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MEDREK



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The Newsletter of the Forum for Social Studies

A Centre for Research and Debate on Development and Public Policy

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Commentary

Readers will recall that in the second issue of our newsletter, we had announced our second symposium on Development and Public Access to Information. We are pleased to bring to MEDREK readers a substantive summary of the Symposium. A large audience composed of representatives of government institutions, researchers, the media, donors and NGO staff attended the event. The principal objective of the symposium was to initiate a dialogue among the prominent stakeholders in the information sector and to highlight the problems and prospects of access to information and its consequences for economic and political development in Ethiopia.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Symposium did indeed achieve this modest objective. The lively event managed to gather the inputs of a diversified public both in terms of assessing the magnitude of the problem and in identifying short and long term solutions.

As readers will note from the summary, the papers covered a wide range of issues ranging from the information needs of the private sector, national planning, marginalized groups such as women and the media. Information technology was singled out as a critical issue. But so was the importance of preserving both contemporary and historical data through libraries and ar-

chives. Another important feature of the presentation and the ensuing lively debate was the consensus on the need for sound policies and supportive programs. The symposium was widely covered in the private press and the public print and electronic media.

An important upshot of the interest generated on information technology is the link we have subsequently been able to establish with the Ethiopian community in the diaspora. In this issue we bring you a review article on Information and Communication Technology by one of our colleagues in the US. This we hope will be the first of many such contributions by compatriots abroad.

Development and Public Access to Information: A Symposium

In his welcoming address, Ato Dessalegn Rahmato, Manger of the Forum for Social Studies, stated that the symposium was fortunate in having H.E. Ato Woldemichael Chemu, Minister of Information and Culture, H.E. Ato Neway Gebreab, Chief Economic Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office, and H.E. Ato Asrat

Bulbula, Commissioner of the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission. H.E. Ato Woldemichael, and H.E. Ato Neway had, he said, graciously agreed to open the symposium, while H.E. Ato Asrat had similarly consented to close it at the end.

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Structure of Governance

FSS is democratically governed, with decision-making shared by the General Assembly, the Board of Advisors, and the Management Committee. The General Assembly meets once a year to review and approve the broad policies of the organization. The Board, which meets more frequently, is responsible for drawing up the policies and strategies of FSS, monitoring the work of the executive, and reviewing and approving the finances. Of the nine members in the Board four are women. The Management Committee is the executive body of FSS. It is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Board and managing the activities of the organization.

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Ato Dessalegn noted that the subject of the symposium, *Development and Public Access to Information* was very broad and contained many important issues. He pointed to two salient ones that he believed were especially significant. The first was public access to information and the second information technology.

The issue of public access to information, he argued, was of concern to the businessman, the professional, the government expert, and the researcher, each of whom needs reliable information and unfettered access to it whenever he/she needs it. Farmers and consumers could also greatly benefit from broader and more timely dissemination of useful information. An informed citizen, he went on, was a better citizen in all senses of the word. Moreover, he stressed, the development process that this country has embarked upon will be considerably constrained without an effective information system and a regular flow of information to the public. In order to ensure access to information, public institutions will have to establish an appropriate system for the storage of information and its retrieval when the need arises.

Turning to his second concern, he pointed out that the rapidly changing world of information technology presents Ethiopia both challenges and opportunities. The Internet provides immense possibilities and if used wisely could enable access to vast stores of informa-

tion with great economic and social benefits. Information technology, he stressed, could create considerable employment opportunities, transform the labor process, and greatly improve efficiency. He warned, however, that the Information Age may bypass Ethiopia and the country may be marginalized technologically.

Many countries in the developing world, he pointed out, are investing heavily in the information sector and actively promoting the diffusion of information technology in schools, businesses, government institutions, the service industry, and even private homes. But Ethiopia is lagging far behind in many respects. Ethiopia has one of the lowest computer ownership and one of the smallest number of Internet users in Africa. He was concerned that if Ethiopia does not try to catch up rapidly with the rest of the developing world, the country will be missing out on a golden opportunity.

In conclusion, he hoped that the discussions and exchange of experiences that will come out of the symposium will help us underline the importance of the problems involved and the urgency of the measures needed.

He then invited H.E. Ato Woldemichael to formally open the symposium.

