CCRDA Executive Director Elected for CSA Board Membership

Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, Executive Director of CCRDA, has been elected Board member of the Charities and Societies Agency (CSA) in a landmark election held on 5th July, 2010 here at the Ethiopian Conference Center.

Three candidates, including Dr. Meshesha, were fielded to vie for seats in the CSA Board representing the CSO/NGO sector.

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Dr. Meshesha Shewarega,
CCRDA Executive Director

Over 3 million Birr CCRDA-DCA Joint Project Launched

A joint project of CCRDA and Danish Church Aid (DCA) aimed at enhancing the CSO/NGO operational space through improved accountability frameworks and partnership practices in Ethiopia was launched here at the Secretariat on June 29, 2010.

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Screening of Membership Applications in Progress

Screening of applications submitted by various charity organizations requesting to be members of CCRDA is well underway, Membership Development and Networking Core Team (MDN-CT) disclosed.

Ato Abreham Kumela, Acting Ethics and Membership Affairs Officer with MDN-CT, stated that 203 foreign and Ethiopian resident charities had earlier applied to join CCRDA’s membership.

He said CCRDA extended invitation to the applicants to reapply based on the new membership criteria issued in accordance with the recent CCRDA’s memorandum of association.

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CCRDA to Conduct Rapid Assessment on Post Legislation NGO Environment

CCRDA is undertaking prior arrangements to carry out a rapid assessment on the NGO operational environment after the enactment of the new Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009.

Ato Abreham Kumela, Acting Ethics and Membership Affairs Officer with MDN-CT, told CCRDA Newsletter that the assessment is aimed at identifying and analyzing the impacts of the Proclamation on the businesses of Charities.

Currently, the necessary feedback gathering tools including questionnaires are being developed to be distributed among members, according to Ato Abreham.

He further noted that during the drafting process and after the enactment of the Proclamation, CCRDA had been organizing a series of consultative meetings with a view to understanding the implications of the Proclamation on members and the CCRDA as a Consortium.

Cont’d to page 4
CCRDA to Compete for the 10th Round of Global Fund Grant

CCRDA is making the necessary preparations to compete for the 10th round of the international funding scheme offered by the Global Fund Organization.

The Consortium, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Inter-Alliance of Faith Based Institutions, is also undertaking a coordinating task with a view to enabling its members engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS to benefit from the grant package.

As part of such coordination endeavors, CCRDA organized on 10 June, 2010 an orientation session to brief members involved in anti-HIV/AIDS endeavors on the application process of the 10th round Global Fund grant scheme.

The Global Fund works in close collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral organizations to supplement existing efforts dealing with the three diseases.

Since its creation in 2002, the Global Fund has become the main source of finance for programs to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, with approved funding of US$ 19.3 billion for more than 572 programs in 144 countries.

As part of their round 10 application submission, eligible applicants are required to submit documentation illustrating compliance with several requirements set to win the grant.

The closing date for the 10th round of Global Fund application is Friday, 20th August 2010 – 12 noon, local time in Geneva, Switzerland, it was learnt.

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CCRDA Members Being Briefed on Global Fund Application Process

The Global Fund is a global public-private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Together for a better future!
CCRDA Launches Three-year Program Planning

CCRDA has officially launched the 2011-2014 program planning process at a ceremony held at the Office of the Secretariat on 17 June, 2010.

A nine-member Steering Committee and an eight-person Technical Committee were disclosed on the occasion to guide and oversee the program planning process.

A ToR released on the occasion states that the Steering Committee is composed of CCRDA members, OD/FM committee of the Board and staff of the Secretariat. On the other hand, the Technical Committee is drawn from each of the Secretariat's Core Team and is responsible for the technical details of preparing the 2011-14 program plan.

It was stated on the occasion that the three-year program plan is highly expected to be participatory as well as specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound (SMART).

It was underlined that lessons from the previous program plans will be taken to produce a viable, achievable and up-to-the-standard program plan for the next three years.

The 2011-2014 program plan will be readied for approval by the Board of the Consortium before 30 November, 2010. It would then be submitted to donors for funding and resource mobilization.

The 2011-2014 program planning process launching event was chaired by Ato Yabowork Haile, Board Chairperson of the Consortium and co-chaired by Dr. Meshesha Shewarega, Executive Director of CCRDA.

CCRDA to Conduct Rapid Assessment...

(...Contd. from p.2)

The consultative meetings discussed the results of the rapid assessment conducted by CCRDA to gauge members’ response on the implications of the Law on their organizational identities and operations as well as on their plan to cope with the prevailing situation.

