5 February 2014

A three-day Seminar on Trade Union Rights was jointly organized by Education International (EI) Africa region and the Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) in Addis Ababa from 27-29 January 2014.

The workshop which was facilitated by EI Senior coordinator for Africa, Emanuel Fatoma, brought together 25 participants from various ETA regional branches to discuss on human and trade union rights as well as ETA’s aims, objectives, power structure and membership services; ILO conventions as they affect teachers unions; understanding Ethiopian Labour laws; Negotiable items in UNESCO/ILO Recommendation on the status of teachers; collective bargaining- A trade union right, with simulation exercise for collective bargaining; and EI, the defender of teachers rights.

Participants witnessed that they have enjoyed and gained a lot from the seminar. The role played by the facilitator, Mr. Emmanuel Fatoma, must be appreciated. He has shared from his rich experience and therefore, on behalf of the participants, ETA is very much thank full to him.

As this seminar was the fist of its kind, Ethiopian Teachers Association would like to thank EI Africa region looking forward for further cooperation in the future.
On the last day of the workshop in the afternoon, presentation was made on Unite for Quality Education, EI's initiative, by Dennis Sinyolo, who is EI's senior coordinator for Education and Employment. He explained the purpose of the campaign and urged the participants and ETA leadership to work together in mobilizing stakeholders in advocating for Quality Education. On the occasion, ETA's president appreciated the campaign and promised to play his role for the success of the campaign.

Ethiopian Teachers Association has also honored the presence of Marieme Sakho Dansokho and Margaret Rwabushaija, members of EI Executive Board and Assibi Napoe, Chief Coordinator of EI Africa Region all of whom have come to Ethiopia to participate in the launching of the Global Monitoring Report (GMR) 2013/2014 in Addis Ababa on the 29th of January 2014 to which delegates of Ethiopian Teachers Association were also invited.

Each of the delegates of EI addressed participants of the seminar and delivered their messages of solidarity.

In her concluding remarks, EI Chief Regional Coordinator Assib Napoe urged ETA leadership to continue to defend teachers' rights in Ethiopia and to play an active role in the region.

Before departure, Madam Marieme Sakho Dansokho, Mr. Dennis Sinyolo and Mr. Emmanuel Fatoma visited ETA’s garden and headquarters to hear from the ETA executive committee on some details of activities of ETA.