competitive environment to attract talented researchers;
- Launch of FSS discussion forums in the Regions;
- Expansion of FM radio programs and

The FSS management responded by explaining efforts made hitherto to address the issues and pledging to explore



the means and options for further improvement. The discussion on the agenda was wound up with the Assembly's approval of the activity and audit reports.

The 2007 Work Plan and Budget were also discussed and approved by the General Assembly. Likewise, after deliberating on the need to replace the existing external auditors who have served for several years, and examining the offers by new candidates, the Assembly ap-

pointed Degefa Lemesa & Co. as the new Auditor of FSS.



The Assembly also approved the admission of new members of the Forum and elected the following members to the

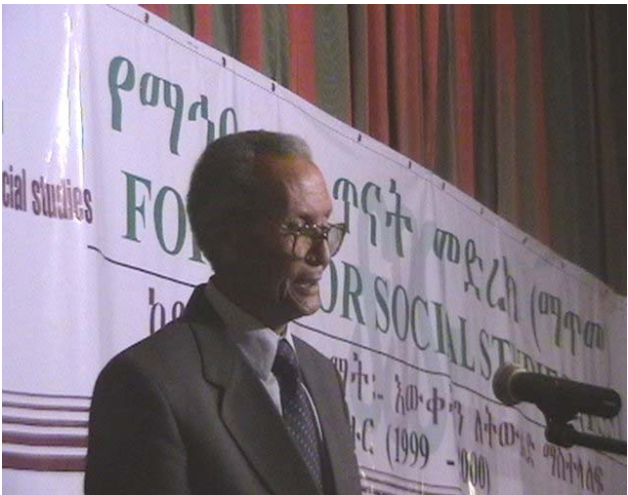
FSS Management Board: Dr Emebet Mulugeta, Associate Professor, Institute of Gender Studies, AAU; Ato Feleke Tadele, Country Representative, Save the Children Fund/Canada and President of the Ethiopian Anthropological Society. The General Assembly thanked the outgoing Board



members, Prof. Reda Teklehaimanot and Ms Adey Befekadu, who had served the Forum with great dedication for two terms.

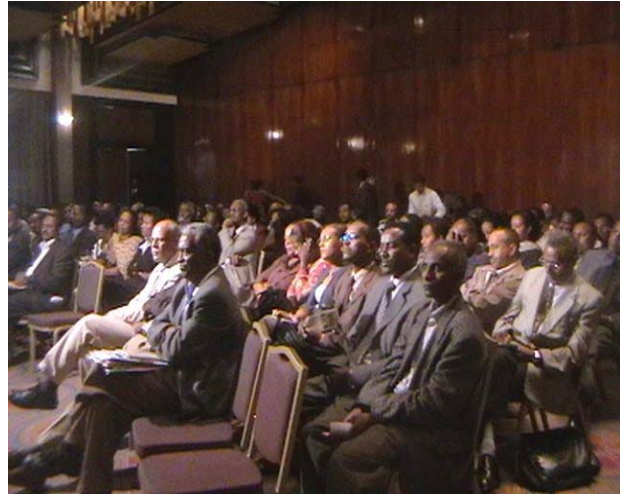
**ለዘመናዊ የኢንዱስትሪ ግንኙነት የዓጼ ኃይለ ሥላሴ መንግስት አስተዋጽኦ**

በኢትዮጵያ ታሪክ የዓጼ ኃይለ ሥላሴ ዘመን የአሰሪና የሰራተኛን ግንኙነት ከጌታና ሎሴ ግንኙነት በማላቀቅ



ለመልካም የኢንዱስትሪ ሕግ መሰረት የጣለ እንደነበረ በጊዜው የአሰሪና ሰራተኛ ሕጎችና ደንቦችን ዘመናዊ መልክ እንዲይዙ ከፍተኛ አስተዋጽኦ ያደረጉ አንድ ምሁር አስታወቁ።

