6 August 2011

Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) works to defend teachers’ rights and advocates for education. As part of its objective to promote education, ETA has projects, one of which is related to improving science and mathematics education.

Ethiopian government is implementing its ambitious five year Growth and Transformation plan (GTP) and one of its focus areas in terms of education is the so called 70/30 program mixes where by 70% of the secondary school students who pass secondary school leaving certificate go for science stream in higher education. In order to support this program, ETA has been implementing science fair project supported by Initiative Africa/SIDA. The project was of two phases, commenced on 01 July 2010 and ended by 30 May 2011.

Series of activities were including workshops to create awareness of the parents, to bring stakeholders together and to provide an award to students who presented their science activity in front of their teachers, parents and education officials.

The project sites were schools in Oromia region at Adama town, Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s region at Howasa, and Amahra regional state, at Bahir Dar.

Due to finalization of the project, science fair conference were called and held in Addis Ababa, in Wabeshebelle hotel, where the best four out of each project sites presented their work at country level.

Teachers who have the expertise in the respective subjects were carefully selected and served
as Judges to choose the best four works from the competing students.

Accordingly students were given books and financial award to encourage them. Officials from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology and Woreda Education Officials from the project sites were among the attendees and affirmed that they are committed to support the activity and appreciated the initiative that the association took to support science education.

ETA would like to scale up its activities to support teachers and students in order to provide quality science and mathematics education and would like to thank all those who supported the activity.