World Teachers’ Day is celebrated every year all over the world to commemorate the signing in 1966 of the UNESCO /ILO Recommendation concerning the status of Teachers. It is also celebrated to commemorate the 1997 recommendation concerning Higher Education Teaching personnel. The main purpose of the celebration is therefore to make aware of the recommendations to the teaching professionals and to the wider public.

It is repeatedly said that teachers are crucial to provision of education. But problem of quality education is becoming a common agenda in all nations. As a result the present complex situation of education system in a globalized world requires qualified and motivated teachers.

The theme of the 2013 is an indication of the key role teachers play for the provision of quality education. It is termed “Call for Teachers: Taking the Lead for Quality Education.”

The 2013 World Teachers’ Day was celebrated in Ambo University located at about 100 km away from Addis Ababa to the west.

It was celebrated by organizing a two days conference from 5-6 October 2013. On the conference 16 research papers done by university and secondary school teachers and researchers from other institutions were presented and discussed.

On the first day, programme introduction was made by president of Ambo University Teachers’ Association, Mr kaleab Tedesse.

Followed by welcoming speech by president of the Ethiopian Teachers Association Mr
Yohannes Benti, the conference was officially opened by HE Mr. Shiferaw Shigute, Minister of Education of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. In his speech he mentioned that Ethiopia is in its four year of implementing the Growth and transformation plan (GTP) and as we are left with two years for the end of MDGs, I call upon teachers to encourage children to come to school and work hard encourage support them stay in schools.

He added that the government and his Ministry will continue supporting ETA in its attempt to support education and to stand for teachers benefits and rights.
World Teachers’ Day 2013 Celebrated in Ambo university

Followed by the Minister’s opening speech, President of the Ambo University and member of the parliament, Honorable Dr. Mitiku Tesso, has addressed the conference participants. In his speech, he said that he is honored to have the celebration held in his university and called upon other universities to host similar events in the future.

Finally, Madam Eren Rabinoro, representing UNESCO and IICBA Directors, made a keynote address and also read message of the day prepared by representatives of international organizations, namely UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, and EI.

Followed by the speeches, the first review paper which focused on the role of mother tongue in the quality of classroom instructions, presented by a researcher from Hawasa University, was presented after which the conference participants went for break. Then the participants were divided into two to run the conference in parallel sessions so as to allow active participation and timely completion of the deliberation. Participants were drawn from federal government offices, non-governmental organizations, regional & university Teachers’ Associations, secondary and primary school teachers. Majority of the 300 participants were from the locality.

The Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) would like to thank very much Ambo university administration and Addis Ababa city Education Bureaus for they covered most of the expense. In addition, ETA would like to thank Ministry of Education and Federal Technical and Vocational Education & Training Agency for financially contributing for the celebration of the day.

Last but not least, ETA would like to thank researchers who have sacrificed their time and all individuals who participated in the activity including the organizing team and support staff of ETA for their unreserved contribution to make the day colorful.