07 October 2008

World Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on October 5th to commemorate the anniversary of the signing in 1966 of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the status of teachers. Every year, this day presents an occasion to draw attention to the crucial role teachers play in providing quality education for all to attain EFA/MDGs. Every year, since 2004, ETA celebrates the Day using the theme selected by organizing events as the case may be in collaboration with stakeholders. The theme of the 2008 World Teachers' Day is 'Teachers Matter'. This year, a one day event was organized in the ETA building which is secured after long judicial procedure.

The event was started by key note address made by HE Dr. Sintayehu W/Michael, Minister of Education, followed by welcoming speech by Mr. Yohannes Benti, President of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association in which he requested the stakeholders to join in hands with his association in defending teachers rights and improving quality of education. He also invited participants and the wider community to say thanks to teachers who made a difference in their life, or in their children's lives.

In attendance were significant number government and non-governmental organizations, members of diplomatic corps, Regional Teacher's Association representatives, teachers and retired higher officials of the association.

The morning session was chaired by HE Dr. Patricia Sellick, VSO country Director in Ethiopia where three study papers entitled: Quality Assurance and Accreditation in private Higher Education by Tsegaye W/Giorgis. Assessment of the contributions of professional Teachers' Association in promoting Quality Education in Teacher Education colleges of Amahara Religion by Habtamnesh Abera Assessment of Result- Oriented Performance Appraisal of Teachers in Tigrai Regional State by Alem Beyene were presented by the above mentioned professionals.

The after noon session was chaired by HE Dr. Haile W/Michael, the former president of ETA. The session focused on the way association passed through, entitled "ETA from where to where?"

At the end of the event discussion was made on the way forward and valuable recommendations were made by the participants.