Importance of Information Policy

The opening statement

was delivered by H.E. Ato Woldemichael Chemu, Minister of Information and Culture, who congratulated the Forum for having brought together a wide diversity of people working in, or concerned about the information sector. He highlighted the critical importance of information for economic activity, policy decisions, social and human services, cultural development, and the democratic process. Consequently, he went on, access to information is essential to the investor, the journalist, the educator, the planner, and the decision-maker, as well as the individual citizen.

He pointed out that the advanced countries are now going through an information revolution which is spreading to the less developed countries. The opportunities of countries such as Ethiopia to benefit by the new information technology are quite high, but this requires that these countries make concerted efforts to harness its extensive potential. Having noted the importance of a sound policy on information to provide effective programs and to attract greater investment, the Minister outlined the various policies that have either been recently adopted and those in the process of preparation. He noted that the Ministry of Information and Culture "has been concerned about the importance of information policy, and the need to create an enabling environment for the generation, dissemination, and usage of information. The Ministry is also mandated to promote the preservation and development of the country's



cultural heritage." Accordingly, he informed the audience that recently, a National Cultural Policy prepared by the Ministry was approved by the Council of Ministers. The Ministry, he went on, is currently engaged, together with the Prime Minister's Office and the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission, in preparing the draft of a National Policy on Information. He noted that the work has been going on for some time and will soon be finalized.

Moreover, a National Cultural Heritage Proclamation, again prepared by the Ministry, is now before Parliament and will soon become law. Another pending policy draft that the Ministry has submitted to Parliament is the National Archives Proclamation. The Ministry has also submitted to Parliament a National Broadcast Law, and the debate on it is expected to begin shortly. Finally, the Ministry was instrumental in setting up a Training Centre for Journalist offering a diploma course to young people who have chosen the media as their career.

The Minister concluded by expressing his pleasure at holding a public discussion about the problems of public access to information. He assured the audience that "the Government is determined to enable all citizens to have access to all the information they need. However, there is a lot of work to be done before this goal is achieved. In the meantime, PUBLIC dialogue and consultation among all parties concerned, including policy-makers, is essential and urgently needed". He hoped that this symposium is the beginning of such dialogue and that there will be other occasions for debate and deliberation.

Information and Contestable Markets

The second speaker was Ato Neway Gebreab, Chief Economic Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office who started out by saying that his initial response on learning of the formation of the Forum for Social Studies was salutary as he holds civil society to be of utmost importance. Recalling

the difficult task that the FORUM has embarked upon and the vast ground that ought to be covered, he wished the organization the best of all possible outcomes.

His address focused on “Information and Contestable Markets”. Within a contestable market he identified private and public information and two actors consisting of a transmitter and recipient. He further classified the market as economic or political. In Ethiopia, he recalled, contestable markets in the economic sense are of recent origin while in the political sense they are just under formation. In both instances, tradition militates against choice and competition, and renders the transition to contestable markets doubly difficult.

Having traced the recent origins of these two types of markets, Ato Neway underscored that “the natural (or subsistence) economy with its relative absence of competitive markets coupled with feudal hierarchy have, it seems to me, left us with that mind set of zero-sum game that so much pervades our economic and, if you will, political relationships. In zero-sum games there can only be gains for one side mirrored in direct measure by losses for the other side. Transactions and exchanges in social, economic and political fields rely on outwitting, or plainly speaking lying and cheating, so as to extract all possible gains by making the other party suffer losses.” He went on to elaborate that the mindset of zero-sum

games is not peculiarly Ethiopian. It is, he observed, a game of traditional societies where the object of life, individual or social, is to replicate the past rather than change it. The more information is private rather than public, the greater the probability of successful replication.

Using the example of the grain markets during this century, Ato Neway argued that contestable markets tend to force information out of the private arena into the public domain. He further underlined that “as a market becomes more contestable, it organizes information more efficiently, and does so by expanding the domain of



public information.”

He further pointed out that it is beneficial to economic growth, that some information remains proprietary. However, he argued, governments, in a less developed country, can judiciously intervene to make certain types of information readily available to the business community if the weight of the evi-

dence is that the net social benefit far outweighs the net private benefit.

Significance of Civil Society

After the opening statement were concluded Mr. Michael Meier, Resident Representative of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, which funded the symposium, made a brief presentation. His foundation’s main objective, he pointed out was to help promote civil society by working in partnership with them. He further noted that he was happy to support institutions such as the FORUM because such initiations have a vital role to play in society. He concluded that the discussion on

public access to information was highly relevant and wished the participants a successful symposium.