**በማኅበራዊ ጥናት መድረክ በየሁለት ወሩ ከድህነት ወደ ልማት፤ እውቀትን ለትውልድ ማስተላለፍ በሚል ፕሮግራም**



ስር በሚዘጋጀው የውይይት መድረክ «የኢንዱስትሪና የመንግስት ሰራተኞች አስተዳደር እድገት» በሚል ርዕስ ጥናታዊ ጽሁፍ በማቅረብ ልምዳቸውን ያካፈሉት በአጼ ኃይለ ሥላሴና በደርግ ዘመን በከፍተኛ የመንግስት አስተዳደር ኃላፊነትና እንዲሁም በዲፕሎማትነት የሰሩት አምባሳደር ተፈራ ኃይለ ሥላሴ የኢንዱስትሪና የሰራተኛ ግንኙነት በዘመናዊ መልክ እንዲተዳደር መደረጉ ለአገሪቱ የኢኮኖሚ እድገት ሁኔታውን አመቻችቷል ብለዋል።

መጋቢት 14 ቀን 1999 ዓ.ም በሒልተን ሆቴል ለተሰብሳቢዎች ባደረጉት ንግግር አምባሳደሩ እንደተናገሩት ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ ለመልካም የኢንዱስትሪ ግንኙነት መሠረት የጣለው የፍትሐ ብሄር ሕግ በ1950ዎቹ መጀመሪያ መውጣቱና ሌሎች ደንቦች መቀረጻቸው የኢንዱስትሪን ሰላም ለማስፈን፤ ምርታማነትን ለማሳደግና የአገር ውስጥና የውጭ ባለሀብትን ለመሳብ ከፍተኛ አስተዋጽኦ አድርጓል።

አምባሳደር ተፈራ እንደተናገሩት በተለይ የ1952ቱ የፍትሐ ብሄር ሕግና የተጓደለውን ለማሟላት በኋላ የወጣው የአሰሪና ሰራተኛ ጉዳይ አዋጅ የሀብረት ስምምነት ስለማድረግ፣ ስለደሞዝ፣ ፈቃድ፣ በስራ ላይ አደጋ ቢከሰት ስለዋስትና፣ የመሳሰሉት ድንጋጌዎች የአሰሪና ሰራተኛን ግንኙነት ለማሻሻልና መብቶቻቸውን ለማስከበር አስተዋጽኦ አድርገዋል። ከዚህ ጋር በተያያዘም የአሰሪና ሰራተኛ አዋጅ መውጣት ማሕበራት የሚመዘገቡበትና ተግባራቸው በግልጽ በመለየቱ በአጭር ጊዜ ውስጥ አብዛኛው ሰርቶ አደር በማሕበር ለመደራጀት እንዲበቃ ረድቷል ሲሉ አምባሳደር ተፈራ አስረድተዋል።

የአሰሪና ሰራተኛ ጉዳይ አዋጅ ከኢትዮጵያ ጋር በተመሳሳይ እድገት ደረጃ ላይ ከሚገኙ አገሮች ተምክሮዎችና መሰረታዊ የሚባሉትን የአለም አቀፍ የሰራ ድርጅት ቃል ኪዳናት መሰረት አድርጎ የተቀረጸ በመሆኑ በኢትዮጵያ ታሪክ ትልቅ መሰረት ጥሏል ሲሉ አምባሳደሩ ተናግረዋል።

አምባሳደሩ አያይዘውም የንጉሱ ዘመን ቀደም ሲል በአሰሪው መልካም ፈቃድና ችግርታ ይተዳደር የነበረውን የስራ ግንኙነት የሚያስወግዱ ሕጎችና ደንቦች እንዲወጡና ሁለቱም ወገኖች በእኩልነት ሃሳባቸውንና አቋማቸውን የሚገልጹበት መድረክ ፈጥሮ በተግባር እንዲውል አድርጓል ሲሉም ተናግረዋል።

