15 October 2010

Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA), the oldest pioneer of democratic struggle for quality education, and teachers’ rights and benefits in Ethiopia, had celebrated “The October 5th World Teacher Day 2010” from 11-12 October 2010 at Hawassa, the capital of SNNP regional state, in collaboration with Hawasa University Teachers’ Association. Three hundred fifty participants from government officials, non-government organization representatives, teachers’ association leaders including all the universities and teachers attended the two days conference.

The celebration was started by opening speech made by H.E. Mr. Fuad Ibrahim, state Minister of Education. Key note addresses were made by president of Ethiopian Teachers Association, Mr. Yohannes Benti, president of the Hawassa University, Dr. Admasu Tsegaye, President of Hawassa University Teachers’ Association, Dr. Itana Debela, and representative of UNESCO who read message from the international community prepared for the Day. The program was inherently compressive that it provided an integrated framework widely targeted in reaching teachers’ status, professionalism and quality education.

The effectiveness of conducting such a successful event has witnessed the remarkable progress on many fronts of ETA: Such as increasing its members, organizing higher education teachers under their association, enhancing foreign and public relation activities, debates on quality education and teacher issues, etc.

On the conference the following 5 year Growth and Transformation Plan of Ethiopia generally and the Education Sector Development Program IV specifically was discussed and awareness was created in those matters.

On the occasion, 14 research papers were presented by scholars.

Among the research papers presented were
- Issue of quality education
- Academic freedom
• Adult literacy programs
• Role of English language
• Student discipline
• The role of ICT
• HIV/AIDS control and prevention
• Corruption
• Federalism and
• Issue of human rights

Moreover publications such as abstracts of the research papers, posters and leaflets were distributed to the participants; banners were posted on the main roads of Hawas city as well. The program was supported by UNESCO, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Education, Hawassa University, VSO-Ethiopia and Action Aid Ethiopia. ETA thanks all of them.