Based on the inputs obtained from the consultative discussions, CCRDA has developed a guideline with the objective of suggesting possible coping mechanisms for its members, the officer said.
CCRDA’s Thematic Forums Reorganized

The seven NGO thematic forums currently hosted by CCRDA have been restructured in a new form in a two-month reorganization endeavor that lasted from May-June, 2010, Director of Membership Development and Networking Core Team (MDN-CT) disclosed.

The Director, Ato Regassa Aboma, told the monthly CCRDA newsletter that the reorganized thematic forums include: Water and Sanitation, Urban Development, Rural Development, Children and Youth, Gender, Good Governance and HIV/AIDS Forums.

The need to adjust the structure of the thematic forums in line with their scope of operation, which has changed as per the new Charities and Societies Proclamation, is one of the major reasons for the reorganization of the Forums.

He further noted that the re-registration of CCRDA and its members in accordance with the Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009 and its new requirement is the other vital reason that necessitated the reorganization.

The call to redefine CCRDA Forums’ purpose and to ensure their continuity in the changing operational environment is yet another rationale for the reorganization and adjustment process, he noted.

A consultative meeting of members of all Forums was held to discuss on the concept paper prepared by MDN-CT indicating ways and modalities of reorganizing the platforms, he indicated.

The consultative meeting agreed that each Forum should conduct a general meeting in a bid to reorganize its respective platform, decide its areas of engagement and membership status, devise a strategic plan and select agenda to work on the short term.

The reorganization of the seven thematic forums has been fully completed and the Forums are now functioning in full swing.

The organizational adjustment of the platforms help the Forums to ensure harmonization of policy issues, actively engage in research works and involve in effective information, experience and best practices exchange endeavors and networking activities.

The reorganization process also enables the Forums to strengthen their overall capacity and be self-sufficient in the due course of time.

The newly organized Forums are expected to graduate from CCRDA within a maximum of three years, Ato Regassa said, adding that the Consortium will facilitate all the necessary conditions to this end.
Panel discussions organized by CCRDA are well underway according to the timetable set for 2010, Central Region platform coordinator has announced.

The coordinator, Ato Melaku Tadesse, said 20 panel discussions are planned to be held in the year 2010.

Four panel discussions have so far been conducted both at central and regional levels, he said, adding that efforts are being exerted to convene similar other panel discussions as per the schedule.

In related news, Ato Melaku told CCRDA newsletter that the Consortium has intensified efforts geared towards establishing GO-NGO Forums in various parts of the country. He said the four regional coordination offices of CCRDA are actively engaged in facilitating enabling conditions for the establishment of GO-NGO Forums in Central, Southern, Eastern and Northern parts.

GO-NGO Forums have already been set up in Southern and Oromia Regions as well as in Addis Ababa, Harar and Direawa. Preparations are also in progress to establish similar Forums in Amhara and Tigray regions in the near future.

Such platforms enable governmental and non-governmental organizations to forge synergy and undertake concerted activities in various areas of development, Ato Melaku noted.

He said the Forums also help GOs and NGOs to jointly use available resources effectively and efficiently for the good of the public at large.

In addition, the officer said, the establishment of such Forums is instrumental to put in place a uniform performance monitoring and evaluation mechanism for GOs and NGOs working in similar fields of development.

The Go-NGO Forums could also serve as ideal venues for the sharing of information, experiences and best practices, it was indicated.

Screening of Membership...
(... contd. from page 2)

MDN-CT managed to contact 102 of the 203 applicants, of who 50 have collected the newly issued application forms. So far, 12 of the charities have filled out and returned the forms.

The deadline for membership reapplication is 30 June, 2010, according to Ato Abreham.

CCRDA accepts new membership applications from Ethiopian Resident Charities and Foreign Charities. In light of its re-registration as per the Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009, it doesn’ t accept membership applications from Ethiopian Charities, Ethiopian Societies and Ethiopian Resident Societies.

However, any Ethiopian Resident Charity or Foreign Charity can apply for CCRDA Membership if it accepts the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the Consortium.

Cont’d to page 7
Speaking at the launching ceremony, Ato Seife Fekade, Capacity Building Core Team leader in CCRDA, said 3.1 million Birr has been allocated for the implementation of the two-year joint project that runs from June 2010-May 2012.

Ato Seife said the overall objective of the project is to enhance the role of the civil society in Ethiopia to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and realization of the plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP).

Establishment and strengthening of GO-NGO partnership forums in four regions and at national level is one of the major activities envisaged to be undertaken by the CCRDA-DCA joint project, he said.

