231st CCRDA Membership Assembly Elects New Governance Bodies

The 231st Membership Assembly Meeting of CCRDA, held at the Secretariat on September 17, 2010, elected new governance bodies, approved the Consortium’s 2009 Annual Performance and Audit reports and endorsed new membership candidates.

Inside this Issue:

- Annual Partners’ Planning Forum Conducted
- CCRDA/Sida Joint Program PPs Review Workshop Held
- Consultative Meeting on Draft GF HIV/AIDS Proposal conducted
- Sida Financed Wireless Network Launched
- CCRDA Briefs Members on Charities, Societies Proclamation
- Panel Discusses Situation of Street Children in Addis
- WDF Holds Panel Discussion
- Draft WASH Report Presented for Discussion
- Workshop Discusses GO-NGO Operations
- GO-NGO relations in Oromiya
- CSOs Role in Implementation of Urban Polices, Programs
- Newly Arrived Reference Materials

PM Meles, Ministers held discussion with NGOs/CSOs on Growth & Transformation Plan

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Ato Girma Birru - Minister of Trade & Industry and Ato Mekonnen Manyazewel - State Minister of Finance and Economic Development (MoED) held discussions with representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Civic Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations on the new national Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) on 25 & 26 August, 2010.

The discussions focussed, among other things, on the underlying assumptions, core principles and objectives of the Growth and Transformation Plan as well as the role of NGOs/CSO in the realization of the five year plan that runs from 2003 to 2007 E.C. Exchange of views and ideas was also made on the pillar strategies of GTP and the action/program plans designed to implement the strategic pillars.

The discussion held on 25 August, 2010 at the Sidist Kilo Convention Center was chaired by Ato Girma Birru, while the one convened at the Office of the Prime Minister on 26 August was chaired by PM Meles Zenawi.

It was noted on the discussion forums that the GTP would enable the nation to double its agricultural produce and accelerate the general economic growth by registering 14.9 percent growth on average.

EU Grants 1.6 ml. Euro to Ethiopian CSOs

The Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia has awarded grant contracts to 12 Ethiopian NGOs/CSOs worth about 1.6 million euro from the European Commission Civil Society Fund in Ethiopia program.

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NGOs Role Said Vital in Implementation

To buttress the urban development agenda, NGOs can engage in training and awareness raising activities, provision of loans, transfer of knowledge, construction of various public facilities such as water and sanitation services and youth development centers.

NGOs are also most welcome to actively participate in solid waste management and rehabilitation of Addis Ababa, he said.

With a view to encouraging NGOs participation in the urban development sector, the City Administration has taken several tangible measures, according to Ato Israel.

He said the City Administration has established an NGO Coordinating Unit, GO-NGO Partnership Forum and a General Assembly comprising NGOs, CBOs and government bodies that work on issues related to urban development.

On the occasion, a presentation on the current urban policies, programs and packages of Ethiopia was also delivered by Ato Tadese G/Giorgis, Policy and Program Formulation Directorate Director in the Ministry of Works and Urban Development.

Ato Tadese’s presentation focused on the four major policy frameworks issued by the government with a view to accelerating urban development at national level.

PM Meles Holds Discussion ...

It was also stated that the five year plan would sustain the double digit economic growth of the nation registered over the past five years facilitating for the industry sector to take up the lead in the overall development activities of the country.

Ensuring the benefits of youth and women by enhancing capacity building and good governance issues is placed among the major targets of the Plan, which is also deemed instrumental in ensuring food security at household and national level.

According to the Plan, more than 2,000 kms of railway networks would be constructed in different parts of the country. The nation would also generate 8,000 to 10,000 MW from water and wind resources. Various capacity building programs would be executed to boost the capacity of the civil service sector and improve execution capacity and good governance.

Participants of the discussions noted that though it sounds ambitious, the five-year National Growth and Transformation Plan is achievable especially in light of the recent economic performance of Ethiopia, which registered double-digit economic growth for the past seven years uninterrupted.

It was indicated on the discussion forums that the success of the next five-year plan requires the active involvement of the entire public in general and civic associations and the CSO sector in particular.