Summary of Papers Presented at the Symposium

The symposium heard and discussed seven papers specially commissioned for the occasion on various aspects of the

subject. Dr Lishan Adam, Regional Advisor in the Information Division of the ECA presented a power point presentation on information policy design and planning. His presentation was highly appreciated by the audience.

Private Enterprise and Public Access to Information- Berhane Mewa

In developing countries, local business enterprises are caught between the forces of globalization with their unfair competition and the absence of national development that is responsive to local and international demands. Unlike the public sector, the private sector is very sensitive to the policy and regulatory environment which has the potential to enhance or limit confidence, promote or hinder operations and new investments. In Ethiopia, the development of the private sector is hampered by the low level of infrastructure development in general and information infrastructure in particular; lack of transparency in the political and administrative system and the lack of awareness and know-how at the enterprise level. The widely held view of information as a privilege and not as a right has often led to corruption. The alleviation of these problems requires designing policies with the participation of the private sector that place infrastructure, especially those that facilitate information transfer, as national development priorities.

Access to and Usage of Information Technology In Ethiopia- Daniel Admassie



Telecommunication is the key infrastructure that creates an enabling environment for the widespread use and development of Information Technology (IT). In Ethiopia, information is not yet considered as a strategic national asset. The Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation provides all telecommunication services and the country has a tele density is below the African average. Relative to the size of the population, there are few telephone lines, and most of them are found in the capital city and the surrounding area. The quality of telephone services determines the ability for computer users to benefit from high speed, reliable data transmission both locally and globally. The poor state of telecommunication in Ethiopia and the absence of a national communication network have restricted the flow of information between various organizations in the country and have stifled the development of IT and related services. The country suffers from an acute shortage of skilled and experienced IT professionals. Computeriza-

tion projects in many offices have failed because decision-makers are not aware of the potentials of computers.

Development Planning and Access to Planning Information in Ethiopia- Getachew Adem

National development planning requires reliable and timely socio-economic data. Since 1980s, the data gaps which characterized the national plans of the 1960s and 1970s have been alleviated following the launching of a series of umbrella statistical programs such as the National Integrated Household Survey Program and the Housing Census of Ethiopia. In spite of these commendable efforts however, national statistical services have been unable to deliver the requisite economic and socio-demographic data. The result is planning without information, poor information supports systems for microeconomic and sectoral policy information and monitoring. Following the decentralization of

the administrative and socio-economic infrastructure of the country in the post Derg period, planning has become decentralized. As decentralized planning is highly information sensitive, efficient and equitable flow of information has become a real challenge. Lessons from past experience indicate that there is the need for the coordination and standardization of statistical work through the formation of a viable users and producers committee with a view to ensuring national and international comparability of official statistics. The Medium Term National Statistical Program which is intended to re-orient data collection, dissemination and the reporting system is a step forward in generating user-oriented statistical data.

Notes on Social Science Research and Access to Information in Ethiopia- Yeraswork Admassie

In Ethiopia, most ministries, government authorities and agencies at both the federal and regional levels are empowered to generate, collect, store and disseminate information relevant to their tasks and activities. Information is also generated and stored by NGOs and other institutions that are also engaged in the production and reproduction of knowledge. However, although the information thus gathered is quite extensive, there are few documentation centers and libraries. Most of the few that exist are poorly organized. Moreover, there is an absence of a proper mechanism of deposition and retrieval of sources of informa-

tion. Unpublished materials are much more vulnerable. The optimal utilization of public sources of information is further threatened by continuous restructuring of government ministries and other state institutions. A case in point is the numerous reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture and the negative impact this has had on the well-being of its invaluable sources of information.

Archives and Historical Research- Bahru Zewde

Good historical research depends on the availability of primary sources such as archeological excavations, official and private correspondence, manuscripts, photographic collections and collections of oral materials. National archives are central repositories which store manuscripts and documents and make them accessible for historical research. There are few countries that do not have a central repository. The Ethiopian case however presents a 'Great Anomaly' in that Ethiopia, which boasts centuries of a literate culture, still lacks a national archive. But there are archival collections most of which are veritable gold mines of information for historians. There have been various attempts to set up a National Archive since the late 60s and there is now hope that this long saga might be approaching its finale.

