Every year, World Teachers’ Day is celebrated on October 5 all over the world to commemorate the signing in of UNESCO/ILO recommendation concerning the status of Teachers which was adopted by the intergovernmental conference in 1966 in Paris. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the 1997 UNESCO recommendation concerning the status of higher education teaching personnel.

The theme of the year is termed “Teachers for Gender equality”.

It was celebrated by organizing a two days conference where by 15 research papers were presented by scholars.

Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) organized the conference in Haramaya University, the second oldest university, located in eastern part of the county, in collaboration with consortium of three university Teachers’ Associations –Haramaya, Jigjiga and Dire Dawa.

The conference was started by opening speech made by Dr. Keba Urgessa, State Minister for Higher Education.

In his speech, he stated that teachers have social responsibility and are expected to stand at the front in fighting harmful traditional practices that have existed for so long in our society. One such practice is the wrong attitude that seemed to create inequality between men and women. Teachers can then change this attitude with their powerful tool, education. That could be why the theme of the 2011th World Teachers’ Day is termed ‘Teachers for Gender Equality’
Message regarding the day prepared by the International Community, delegated by UNESCO liaison office in Addis Ababa, was read in front of the conference participants. Likewise, presidents of the three universities have also delivered speech reflecting their support on the issue.

More than 300 participants were drawn from the parliament, Prime Minister’s office, Non-governmental Organizations, Regional Teachers’ Associations & universities. Publications such as posters and banners were made and the conference had wide media coverage.

ETA would like to express its sincere appreciation and thanks all organizations who have committed their ideas and resources, notably Ministry of Education, UNESCO, VSO Ethiopia, Action aid Ethiopia, Jigjiga University. Our special thanks are extended to Haramaya University and its leadership for hosting the conference.