



FSS Update



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

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Spotlight



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ተካ ኤገኖ አንጋፋው አንተርፕራይዘር

የግሉ ክፍለ-ኢኮኖሚ ለኢትዮጵያ የልማት እንቅስቃሴ ያደረገው አስተዋጽኦ ላይ የሚያተኩር ወይይት አርብ መስከረም 12 ቀን 1999 ዓ/ም በግዮን ሆቴል ተካሄደ። በዚህ የማኅበራዊ ጥናት መድረክ (ማጥመ) ባዘጋጀው «ከድህነት ወደ ልማት፣ እውቀትን ለትውልድ ማስተላለፍ» 2ኛው ዙር የውይይት ፕሮግራም መጀመርያ ላይ በእንግድነት የቀረቡት በኢትዮጵያ የንግድ ዘርፍ ግንባር ቀደም ሚና የተጫወቱት ቀኛዝማች ተካ ኤገኖ ናቸው። ቀኛዝማች ተካ በህይወት ዘመናቸው ያካበቱትን የንግድ ልምድና ስኬት መሠረት ማድረግ ለማስተርስ ዲግሪያቸው ጥናት ያካሄዱት አቶ መኮንን ተገኝ ስለ ቀኛዝማች ተካ የሕይወት ታሪክ አጠር ያለ ገለጻ የቀረቡ ሲሆን ቀኛዝማችም ከተሳታፊዎች ለቀረቡላቸው ጥያቄዎች መልስና ማብራርያ ሰጥተዋል።

ቀኛ አዝማች ተካ ኤገኖ ኮሌጅ ገብተው የንግድ ስራ ያልተማሩ ብቻ ሳይሆኑ ፊደልም በወጉ ያልዘለቃቸው ነገር ግን እጣ ፈንታቸው ለንግድ ስራ ተፈጥረው በንግድ ዓለም ይኖሩ ዘንድ ግድ ያላቸው መሆናቸውን አቶ መኮንን ተናግረዋል።

ከትውልድ ቀደቸው ቡታጅራ አቅራቢያ ከምትገኘው ኢሌ በለጋ እድሜያቸው ወጥተው አዲስ አበባ ከወንድማቸውና ከባልንጀራቸው ባገኟት ሁለት ማርትሬዛ ብር በመጀመሪያ የዳቦ ንግድ ከዚያም የሽንኩራ ችርቻር ውስጥ በመግባት ስራ የጀመሩት ቀኛአዝማች ገና ከጅምሩ ያተረፉት 3 ማርትሬዛ በወንበዴዎች በተዘረፈባቸው ጊዜ በንግድ ዓለም ማትረፍ ያለውን ያህል ማጣትም ስለሚያጋጥም ተስፋ መቁረጥ ለስኬት መሠረት እንደማይሆን የተማሩበት አጋጣሚ መሆኑን ተገንዝበዋል።

በቀኛ አዝማች ተካ የንግድ ሕይወት ውስጥ መዘረፍ፣ መታሰር፣ መከዳትና እንግልት በተደጋጋሚ ቢከሰቱም ወድቆ እንደገና በመነሳት ውጤታማ ለመሆን

መብቃታቸውን ገልጸዋል።

ቀኛ አዝማች ተካ በወጣትነት እድሜያቸው የንግዱን ዘርፍ በጊዜው ተቆጣጥረው የነበሩትን ግሪኮች በነፃ ውደድር በማሸነፍ ገበያውን ለመቆጣጠር መብቃታቸው ከሕይወት ታሪካቸው ውስጥ ከፍተኛውን የአንተርፕራይዘር ብስለትና ችሎታቸውን ያስመሰክሩበት ጊዜ እንደነበረ አቶ መኮንን ተናግረዋል።

ከንግዱ ዘርፍ በተጨማሪ በግብርናው መስክም ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ በ1947 ዓ.ም በቡና ተክል ዘመናዊ እርሻ የተሳተፉ ሲሆን በ1955 ዓ/ም አካባቢ ከሁለት የውጭ አገር ዜጎች ጋር በመሆን የአግሮ ኢንዱስትሪ ኩባንያን መስርተዋል። በ1961 ዓ/ም የእርሻ እንቅስቃሴያቸውን ባማስፋት በመቶዎች ለሚቆጠሩ ሰራተኞች የስራ እድልን ለመፍጠር ችለዋል።