Access to Information: A Gender Perspective- Alem Seged Herouy

Concealment of information, considered as a national trait, has undoubtedly put a break on the development of the country and the advancement of Ethiopian women. Mass media can assist in introducing and accelerating attitudinal and behavioral changes as well as adopting new technologies. Access to information for women has been a critical factor in countries that have narrowed the gender gap in the socio-economic and political arenas. In the recent past, samples of radio programs on women in Ethiopia reflect a considerable shift in program content. More effort is being invested in creating awareness of women's rights and potentials, on retrogressive socio-economic and political constraints that dominate their lives and options and opportunities that they can explore to improve themselves and overcome their problems. As a result, more women are becoming vocal and more articulate in voicing their opinions in seeking legal protection against violence, in seeking equity in marriage contracts and property rights. In spite of these changes, there are still formidable constraints such as male dominated ideologies, the classification of women as a homogenous group, negative media projection of women and exploitation of women in advertising. These constraints are further exacerbated by the absence of gender sensitive research and resource centers. It is hoped that the national communication and media policy will address these constraints.

Access to Information and Press Freedom in Ethiopia- Mairegu Bezabih

Information is the most important input in news coverage and analysis. The right of freedom of expression is as inherent and as fundamental as the right to live. The print media was introduced in Ethiopia about a hundred years ago but multitudes of factors have retarded the growth and development of a free and independent press. Access to information is further hampered by cultural, educational and technological factors. Secrecy, a highly revered social norm in Ethiopia is the leading cultural constraint. A significant factor in terms of political constraints is the centralization of the dissemination of public information and the resultant bureaucratic hurdles in obtaining information from government agencies. This is much more harmful to the private press which has no access to government information and often even to the private sector. The educational system fails to provide adequate knowledge and technique on how to receive and disseminate accurate and up-to-date information. The highly limited number of radio, television and telephone services in the country exacerbates these problems. In post-Derg Ethiopia, the government has opened the media to the private press but this emergent free press is subject to state editorial control. Both the state-owned print and electronic media has continued to be the propaganda machinery of the new government.

Closing Remarks

In his closing address, Commissioner Asrat Bulbula appreciated the usefulness of the debate conducted in the symposium and the diversity of views presented for discussion. He pointed out that the policy on information which is new being drafted jointly by the three public agencies noted by the Minister of Information and Culture in his opening statement will benefit from this kind of extensive public debate before it is finalized. He invited the audience to participate in the debate when the draft policy is submitted for public discussion.

Building a Research Library

One of the mandates of FSS is to set up a research library and preserve government documents, NGO and donor publications, and fugitive literature.

We would like to inform our readers that FSS is now in the process of collecting books, documents and monographs. We take this opportunity to kindly request copies of your publications both past and recent and to be put on your mailing list.



Knowledge for Development: Promises and Illusions of the ICT Revolution

Growth Miracles are Rare, but are not that Miraculous

The perennial question in the developed world is: Why are we so rich and they so poor? Then there are the hopeful and yet despairing economic puzzles, growth miracles in East Asia and growth debacles in Sub-Saharan Africa. As Robert Lucas puts it: "The consequences for human welfare involved in questions like these are simply staggering: once one starts to think about them, it is hard to think about anything else." Hence, the recent resurgence of research on economic growth.

Among the many stylized facts of growth, two are rather striking: a country's position in the world distribution of income is not immutable, and both skilled and unskilled labor (and often capital) move from poor to rich countries or regions. The compelling explanation is that rich countries are those that *invest* a large fraction of their GDP in physical and human capital, and utilize these inputs *productively*. Fast-growing economies save and invest more because they have *institutions* (government, private organizations, laws and social norms) that build-in the right linkage between rewards (incentives) and productive contributions. Finally, productivity growth is driven primarily by *technological progress*, broadly construed to include innovations

in organization and hardware.

Technological Progress is the Engine of Growth

If technological progress is the engine of sustained economic growth, the *diffusion of ideas* then becomes a central concern for latecomers like Ethiopia. The World Bank's current *World Development Report 1998/99* (WDR) is rightly devoted to the issue of "Knowledge for Development."

Economists approach the subject in terms of a cost-benefit calculus- private as well as social. Ideas about know-how (i. e., organization, hardware, or software) have two attributes that distinguish them from other economic goods. First, they are non-contentious (once an idea has been created, everyone else can take advantage of it). Second, they are only partially excludable (the cost of excluding free riders is often uneconomically high). New technologies are generally costly to produce (high fixed cost) but relatively inexpensive to disseminate (low marginal cost). Despite substantial positive spillovers throughout the economy, technological innovation is likely to be undersupplied by the market in the absence of sufficient inducements (subsidies, patents, copyrights, etc.) for knowledge producers.

