The 24th session of the Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) council was held in Dire Dawa city from 14-16 October 2011. Mayor of the Dire Dawa city has delivered opening speech where he welcomes all the participants to the city and called upon the councilors to work hard for effective implementation of the quality improvement package underway.

Representing the Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Keba rgessa, State Minister for Higher Education, has also called upon the participants to keep the profession up to the standard, in his key note address. The Ethiopian Teachers Association headquarters executive Committee, represented by president of the Association, has presented activities performed by the association as per the yearly plan endorsed by the council earlier.

Regional Teachers’ Associations as well as university Teachers’ Associations have also reported to the council of the works done during the last Ethiopian fiscal year.

The council discussed on selected agenda such as the role of teachers and their association in implementing quality improvement programs, establishing solidarity fund, teachers’ benefits, strengthening ETA’s organizational structure and ETA general election. Councilors debated seriously on the teachers’ benefit agenda specific to salary.

Ethiopian Teachers’ Association has submitted a new salary scale to the government four years ago. Last year, the government has increased salary of Civil Servants including teachers. The council, recognizing the effort made in increasing the salary of teachers, but showed its dissatisfaction as the increment did not take the salary scale submitted by the association in to consideration.
Committee members drawn from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Civil Service and Ethiopian Teachers Association were established in June 2011 to see in two ways of resolving the problem and progress made was explained to the council. But members of the council, after long debate, being dissatisfied by the explanation, have decided January 2012 as a last time to hear positive response in uplifting the career ladder of teachers which is limited to only six levels. Otherwise the ETA congress is to be called to discuss on the way forward.

ETA leadership is committed to serve its members and implement decision of the council and also committed to solve the problem through negotiation.