



# FSS Update



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to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers

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## Spotlight



### Forthcoming FSS Publications

- Dessalegn Rahmato. Development Interventions in Wollaita, 1960s-2000s : A Critical Review
- ተፈራ ጊዬለ ሥላሴ:- የኢንዱስትሪና የመንግሥት ሠራተኞች አስተዳደር እድገት

## FSS Panel at 5th International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy

The Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA) held its Fifth International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy at the UN Conference Center in Addis Ababa, from 7-9 June 2007. Following past tradition of partnership with the EEA, the Forum for Social Studies, too, organized its own panel during a parallel session of the International Conference on 9th June.



The keynote address at the three-day conference was delivered by Prof. Dr Joachim von Braun, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Prof. Braun's address focused on the theme of "Urban-rural linkages to growth, employment, and poverty reduction".

The FSS panel focused on 'poverty and social process', and generated a very lively discussion among participants. The following three papers were presented at the panel:



- Review of development interventions in Wollaita (by Dessalegn Rahmato),
- The contribution of the physical environment to Ethiopia's poverty (by Yeraswork Admassie), and
- Destitution in Dinki, Amhara Region: Conceptions, characteristics, processes and shocks (by Alula Pankhurst).



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Apart from the panel by FSS, the Conference hosted several plenary and parallel sessions co-organized by various other institutions. Among these were sessions co-organized by the World Bank, UNECA, Future Agriculture, IFPRI, EDRI, and PANE. A wide range of topics were covered by over 80 presenters. Some of the topics include:

- Commercialization of smallholder agriculture,
- Finance and development,
- The economics of water,
- Agricultural price policy and marketing,
- Women's empowerment,
- Trade and labour market,
- Millennium Development Goals,
- Institutions and rural livelihoods,
- Housing,
- Social accountability
- Poverty, etc.

A major highlight of the Conference was a panel discussion on the current state of the Ethiopian economy. Panelists debating on the issue included: H.E. Neway Gebreab (Director, EDRI and Chief Economic Advisor to the PM), Ishac Diwan (World Bank Country Representative to Ethiopia and Sudan), Geni Kulgman (World Bank Lead Economist), Mulat Demeke (EEA Vice President and former FBE Dean, AAU), and Haile Kibret (EEPRI, Macro Division).

During a lunch break, Conference participants were taken to the site of the EEA/EEPRI multi-purpose building, whose construction was entering its final phase.

### FSS & HBF Launch New Public Lecture Series

The Forum for Social Studies and Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) have launched a joint public lecture series on Good Governance and Democracy in Africa. The first lecture of the series was delivered on 22 June 2007 at the Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel.



In his opening statement, Mr Christian Peters-Berries, the Country Representative of Heinrich Böll Foundation, gave a

background introduction of HBF, and announced that his foundation was planning to co-organize with FSS a series of public discussions on governance issues and facilitate the sharing of experience to help address some of Africa's problems in the democratization process.



In his welcome address to participants, Prof. Bahru Zewde, Executive Director of FSS, pointed out that while Addis



Ababa has effectively become the political hub of Africa, thanks to the flight networks of Ethiopian Airlines, the high profile regional and international meetings and conferences hosted by the capital and its role

as the diplomatic seat of several regional and multilateral organizations such as the African Union and the UNECA, the rich pool of African expertise assembled by these organizations has not been fully tapped by Civil Society to generate public debates on Africa, its challenges and successes. Nor have the members of the diplomatic community from the missions based in Addis Ababa been mobilized to participate in such public dialogues. Most public discussions organized by CSOs here have often focused on Ethiopian issues. He said that FSS was trying to fill this gap by hosting the 4th Congress of African Historians last May in Addis Ababa. It is also in the process of conducting research on the policy environment of civil society in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa in an effort to make available valuable lessons for Ethiopian civil society. FSS is now co-organising this public lecture series in collaboration with HBF in the hope





of further tapping into the rich diversity of African experiences in instituting good governance.

Attending the lecture were several members of the diplomatic community, including the Ambassadors of Germany and Austria, representatives of CSOs, MPs from the Ethiopian parliament, members of the academic community and other members of the public.



The day's public lecture was titled, "The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM): A New Approach to Strengthening Governance Institutions and Systems in Africa". It was given by Dr Kojo Busia, Officer in charge of the APRM at the UNECA.

In his lecture, Dr Busia highlighted the background of the APRM, its political vision, goals and objectives, unique features, the procedures and structures of the APRM, the role of civil society, the first countries that have gone through the APRM process and those that are lined up to follow suit, and the valuable experiences gained so far. Altogether, 26 African countries, representing 74% of the continent's total population, have voluntarily acceded to the APRM.