መውደቅና መነሳትን አስመልክቶ ከተሰብሰቡዎት ለቀረበላቸው ጥያቄ ሲመልሱ «በንግዱ አለም መውደቅና መነሳት ያሉ መሆናቸውን በመረዳት የሕይወቱ መመሪያ መስራት፣ መስራት፣ መስራት ብቻ ነው።» ሲሉ አስረድተዋል።

ቀኛአዝማችን ለየት ከሚያደርጋቸው ባህሪ አንዱ በጊዜ ቀልድ የማያውቁ መሆናቸው እንደሆነም አቶ መኮንን አስረድተዋል። ከዳቦና ሽንኩራ ችርቻር የተነሱት ቀኛ አዝማች ተካ በሜካናይዘር እርሻ ላሳዩት አርአያነት በዚህ መስክ የመጀመሪያው የቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ ሽልማት ተሸላሚ ለመሆን በቅተዋል።

ቀኛ አዝማች ተካ ዛሬ በ80 ዎቹ እድሜ ክልል ሆነው ስራ የጀመሩበትን እድሜ ሲያስታውሱ ችግር በ3 አመቱ ታናሽ ወንድሜን በመጠበቅ ነገር ይላሉ። ዛሬም ታዲያ ቀኛአዝማች «ደናችንን እንጠብቅ» ብለው የሰየሙትንና በአፍሪካ በዓይነቱ የመጀመሪያው ነው ሉትን የፒቪሲ ፋብሪካቸውን እያስተዳደሩ መሆናቸው የስብሰባው ተካፋዮችን አስደምሟል። ፋብሪካው የወለደው የኮርኒስ የፒቪሲ ንጣፍ የሚያመርት ሲሆን ወደፊት ከዚሁ ፒቪሲ በርና መስኮት በማምረት የደን ጭፍጨፋን ለመቀነስ እንደሚጥሩ አስረድተዋል።

ይህ «ከድህነት ወደ ልማት፤ እውቀትን ለትውልድ ማስተላለፍ» በሚል መሪ ርዕስ ስር ማጥመ የሚያካሄደው 2ኛ ዙር የውይይት ፕሮግራም ድህነትን ለመግታትና ዘላቂ ልማት ለመፍጠር በተካሄዱ ጥረቶች ውስጥ በአመራር ወይንም በባለሙያነት ግንባር ቀደም ሚና የነበራቸው አንጋፋ ኢትዮጵያውያን በየሁለት ወሩ እየተጋበዙ ልምዳቸውን ለአዲሱ ትውልድ እንዲያስተላልፉ የሚደረግበት መድረክ ይሆናል።

**Research on
Productivity Safety Net Programmes**

A half-day meeting organized by Action contre la Faim (ACF) to present and discuss its research findings on Food Security/Productivity Safety Net Programs (PSNP) in Ethiopia was held at the De Leopold Hotel in Addis Ababa, on Tuesday the 3rd of October 2006. The meeting was attended by various donor and NGO representatives, including WFP, Oxfam, IFPRI, FEWS NET, Canadian Food Grains Bank, USAID, JICA (Japan), Médecins sans Frontières, Save the Children, UN-OCHA, Cafod Trocaire, etc. FSS was represented by Ms. Senait Seyoum at the meeting.

Following welcome and opening remarks by the ACF Country Representative, Ms Ondine Ripka, a presentation was made by Babu Vaitla under the title 'Towards a future without hunger: analyzing Ethiopia's Productivity Safety Nets'. The presentation reported on a study carried out by ACF from June 2005 to May 2006 in various livelihood zones of three regions, namely, SNNPR (the Sidama coffee zone, the maize and maize-roots (Gamo Gofa zones), Amhara Region (North and South Wello highlands) and Tigray Region (central highlands).

Based on quantitative surveys, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and a review of secondary data, the study identified positive elements in the Ethiopian government's PSNP and discussed key constraints, suggesting ways of resolving them. It is argued that the new Food Security Program/PSNP, which marks a major policy shift from previous food aid programs, has strong potential for protecting and improving the welfare of Ethiopia's rural poor.