The *Report* focuses on two types of knowledge: knowl-

edge about technology (know-how) and information about attributes of products or economic actors (know-what). Knowledge generally pertains to understanding; information conveys some aspect of knowledge. Somewhat confusingly, it couches the problems confronted by developing countries in terms of "gaps": *knowledge gaps* (unequal distribution of know-how) and *information gaps* (incomplete or asymmetric information about attributes). For latecomers, however, what matters is not the gaps with leaders per se, but the degree of progress from the initial position.

The World Bank argues, using the Green Revolution as an illustrative example, that knowledge gaps and information gaps must often be jointly addressed. With respect to knowledge gaps, WDR makes a number of useful points. First, poorer countries should focus less on recreating knowledge and more on "acquiring and adapting" what already exists in the world. Second, policy should focus on absorbing knowledge (universal primary education, lifelong learning, scientific education) and diffusing it. The latter entails taking advantage of the new information and communications technology (ICT). Knowledge gaps matter because they prevent sustainable gains in productivity from technological progress acquired

from innovators.

With respect to informational failures, the *Report* draws attention to three sets of issues. First, efficient processing of the economy's financial information and timely disclosure stimulate long-term investment. Second, developing countries need to increase the population's knowledge about the environment. Third, the poor (who know what they want but not how to achieve it) deserve to be listened to, and to be integrated into the mainstream of national life. Information failures matter because they lead to market failures and government failures thereby impeding equitable growth.

ICT: If You Can't Fly, Leapfrog

The technological gap between the rich regions and the poor regions of the world has ironically revived the elusive notion of the "advantages of relative backwardness." Growth miracles -those extra-ordinary periods of high rates of transitory growth- do occur precisely when adaptive latecomers manage to narrow the technology or income gap with leaders.

But there is a catch. The ability for efficient learning from leaders is key to selective absorption and adaptation of foreign ideas to local conditions. Simple-minded imitation or importation of the latest hardware will not do. Among the prerequisites are prior investment in universal primary education, an adequate level of sci-

entific-technical labor force, good infrastructure, open and flexible institutions, and sensible policies.

The ongoing revolution in microelectronics, telecommunication and biotechnology has ushered in a window of opportunity for poor countries like Ethiopia to telescope the development process:

- ICT has reduced, and continues to reduce, the cost of transmitting information (video and data) between countries and within countries dramatically;
- ICT is breaking down the boundaries among disciplines, including the traditional ways of doing science (e.g., computer simulation bridging theory and experimentation);
- ICT paves the way for the reintegration of fragmented communities, much as the automobile has done, by facilitating remote communication; and
- As a result of the above, ICT has enhanced the effectiveness of traditional modes of Communication (radio, telephone, VCR, TV, print).

The underside is that it takes more than a bootstrap strategy to exploit these potential opportunities. At the very least, one needs good access, literacy and the capacity to apply the new knowledge:

- Access to the World Wide Web (Internet) at affordable rates. This is currently an

expensive proposition since it requires access to PCs and telephone lines. Currently, only 2% of the world's population (half in N. America) are connected. Africa boasts only 1 connection per 5000 people compared to the global average of 1 in 38. Shortsighted state ICT monopolies have contributed to this problem;

- Information literacy (finding, collecting, and processing information), now considered a basic democratic right in the rich countries, requires post-primary education; and
- Hardware and access do not amount to much if a country does not have the capacity to process and put to practical use the knowledge thus gained. After all, the capacity for transforming information into knowledge, and knowledge into a useful product or service is the essence of development.

Judicious Free-riding Can Pay Handsomely

Unless an impressionistic knowledge of local conditions betrays me badly, there is an awful lot that can be done with existing capability. The importance of Internet access by researchers, teachers and policy analysts cannot be overemphasized. Given the relatively high cost of ICT services, a network of public access computer labs, with good support, may serve as an economical way of providing much-needed connectivity.

A cost-benefit analysis

is unlikely to support expensive high-tech solutions when low-tech alternatives can be as effective. The solution for the sad state of Ethiopia's libraries may lie less in traditional print media (books and journals) and more on the products of ICT. A well-focused collection of reprints, CD-ROMs and pre-downloaded materials is much less expensive, most up-to-date, space saving and flexible to use than the alternative- including online access by most.

