Addis Ababa, 30 June 2006

Under the project entitled 'Reinvigorating Civic Mission in Schools' the following activities were carried out: namely, focus group study- a situation assessment study on the weakness and strength of the existing students' council located in Bahir Dar, Adama, Awassa, Mekele and Addis Ababa; training on leadership development and communicate skill at national level and social forum workshop.

A) Focus Group Study

It is aimed to increase students' in and after school activities which help to engage in the communities in which they live. The target groups were students' council leaders, students, teachers, parents and school administrators.

Contents covered under the study were:
- Awareness acquisitions discussion
- The organizational right of students council
- Weakness and strength of the existing students' council, etc

The assessment pointed out constraints in which the students and school communities exercise their roles, duties and responsibilities

B) Leadership Development

ETA has a long interest in the ways in which the youth in and out of the school are prepared for citizenship and in how they learn to take part in civil life. Therefore it has conducted leadership training aimed to develop effective leadership. The target groups were students, teachers, parents and school administrators.

Contents covered under the training were:
- What is leadership,
- Importance of effective leadership,
- Qualify of leadership, etc

C) Communication skill training

As communication concerns with the most important techniques of getting basic knowledge, ETA has carried out the training to improve the interaction between students, teachers, school teachers' association leaders, school administrators and parents. The above subjects are the target groups of the event.

D) Social forum workshop

As part of implementation of the project, ETA has organized a social forum on 'The Role of civil societies in promoting Democracy and Development' on 18 December 2006 at Ghion hotel.

Participants of the forum were from different civil societies, public and private colleges & Regional teachers association representatives. Opening remarks were made by Ambassador Kasa G/Hiwot, Chief Commissioner of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.

Two papers were presented on the issue—one on Ethiopian experience and the other from African union dealing with African experience.