However, the initial stages of transition to the new programs have not been without difficulties. The PSNP and Household Extension Packages (HEPs) promoted by the Ethiopian Government face two serious problems in attempting to achieve their objective of 'graduating' poor households from food insecurity. The first problem is related to targeting criteria leading to the exclusion of millions of chronically poor households from the programs, a problem that could be improved through a livelihood approach to targeting. The second problem is that low benefits from PSNP and credit-based intervention modalities (especially in HEPs) will not enable even those households targeted to graduate from poverty within the set program life cycle of 3 to 5 years. Complicating this picture further are the adverse consequences of an 'anti-dependency' thinking held by the Ethiopian govern-

ment, international donor agencies and NGOs.

Following the presentation of the research findings and policy recommendations, a lively discussion was held in which participants raised various issues with regard to food security/PSNP. The meeting ended with a commitment by ACF to finalize the study and to disseminate its research findings more broadly to federal and other relevant government authorities, and interested NGOs.

**"Society, State & Identity in African History"
Call for conference papers**



**FOURTH CONGRESS
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN HISTORIANS**

"Society, State & Identity in African History"

Addis Ababa, 22-25 May 2007

Conference jointly organized by

**Department of History (Addis Ababa University)
and
Forum for Social Studies (Addis Ababa)**

**In collaboration with the Executive Committee of the
Association of African Historians**

**And with the support of
The African Union Commission**

The issue of identity has been one of the most central in human society. Africa has been no exception to this global phenomenon. Particularly since independence in the 1960s, the Continent has been rocked by both intra-state and inter-state conflicts, many of them concerned with the issue of identity. The post-colonial state has not been particularly successful in establishing a pluralist order that could accommodate multiple identities. Indeed, identity has tended to be manipulated by the political elite in the service of political power. This partly explains the persistence or even virulence of identity-based conflicts side by side with the formal declarations of African leaders to forge regional and continental unity.

Yet, pre-occupation with the all-absorbing and often oppressive present can easily obfuscate both the deep-rooted character of the problems of identity and the mutations they have undergone over time. It is the task of historians to investigate those roots and delineate the mutations.

A recurrent feature of the pre-colonial history of Africa is the

movement of peoples from one part of the Continent to another. These population movements were often attended by considerable destruction and dislocation. A more benign feature of the pre-colonial African past is the importance of long-distance trade. A third outstanding element in the pre-colonial period was the rise of a number of empires that brought under a common political umbrella divergent peoples and principalities.

Colonial rule not only diverted the historical path outlined above but it also shaped the nature of post-colonial African society and polity in more ways than one. The first major innovation of the colonial order - indeed, one of its distinctive marks - was the drawing of relatively watertight boundaries, where previously there had only been almost imperceptible borders. A corollary of this innovation was the emergence of new states that combined hitherto independent peoples within the newly defined territorial limits.

Independence opened a new chapter in African history. The nation-state, a creation by and large of colonial rule, continued as the dominant form of political association and the main vehicle for the expression of identity. Colonial boundaries came to be regarded as sacrosanct.

Far from ensuring peace and security, the life of the post-colonial state has been attended by conflict and dislocation of unprecedented magnitude. Both intra- and inter-state conflicts have littered the landscape. Xenophobia and ethnic cleansing have reared their ugly heads, in Africa no less than in many other parts of the world. It is not an exaggeration to state that many of these conflicts are the outcome of contestations of identity or the failure of African states to accommodate multiple identities.

It is in recognition of the contemporary salience and the historical depth of the issue of identity that the Association of African Historians has decided to dedicate its Fourth Congress to the theme of "Society, State and Identity in African History". The Association thereby hopes to marshal the expertise and knowledge of African historians and historians of Africa into examining the issue of identity **from a historical perspective**.

Sub-themes

Papers are being solicited to address various facets of the central theme. The following sub-themes are suggested to ensure the maximum possible participation as well as a multi-faceted treatment of the subject:

- pre-colonial identities
- migration and acculturation
- colonialism and identity
- urbanization and multiple identities
- conceptions of the nation-state and identity
- identity-based conflicts
- perceptions of the other and xenophobia
- the challenge of writing regional histories
- heritage and identity
- trans-national artistic and literary expressions
- federalism and devolution

- lessons of regional integration organizations (ECOWAS, SADC, etc.)
- the challenge of creating a pan-African identity.

