5 October 2015

The Day is celebrated every year all over the world to commemorate the signing in 1966 of UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers and Recommendation concerning the Higher Education Teaching personnel that was adopted in 1997 by intergovernmental conference.

Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) has also been celebrating the Day since 1997 by organizing different events. Accordingly, the 2015 World Teachers’ Day was celebrated from 2-3 October 2015 at national level in collaboration with Madda Walabu university, Action aid Ethiopian and other stakeholders including Education International (EI), our global Teachers’ Unions Federation with more than 32.5 Million members, with the theme of “Empowering Teachers, Build Sustainable Societies”. Different stakeholders were invited to this high level conference. The participants were more than 250 in number drawn from different institutions including:

- Representative of office of the Deputy prime Minister
- professor Afework Kassa from Ministry of Education
- Dr. Befekadu Zeleke, Ethiopian Universities Teachers Association president
- Professor Etana Debela Ethiopian universities Teachers' Association Deputy President
- Engineer Abdulaziz Dawud Academic Deputy president of Madda Walabu University
- Representative of UNESCO Liaison office in Addis Ababa
- Representatives of the Regional Teachers’ Association and some public universities
- Primary and secondary school teachers from Robe city (locality)
At the beginning of the program, Madda Walabu music club presented a melodic cultural music to the participants for entertainment.

Mr. Tesfay Teferi, president of Madda Walabu University Teachers’ Association, introduced program of the conference and invited Mr. Yohannes Benti, president of Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA), to take over the stage.

The president has delivered his welcome speech along with vote of thanks for those stakeholders who financially and technically supported for the success of the conference and invited HE Professor Afework Kassa, representative of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in order to officially open the conference. Professor Afework Kassa said that this year’s World Teachers’ Day is unique because it is held at the end of the first Growth and Transformation Plan and at the inception of the second five year Growth and Transformation Plan of the country which is supposed to uplift Ethiopia to middle level income countries. He added that government and Ministry of Education will continue to support ETA in its attempt to support education and to stand for teachers’ benefits and rights.

Followed by speech of Ministry of Education representative, academic vice president of Madda Walabu University, Mr. Abdulasziz Dawud, has delivered key note speech to the conference. In his speech he said that he is honored to have hosted the conference in the university he represented, Madda Walabu University and that the deliberation for the two days will help in contributing towards development and quality education at national level.

Finally message of the year prepared by International relevant organizations was read by UNESCO representative in Addis Ababa.

The celebration was organized for two days conference from October 2-3/2015 due to overlapping of another national event although the day had to be celebrated on the 5th of October. During the occasion 14 research papers done by researchers and scholars were presented and discussed by participants.
Mr. Yohannes Benti said that ETA would like to thank and very much appreciated Madda Walabu University, Education International, ActionAid Ethiopia and Ministry of Education for their financial and technical support in organizing the conference. At the end of the conference ETA awarded one teacher (female) from Tigray region under the theme “Teacher of the Year” as part of its advocacy activity to promote the teaching profession.

Finally, the participants visited Bale national park which was organized by Madda Walabu University, Oromia Region Teachers’ Association, and Bale Zone Teachers Association and the whole program of the celebration has had a wide media coverage on Oromia television transmission. As an additional information, question and answer competition was conducted in collaboration with a private firm and was broadcasted in Addis Ababa TV.