Following this presentation, a series of issues was raised by members of the audience. Among the comments made were:



- The APRM process was cumbersome, expensive, and government dominated, and that the review should be independently conducted;

- Most of the population was unaware of and uninvolved in the APRM process; there was also little follow-up of the government's implementation of the review recommendations;
- Governments have very little incentive to review each other critically;
- The role of traditional institutions in good governance and democracy seems neglected;
- The impact made by APRM on the weaknesses identified is not evident;



- There is need to devise a mechanism to ensure participation of civil society in the National Council of APRM;
- APRM follows a top-down approach; there is need for a domestic demand for the Review;
- APRM facilitates accountability; there is no stick, and this encourages participation of the state in the process.



Responding to some of the comments, Dr Busia pointed out that the whole process of APRM was initiated by the government when a country accedes to the process. The positive side of APRM is that governments can learn from each other's best practices; for example, from Ghana's stability, Rwanda's ICT-based economy and record number of women in parliament, Kenya's success



in being the only African country with 90% of the national budget drawn from domestic resources. In the long term, having governments to submit to a review is itself a step forward. The Review must involve the state and secure its cooperation as the necessary data is provided by the state. Concerning the independence of the Review, the integrity of the process is assured by the integrity of the Panel. The APRM process requires a survey of the views of a representative sample of the population. The process therefore provides opportunities for governments to submit themselves to peer monitoring.

The discussion on the APRM process was so lively that many participants asked that the two sponsors continue to organize similar forums in the future. It was announced during the discussions that the European Ambassadors were considering to launch a similar lecture series on Europe and Africa.



### FSS Promotional Panel at 16th ICES in Norway

FSS participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethiopian Studies held in Trondheim, Norway, from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2007. FSS was allotted its own session in the program, during which it was shown the FSS documentary film and

briefed participants on FSS' research, policy dialogue, public outreach and publication activities. The Executive Director and the Research and Publications Director informed the participants of the opportunities for collaboration with FSS and urged them to form FSS Support Groups to strengthen FSS by enhancing its international visibility, approaching potential donors, facilitating partnerships between FSS and other research institutions and sending research materials for publication by FSS.

Many participants were impressed by FSS' dramatic growth as an independent research organization within such a short time and expressed their desire to be associated with it. In particular, two of the participants indicated that they would visit FSS soon to hold discussions on active collaboration in some of their projects.

The FSS presentation was attended by 30 scholars from a number of European, American, Asian, and Ethiopian Universities.

In addition to the presentation Session, FSS was able to sell a number of its publications and distribute the rest to research institutions and notable scholars participating in the Conference.

### New Acquisitions of FSS Documentation Center

#### Publications on Ethiopia

Adejumobi, Saheed A. 2007. *The History of Ethiopia*. Westport: Greenwood Press.

Awulachew, S. et al. 2006. *Best Practices and Technologies for Small Scale Agricultural Water Management in Ethiopia*. Proceedings. Addis Ababa : Ministry of Water Resource.

Gessesse Dessie. 2007. *Forest Decline in South Central Ethiopia : Extent, History and Process*. (Doctoral Dissertation) . Stockholm: Stockholm University.

Jackson, Donna R. 2007. *Jimmy Carter and the Horn of Africa : Cold War Policy in Ethiopia and Somalia*. Mcfarland and Company.

Mulumebet Zenebe. 2006. *Negotiating Gender and Sexuality in the HIV/AIDS Discourse in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia : Contradictions and Paradoxes*. Tromso : University of Tromso.

The World Bank. 2007. *Ethiopia Accelerating Equitable Growth: Country Economic Memorandum . Part 1: Overview*. Washington, D.C : World Bank.

#### Other Publications

Asiwaju A.I. 2001. *West African Transformations : Comparative Impact of French and British Colonialism*. Lagos: Malthouse Press.

Beneria, Lourdes. 2003. *Gender, Development and Globalization*. London: Routledge.

Boko, Sylvain Houkponou. 2002. *Decentralization and Reform in Africa*. Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Hettne, Bjorn. 1995. *International Political Economy : Understanding Global Disorder*. Halifax : Fernwood Books.

Tsur, Yacov. 1997. *Decentralization and Coordination of Water Resource Management*. Boston : Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Witz, Leslie. 2003. *Apartheid's Festival : Contesting South Africa's Apartheid's Festival: Contesting South Africa's National Pasts..* Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

### New FSS Publications

#### FSS Policy Briefs:

- ተስፋይ ታፈሰ:- “የፍልስጥጥ ግጭትና መፈናቀል ትስስር”፤ የፖሊሲ ፍሬ ሀሳቦች ቁ 8 (ሐምሌ 1999 ዓ/ም)
- ሳሙኤል ገብረሥላሴ:- “የገጠር መሬትና የመሬት ገበያዎች”፤ የፖሊሲ ፍሬ ሀሳቦች ቁ 9 (ሐምሌ 1999 ዓ/ም)