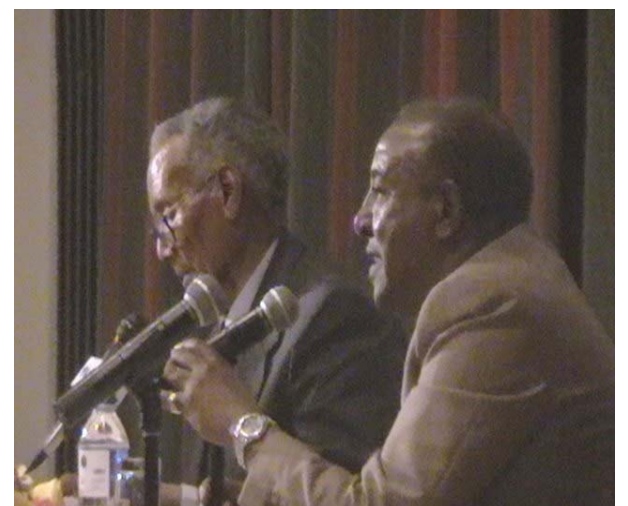
ከተባበሩት መንግስታት የልማት ድርጅትና ከአለም አቀፍ የስራ ድርጅት ጋር በመተባበር በ1960ዎቹ መጀመሪያ ላይ



ለሰራተኞችና ኃላፊዎች በመንግስት አዘጋጅነት ይሰጡ የነበሩ የሙያ ስልጠናዎች በችሎታ ላይ የተመሰረተ አስተዳደር እንዲሰፍንም ትልቅ መሰረት መጣሉን ያሳየ ነበር ሲሉ ተናግረዋል።

በ1960ዎቹ መጀመሪያ በታሪክ ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ በኢንዱስትሪ የተሰማሩ ሠራተኞችን በሙያ ድልድል ለማሳየት የተካሄደው ጥናት 70 ከተሞችንና ከ270 በላይ መስሪያ ቤቶችን ያካተተ፤ በአይነቱም የተለየ በመሆኑ በንጉሱ ዘመንና ከዛም በኋላ ለመጡት መንግስታት ታላቅ አስተዋጽኦ ማድረጉን አምባሳደሩ ተናግረዋል።

አምባሳደር ተፈራ እንዳሉት በጊዜው የመንግስት ሰራተኞች ጠቅላይ መስሪያ ቤትና የጡረታ ኮሚሽን መቋቋም የሰራተኛን መብት በተወሰነ ደረጃ ለማስጠበቅ ያስቻሉ ነበር። እንደላቸው ማብራሪያ ምንም እንኳን የጡረታ ደንቦች ከጊዜው የአገሪቱ ኢኮኖሚ ጋር የተገናዘቡና አለም አቀፍ የሥራ ድርጅት ስለማሕበራዊ ዋስትና ባወጣው ቃል ኪዳንና የስራ ሕግ



የተካተቱ ቢሆኑም እስከዛሬ ድረስ ግን አዋጆቹ የኑሮ ውድነትን ተከትለው ያልተሻሻሉ መሆናቸውን ተናግረዋል።

በአጼ ኃይለ ሥላሴና በደርግ ዘመን ለብዙ አመታት በዲፕሎማቲክ አገልግሎት እና በኢንዱስትሪ ግንኙነት በተለያዩ የኃላፊነት ቦታዎች ላይ የሰሩት አምባሳደር ተፈራ <ትልቁ ቁም ነገር ከእኛ በፊት የነበሩት ከተወጡት የአስተዳደር ቅርስ ምን እንማራለን? እኛስ ለተተኪው ትውልድ ምን ጨምረንና አዳብረን እናወርሳለን የሚለውን መርህ በተግባር ማዋል ነው።> ሲሉ ለውይይቱ ተሳታፊዎች አበክረው አስረድተዋል።

በአለቱ ከተሰባሳቢዎች ከቀረቡት ጥያቄዎች መካከል የሴቶችን መብት በተመለከተ በጊዜው የነበረው ሁኔታ ምን ይመስል እንደነበረ ለቀረበላቸው ጥያቄ አምባሳደሩ ሲመልሱ ምንም እንኳን የስርአተ-ጾታ ጉዳይ በጊዜው የሚነሳ ባይሆንም ሕጉ የወጣው አለም አቀፍ የስራ ድርጅት የደነገገውን በስራ ላይ አድልኦን የሚከላከል ሕግና የሶስትዮሽ ትብብርን መሰረት አድርጎ የተቀረፀ በመሆኑ ሁሉም ሰራተኛ መብቱ የተጠበቀ ነበረ ብለዋል።