The project will also develop joint working modalities for the GO-NGO partnership forums, conduct consultation and dialogue sessions between the government and civil society organizations, Ato Seife noted.

Mapping of NGO/CSO code of conduct, developing adherence mechanisms for the adopted code of conduct and organizing capacity building training/workshop on NGO governance are the other activities planned to be carried out during the various phases of the project. ***

Screening of Membership ... 
(...Contd. from p.6)

Applicants should submit supporting documents including a valid registration certificate from the Charities and Societies Agency or Offices having legal mandate to register Charities and Societies at the Regional level.

They also need to present their Memorandum of Association, evidence confirming that the Charity has at least a one year engagement experience in development pursuits after registration and their Operational Agreement with Federal or Regional government offices.

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Together for a better future!

June - July 2010
World Bank Donates 88,000 Birr to CCRDA

The World Bank has donated 88,000 Birr for Urban Development Forum as part of the agreement it signed with CCRDA for partnership on knowledge dissemination and development issues.

CCRDA Librarian, Ato Habte Beyene, said the partnership agreement signed between CCRDA and the World Bank on May 27, 2010 focuses on capacity building and training, climate change, knowledge dissemination and development outreach programs.

In related news, the World Bank had given 600 books and 4 computers to the WB corner within the Resource Center of CCRDA, Ato Habte disclosed.

According to the signed partnership agreement, CCRDA has agreed to allocate a World Bank Corner within its Resource Center where the latter could display its periodic publications and electronic copies.

The partnership agreement enables the Knowledge Sharing (KS) program of the World Bank to promote knowledge sharing as a collaborative, multidimensional, continuous and proactive process.

Resource Center of CCRDA

Ato Habte further noted that the agreement is also expected to facilitate the smooth flow of timely information on global development dynamics and enhance the sharing of international experiences.

Discover Something New...

CCRDA Resource Center

Students Using PCs at World Bank Corner
WHO Delegation Visits CCRDA

A delegation from the World Health Organization (WHO) visited CCRDA Secretariat on 22 June, 2010.

Ato Kiflelemarium G/Wold, Strategic Support Team leader and special advisor, told CCRDA newsletter that the purpose of the WHO delegation visit was to have talks with CCRDA officials on issues of mutual interest.

The two sides assessed the existing bilateral relationships and discussed at length on ways of further bolstering areas of future cooperation, Ato Kiflelemarium said.

He further noted that a consensus was reached on the occasion to forge a closer partnership between WHO and CCRDA especially in the areas of humanitarian response, nutrition as well as Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH).

In a related development, Ato Kiflelemarium G/Wold participated, representing CCRDA, in a half-day meeting organized by the World Bank on 16 June, 2010.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the 2008-2011 World Bank’s Country Assistance Strategy for Ethiopia, according to Ato Kiflelemarium.

“Citizen Empowerment” is the key word in the Strategy, he said, adding that CCRDA made it clear on the occasion that the active participation of the civil society is indispensable for the effective implementation of the strategy.

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CCRDA Members Participate in Development

Eighteen members of CCRDA participated in a development exhibition organized by a local NGO called Peace for Ethiopia Messengers of Peace Youth Association.

The two-day exhibition, which was staged from 6-8 July, 2010 at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Center, was opened by State Minister of Youth and Sports, Ato Abdisa Yadeta and Ato Ali Siraj, Director General of Charities and Societies Agency (CSA).

In his opening remarks, Ato Abdisa noted that the Ministry of Youth and Sports attaches immense value to such initiatives that encourage the participation of the youth in development endeavors.

Cont’d to page 10
CCRDA Members Participate ....  

(...Contd. from p. 9)

Ato Ali Siraj said on his part that ensuring development and good governance requires the concerted efforts of the government, the general public, investors as well as NGOs and Civil Society Organizations.

The objective of the exhibition is to help the youth draw valuable experiences on how to fully participate in and relish from the development, good governance and peace activities of their country, Ato Ali noted.

Ato Tafesse Refera, Director of Publications and Information Management Core Team, said on the occasion that CCRDA participated in the exhibition to show its solidarity to the youth development and peace initiatives.

The exhibition is instrumental to show NGOs significant role in various fields of development and create transparency thereby redressing misconceptions about the NGO sector, Ato Tafesse stated.

He further noted that such exhibitions reflect the GO-NGO partnership and foster the exchange of best practices and experiences between the two sectors.

Several governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as civil associations showcased their activities and services at the exhibition.

CCRDA Executive Director Elected ...

(...Contd. from p. 1)

new Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009.