DEADLINES

Submission of Abstract (1-2 pages) – 30 November 2006

Submission of Paper (max. 20 pages, 1 ½ space) – 28 February 2007

There are limited funds for participants to cover the travel and accommodation costs of selected papers. Participants are thus strongly urged to help us achieve the maximum level of participation by raising their own funds.

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**"Children and Youth in Ethiopia:
Research, Policy and Practice"**

Preliminary call for papers

16th International Conference on Ethiopian Studies

<http://www.svt.ntnu.no/ices2007>

Recent decades have witnessed the increasing importance of taking children's views seriously, both in social research and in public policy and practice. This has also led to recognition of the idea that children have rights, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), to which Ethiopia is a signatory. By ratifying the UNCRC, Ethiopia has promised to put children first. The UNCRC presents particular images of children as subjects that it claims to be universal. This can be seen as an aspect of globalization. Children's rights to social participation and citizenship are often interpreted as individual rights to autonomy, to have the right to self-determination and individual choices in matters that affect their lives. However, the 'global child' with universal rights often comes into conflict with particular local notions and constructions of childhood. An important dimension of the debate is therefore whether the Convention is compatible with local realities, and whether, why and how Ethiopia is able to adhere to it. On another level, children and young people are both actors in and victims of extensive social change. The complex ways in which they are affected by and try to negotiate to the uneven impacts of 'development', poverty and difficult living conditions (e.g. HIV/AIDS, war, famine, displacement, lack of access to social services) is least understood empirically. In addition, the 'young generation' has assumed a central, though frequently ambiguous position in local and national development projects in Ethiopia. Its role in the advancement of society and in serving as catalyst for socio-political change is immense.

In this panel, we call for papers that examine the lives of children and young people in different social, economic, geographical, political and cultural contexts in Ethiopia. The papers may be written to address empirical, conceptual and policy matters, or a combination of these. Age, gender, class, ethnicity, and livelihoods could serve as cross-cutting themes in the analysis of identity and the social experiences of children and young people. At present, we would like to invite researchers, graduate students and practitioners to register a possible topic for presentations of papers. The content of the session will remain open to some modification, based on the number of abstracts submitted and their focus. The central concern is to create a modest platform for discussion that will help us improve our understanding of the diverse contexts of growing up in contemporary Ethiopia. The panel is multidisciplinary, with contributions from various disciplines, including, but not limited to, sociology, anthropology, human geography, psychology, history, development studies, education and law.

Convenors: Tatek Abebe and Anne Trine Kjørholt, Norwegian Centre for Child Research, Norwegian University of Sciences and Technology, N-7491 Trondheim, Norway.

To register and submit abstracts, please go to <http://www.svt.ntnu.no/ices2007>

Questions and/or comments *concerning the panel* could be sent to: Norwegian Centre for Child Research, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU, 7491 Trondheim, Norway. Tel: +4773596247 (office); e-mails: tatek.ababe@svt.ntnu.no or anne.trine.kjorholt@svt.ntnu.no

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International E. Balzan Prize Foundation**

Deadline: March 15, 2007

Amount: approximately EUR 650,000

Amount note: The articles of the Balzan Foundation have established a stipulation that prize-winners must destine half of the prize they receive for financing research projects that will preferably be carried out by young scholars or scientists.

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Requirements: Ph.D./M.D./Other Professional

Abstract: The International E. Balzan Prize Foundation Fund, registered in Zurich manages to provide the necessary funds for the prize. The fund fosters, on a world-wide level, culture and science, outstanding humanitarian causes, and peace and brotherhood among peoples, regardless of nationality, race, or creed.

Contact name: Chairman of the General Prize Committee

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Leenco Lata. 2004. *The Horn of Africa as Common Homeland: The State and Self-Determination in the Era of Heightened Globalization*. Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Praeg, Bertus. 2006. *Ethiopia and Political Renaissance in Africa*. New York: Nova Science Publishers.

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