አምባሳደር ተፈራ ከመንግስት ስራ በተጨማሪ በታሪክ ትልቅ ግምት የሚሰጠው *The Ethiopian Revolution: From a Monarchical Autocracy to a Military Oligarchy የተሰኘ መጽሐፍ* ያሳተሙ ሲሆን በቅርቡ ደግሞ <ኢትዮጵያና ብሪታንያ፡- የዲፕሎማቲክ ታሪክ ከ1798 - 1966 ዓ.ም> የተሰኘ መጽሐፍ በአማርኛ ለማሳተም በዝግጅት ላይ መሆናቸው ታውቋል።

**African Civil Society Forum 2007**

The African Civil Society Forum (AfCSF) 2007 brought together over 250 leaders and representatives of CSOs and NGOs from Africa at its first meeting that was held in Addis Ababa from 22-24 March 2007. The AfCSF, which was the biggest ever gathering of civil society organisations from across Africa, was convened by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) together with the African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) and in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union (AU), under the theme , “Democratizing Governance at Regional and Global Levels to Achieve the MDGs”. One of the objectives of the Forum was to establish an independent space to give African civil society a larger voice at both regional and global levels.

During the three-day meeting, various representatives made presentations on a diversity of issues which were discussed at plenary and parallel sessions. The participants made important recommendation on the following key issues:

- Peace and human security for achieving the MDGs,
- Governance and human rights based approach to the development agenda,
- Development, trade, finance, debt relief and investment,
- Gender perspectives in the MDGs,
- ICT for development, and
- HIV/AIDS.

The AfCSF also discussed the political situation in the Sudan (Darfur), DR Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Zimbabwe, and adopted a general petition and individual resolutions specific to some of the countries. The resolution on Ethiopia called for the release of political prisoners and civil society activists as well as for dialogue and the creation of a wider space for all non-state actors to contribute to social harmony, stability and national development. Details of the AfCSF's Declaration, Petition, and Resolutions are available on the web site of CONGO: [www.ngocongo.org](http://www.ngocongo.org).

### Strengthening Media Coverage on Development Issues

Despite the fact that Ethiopia is home for a principally agrarian society, land tenure and administration issues are under-reported in the country's media. Cognizant of this information gap, a day-long workshop aimed at strengthening media coverage of land tenure issues and administration process was held on March 20, 2007 at Global Hotel in Addis Ababa.

The workshop organized by USAID and the Ethiopia - Land Tenure and Administration Programme (ELTAP) brought together about 37 journalists and information officers drawn from print and broadcast media as well as from Non-Governmental Organizations to discuss land tenure issues and on how best to cover stories on these issues.

Specialists on land policy and land administration issues briefed participants. Dr. Solomon Bekure made a presentation to help participants understand development issues in the context of the national vision for rural land policy and administration as captured in the development program. The second presentation by Mr. Peter Hetz, Senior Specialist, focused on exploring the role of the media in fostering land rights. W/o. Mulunesh Jebessa and Ato Gizachew Abegaz made presentations on Land Titling and Administration Program, and Public Information and Awareness Strategy, respectively.

Among the major challenges raised by participants as a stumbling block to cover such development issues include the editorial management's gate-keeping role and the minimum level of awareness among the media practitioners. Formation of a network of interested journalists on land matters is expected to contribute to filling this information gap. The strategy for this is to help journalists conduct field trips to collect the materials they need for news stories, scripts, and eventual national radio and TV productions.