If the information revolution is to have the widest benefit possible, a number of things should be in place: (1) Those with access to WWW should serve as responsive gatekeepers by filtering and sharing knowledge, least of all to avoid being *Yegan Mebrat*; (2) Databases on Ethiopia should be expanded and provided in formats that maximize the widest public

access possible- I can only imagine the potential number of theses and business initiatives this would trigger; (3) Low-cost methods of transmitting user-friendly data should be encouraged including desktop publishing, duplication, and convenient outlets (witness the pathetic window at CSA's bookshop!); and (4) Great attention should be given to pedagogical content (computer simulations, films, plays, etc.)- nothing deepens a child's understanding of science as a well-crafted video clip. Parenthetically, the best model in terms of ICT savviness for Addis Ababa is the ever-adaptive Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam.

It may sound a bit self-serving, but the Ethiopian Diaspora is an untapped gateway that can best fuse domestic production of databases, global information, and business (as well

as research) applications. The most useful and difficult of these efforts is the last one: the processing of disparate information into useful knowledge that is directly applicable to Ethiopian conditions. Know-how and know-what do not, of course, subsume the nagging angst about know-why. By this, I mean the wisdom it takes to articulate a credible Ethiopian vision of the good society. The freedom from basic economic necessity certainly makes this task a lot easier for the millions of our compatriots who needlessly, and incongruously in this age of the computer, remain captive to debilitating poverty.

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Forthcoming Activities of FSS

EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN ETHIOPIA: A Symposium

Statement of the Problem

Since the 1950s, education has been perceived as a valuable source of national cohesion and a key tool for economic development in Ethiopia. Having enjoyed a short-lived period of expansion, the educational system came to face a severe and growing crisis by the early 1970s. This was further exacerbated by civil and political conflict and the ensuing eco-

omic and social crisis during the period of military rule.

For the last three decades or so, there has been a marked deterioration in the quality of education at all levels, and school enrolment has not kept up with population growth. Ethiopia has one of the lowest rates of educational achievement in Africa. Moreover, the educational crisis inherited from the past has tended to widen

class, regional and gender disparities on the one hand, and to hold back the pace of economic growth and social development on the other.

The educational system is now in the process of going through a major overhaul in the context of decentralization and new language policy. Major policy changes have been initiated which are likely to impact on schooling, the nature of the cur-

riculum and the structure of the educational system. But the main question remains: how far will these changes promote the development process?

Purpose of Symposium

The Forum for Social Studies is planning to hold a public debate on the problems and prospects of Ethiopian education on 27 August 1999 (21 Nehassie 1991 E.C.). The main purpose of the one-day symposium will be to explore the link between the unfolding educational reform and Ethiopia's development objectives. FSS will attempt to involve the Ministry of Education and its regional bureaux, the Ministry of Development and Cooperation, agricultural and educational research institutions and the business community in the symposium and follow-up activities. It is hoped that the debate will:

- create public awareness of the problems facing the educational system;
- initiate on-going dialogue between policy makers and the public;
- enable the sharing of knowledge and exchange of experience among all stakeholders, viz. educators, policy makers, donors, development experts, parents and the public;
- identify key issues and problems that require in-depth research and continued public discussion.

Issues to be Covered

The main issues to be covered

in the symposium will include:

- Educational policy reform and its impact on the development process;
- Employers, education and the quality of the labour force;
- Gender bias in education, including in science and technical education;
- Parents' expectations of the education of their children;
- Teachers view of the quality of education and potentials for change;
- Environmental education: Creating environmental awareness;
- Non-formal education: reaching the child and adult outside the school system.

It is hoped that the symposium will enable the Forum for Social Studies to draw up a long term and in-depth research project on the subject to be undertaken in the near future.

FSS Publications

⇒ MEDREK

In addition to the news of FSS activities and report of the activities of other research and advocacy organizations, MEDREK hopes to include think pieces, research in progress, new publications and book reviews. We also hope to publish:

- ⇒ Proceedings of Symposia
- ⇒ A Journal
- ⇒ A Discussion Paper Series
- ⇒ A Monograph Series
- ⇒ Books

Attention Readers

Readers are invited to send us news of research in progress, workshops, upcoming conferences and new publications

New FSS Publication

We are pleased to announce the publication of the first work in our Discussion Paper Series:

Water Resource Development in Ethiopia: Issues of Sustainability and Participation

By

Dessalegn Rahmato

Price: 10 Birr per copy

Copies are available at the FSS office

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