The election of CCRDA as a board member of CSA has an immense significance in enabling the Consortium to effectively represent its members as well as to defend and advance the development efforts of the CSO sector at large.

The inclusion of CCRDA, which is the largest umbrella organization of national and international Charities, in the CSA Board will also serve as an impetus for the Consortium to press ahead with its representation role with more vigor and zeal.

CCRDA takes this historic opportunity to congratulate its esteemed members on its election to the CSA Board.

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Joint Africa-EU Strategy Said Vital to Enhance CSOs Development Role

The Joint Africa-EU Strategy creates more space for the enhanced engagement of African and European Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the various development processes of the two continents, CCRDA Executive Director said.

Dr. Meshesha Shewarega made the remarks while opening a two-day workshop held at the CCRDA Secretariat from 15-16 July, 2010 under the title “Civil Society and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES)”.

In addition to the collaboration that this framework creates between governments in the AU and EU countries, it also serves an important purpose in augmenting the partnership between the civil societies of the two continents, Dr. Meshesha noted.

He said the partnership is expected to bridge the development gap between Africa and Europe through the strengthening of economic cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development in both continents.

The Joint Strategy, which provides an overarching long-term framework for Africa-EU relations, will be implemented through successive short-term Action Plans and enhanced political dialogue at all levels, he noted.

Prof. Dr. Christa Randzioplatz, Vice Chairperson of VENRO—the umbrella Association of German NGOs said on the occasion that the role of the Civil Society is crucial in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

She said the Strategy is useful in further consolidating the relationship and partnership that exist between the EU and African civil societies.

Ambassador Girum Abay, representative of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on his part that the place given to the CSOs in the Strategy is very high and Africa should further deepen its recognition and acceptance to the role of the civil society in such vital partnerships.

The grassroots, which he said are co-owners of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, should be well communicated regularly about the benefits and progress of this particular partnership.

VENRO has been organizing a series of workshops with a view to creating awareness about the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) as well as to enable Civil Society Groups to actively engage in this framework.

As part of this process, CCRDA and VENRO joined hands to co-organize the two-day workshop that discussed, among other things, on different ways of engagement in two of the JAES components; namely Rural Development and Gender.

The workshop had also an intensive deliberation on the overall JAES framework as well as on how Civil Society Groups in both continents can effectively engage with the AU and EU for the advancement of the goals set in the Strategy.

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Excerpts from the NGOs Code of Conduct

What are the major Problems of the Code of Conduct (CoC)?

The CoC has a severe financial problem. The problem is confounded as most NGOs fail to pay their membership fees on time and very many of them default on this altogether. As a result, the CoC is faced with a very acute financial constraint. In fact, the severity of the financial limitations for the CoC is such that its office is still located in the private office of the director. Meetings are held there and any related correspondence and other office services are being handled through the personal secretary of the director. Arguably, the financial problem of the CoC is its single most important factor that has limited its activities in a big way.

Attempts are being made to negotiate funds through CCRDA and the CoC is hopeful that this problem will be addressed in the very near future.

What could be the solution?

Understandably, there is very little that can be done in a situation of severe financial limitation. It is, therefore, incumbent on member NGOs operating in Ethiopia to actively assist the CoC in order to enable it to do the work setup.

As mentioned repeatedly, the existence of the CoC adds a lot of credibility to the activities of NGOs in the country as it is seen as an impartial monitoring body. It does not, therefore, reflect very well on member NGOs to deprive the CoC of the means to help it achieve its purpose. The CoC needs to have its proper office space and its expenses have to be covered with available funds in a sustained manner.

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<td>Ato Biniamu Shemelige</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS Forum Coordinator</td>
<td>Ato Befikadu Alamayehu</td>
<td>Rural Development Forum Coordinator</td>
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<td>Ato Mussie H/Georgis</td>
<td>Food Security &amp; Environment Forum Coordinator</td>
<td>Ato Fasil Aberham</td>
<td>Grant Finance Officer</td>
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CCRDA Newly Arrived Reference Materials

- The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food
- The No-Nonsense Guide to Democracy
- Global Citizenship Education
- The New Conditionality
- Human Rights In The Commonwealth (A Status Report)
- The Global Food Economy
- A Guide To The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- The Trouble with Aid: Why Less Could Mean More For Africa
- Small and Medium Forest Enterprises in Ethiopia
- Violence and Reconstruction
- Maintaining Universal Primary Education
- The Future of Gender
- Voices of the Poor. Can Anyone Hear Us?
- Evolution and Innovation in Wildlife Conservation
- AIDS on The Agenda
- Funding Local Governance
- How to Make Poverty History
- Low-Cost Private Education