### Positive Results in Participatory Forest Management

The positive result was reported at an international conference on Participatory Forest Management (PFM), Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Africa, which was held here in Addis Ababa from March 19 to 21, 2007. In many African countries, pressure on forest resources due to high population growth has increased deforestation and created heavy degradation of for-

ests. Due to this and other related factors, forest-based livelihood opportunities are being missed and supply and demand of forest products are not being managed well.

The conference was organized by the Government of Ethiopia with the collaboration of local and international organizations. While opening the conference, FDRE's President, Girma W. Giorgis, underlined the good opportunities gained through participatory forest management in which the community is involved in managing and maintaining the environment.

More than 20 papers resulting from research conducted in various parts of Africa were presented at the conference. The focus of the presentations was on three major themes: PFM and Sustainable Livelihoods; PFM, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change; PFM, Equity and Local Governance.

It was indicated that participatory forest management is still at its infancy in Africa and its development is highly uneven across nation states. The forestry sector has shown that sustainable management of the continent's forest resource has been less than satisfactory.

Climate change and the rise of global average temperature create a negative impact on food security, in low-income communities. CFM projects have to develop and implement climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies, and create a policy framework that enables African countries to make use of market-driven climate-change mitigation mechanisms.

It was reported that in Ethiopia, there were more than 20 forest production and conservation primary cooperatives and a functioning union. Discussions on the challenges and opportunities of PFM in Ethiopia were held at the end of the conference.

### Grant to Improve Women's Human Rights

**Sponsor:** Global Fund for women

**Amount:** Grants range from \$500 to \$20,000

**Deadline:** Continuous

**Requirement:** Please note that your group MUST meet all the following criteria to be eligible for a grant:

- It is based in a country outside the United States. We do not fund US based organizations;
- It demonstrates a strong commitment to women's equality and human rights that is clearly reflected in its activities,
- It is a group of women working together. We do not accept requests from individuals,
- It is governed, directed, and led by women. Women

- must fill all or most of the leadership roles.

**Abstract:** The Global Fund for Women supports women's groups that advance the human rights of women and girls. the organization strengthen women's groups based outside the United States by providing small, flexible, and timely grants for operating and project expenses.

The groups we fund address issues that include but are not limited to:

- Building Peace & Ending Gender-Based Violence
- Advancing Health and Sexual & Reproductive Rights
- Expanding Civic & Political Participation
- Ensuring Economic & Environmental Justice
- Increasing Access to Education
- Fostering Social Change Philanthropy

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**New Acquisitions of FSS  
 Documentation Centre**

**Publications on Ethiopia**

Alexander Attilo, Kassahun Berhanu and Yonas Ketsella. 2006. *Ethiopia: Politics, Policy*

*Making and Rural Development.* Addis Ababa: Department of Political Science and International Relations.

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*Constitutionalism in Ethiopia.* Addis Ababa: Department of Political Science and International Relations.

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*Case Study of Amhara Migrant-settlers in East Wollega Zone.* Addis Ababa: OSSREA.

**Just Off the Press**

**Decentralization in Ethiopia.**

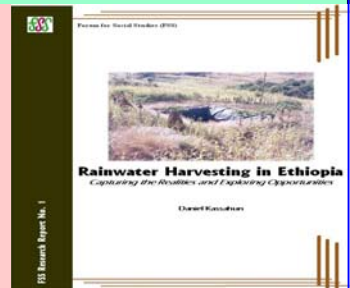
*Edited by Taye Assefa and Tegegne Gebre-Egziabher. (FSS, Addis Ababa, 2007).*

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**New FSS Publications**

Daniel Kassahun. *Rainwater harvesting in Ethiopia: Capturing the realities and exploring opportunities.* FSS Research Report No. 1. (Addis Ababa, 2007).



**ተካ ሌገኛ፣ አንጋፋው የሌላ ሽሽት መንትና የግሉ ክፍለ አካላት ተዋናይ፡፡ ከድህነት ወደ ልማት፡፡ ዕውቀትን ለትውልድ ማስተላለፍኛ 2ኛው ዙር ተከታታይ ዕትም ቁ. 1 (አዲስ አበባ፣ 1999 ዓ/ም)**

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