Ethiopian Teachers Association, the 1st in the history of associations in Ethiopia, celebrated its 70th year anniversary on the 21st of Feb. 2019 at Ras Hotel in Addis Ababa in the presence of teachers from Addis Ababa and Oromia surrounding Addis Ababa, leaders of the association of the 12 regions (branches), former executive committee members who have served at headquarters, representatives of different governmental and non-governmental institutions. The anniversary was honored by the presence of His Excellency Dr. Tilaye Getie, Minister of Education of the FDRE.

Ato Yohannes Benti, President of ETA, addressed the participants about the objectives, achievements and challenges of the association across the years briefly. He noted that the association currently has 508,000 members as compared to 32 when it was established. He also stressed that, at the moment, not only is its organizational structure but also its bargaining power on behalf of its members as well as its international recognition has dramatically been increased though lots of efforts need to be exerted for further visibility.

Dr. Tilaye Getie, in his opening remark, underscored that the role of teachers and the association in the overall development of the country is not a matter of debate. He reminds the role of the association during which it opposed the secretly drafted Education Sector Review in the era of Emperor Haile Selassie’s Leadership which has brought a historic political change by then.

In the anniversary a snap-shot history of the association was presented by Ato Abdulfetah Abdelah, writer of history of the association’s 70 years, which is underway. Another document
review on “Teaching as a Profession” by Dr. Mulu Nega, a researcher from Addis Ababa University, was presented for discussion, which of course, attracted the attention of the participants.

The conclusion of the event was so delightful. ETA recognized 19 teachers across the country and awarded a historic gold medal and 5,000 Ethiopian birr each for their successful contribution and service in the profession. They collected their award from the hands of the Minister of Education.

That was followed by a wonderful facility visit of the African pride, Ethiopian Air Lines, pictured below.