Some 100 CCRDA members were invited to participate in the meeting through the Consortium. A brainstorming session was held in preparation for the meeting and as a reflection on the plan. Dr. Melesha Sheewarega, CCRDA Executive Director, Ato Tadese Refers, Publications & Information Management Core Team Director, Ato Seife Fekade, Capacity Building Team Leader & Ato Kilemariam G/Wold, Advisor to the ED attended the discussion forums representing the Secretariat.
Workshop Discusses GO-NGO Operations, Relations in Oromiya

A workshop that discussed the operations of NGOs in Oromiya Regional State and the role governing GO-NGO relations was held at Desalegn Hotel in Addis Ababa on 20 July, 2010.

The one-day workshop was organized by Network of Civil Society Organizations in Oromiya (NeCSOO).

The workshop was aimed, among others, at creating better understanding among NeCSOO members regarding the status and historical background of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Oromiya.

It had also an objective of familiarizing the revised NGO guidelines, the collaboration and partnership agreement leading to the formation of GO-NGO forum at regional level.

Six presentations on various topics were made during the course of the workshop, which brought together 43 participants.

A according to a presentation delivered at the workshop, there are 229 NGOs, 33 Faith Based Development Organizations (FBDOs), one regional development association and 3,198 cooperatives in Oromiya regional state.

NGOs Role Said Vital in Implementation of Urban Policies, Programs

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) can play an important role in the implementation of urban policies and programs in Ethiopia, an official with the Addis Ababa City Administration said.

Ato Israel Tesfaye said NGOs and the Civil Society Sector as a whole are expected to actively involve in the country’s urbanization endeavors as reliable partners to development.

Ato Israel made the remarks while delivering a presentation on the implementation of current urban policies, programs and packages in Addis Ababa at a half-day panel discussion organized jointly by CCRDA and ACORD on 26 August, 2006 here at the Secretariat.

He said the Addis Ababa City Administration welcomes any form of partnership from development partners including NGOs, which are committed to support the achievement of the urban development agenda.

The task of urban development should not be set aside to the government alone, he said, adding that NGOs should extend an unreserved contribution for the successful implementation of urban development policies of the metropolis.

The signing of the new contracts confirm the Delegation’s commitment to supporting non-state actors’ (NSAs) contribution to development efforts in Ethiopia in the framework of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, a press release issued by EU Delegation indicated.

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia, Ambassador Dino Singalia, said on the signing ceremony that the contracts awarded under the recent calls for proposals are testament of the EU’s commitment to strengthen civil society’s contribution to the country’s development endeavors.

The new contracts have been signed with Ethiopian Charities, Ethiopian Resident Charities and Consortia of Ethiopian Resident and International Charities.

The signing of these new contracts brings the total of ongoing projects of the program to 26, worth about 4 million euro. Since the start of the program in 2006, 55 grant projects have been so far been supported under the Civil Society Fund (CSF).

Around 400 Ethiopian CSOs have been benefiting from capacity development activities in the framework of this joint European Union-government of Ethiopia program.

The signing of the new contracts will be the foundation of the Delegation’s commitment to supporting non-state actors’ (NSAs) contribution to development efforts in Ethiopia in the framework of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, a press release issued by EU Delegation indicated.

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Ato Israel (center) delivering his presentation

EU Grants 1.6 mln Euro...

...Contd. from p.1

The newly signed projects will operate in all regions of the country as well as the two city administration of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

Their objectives include enhancing institutional capacity and networking, promoting good governance amongst NSAs and community based organizations, women’s empowerment and conflict prevention, in line with the new Charities and Societies Proclamation 621/2009.

The Civil Society Fund is a 10 million euro program of support to NSAs, being implemented over a 6 year period (2006-2011). The CSF is financed by the EU through the European Development Fund in collaboration with the government of Ethiopia.

The 12 organizations that benefit from the recent CSF are the Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara, Association for Forced Migrants, Amhara Development Association, Ato Woykisi-Ekisil Pastoralist Development Association, the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations, Ethiopia Arbitration and Conciliation Center, Non-State Actors Coalition, Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, Resource Center for Civil Society Group Association, South Ethiopia People’s Development Association, Vision Ethiopia Congress for Democracy and Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization.

Annual Partners’ Planning Forum ...

...Contd. from p.2

The six-day planning forum and training was attended by a total of 112 participants drawn from CORE Group Ethiopia Secretariat as well as head and field offices of project partner organizations.

CORE Group Ethiopia conducts planning forums every year being aware of their critical importance for proper planning of project activities, which will bring an added value to effective implementation of activities at field level.

Besides, such forums provide participants with the opportunity to share best grass-root experiences and practices that would enable them to scale up the implementation of EPI and surveillance activities in their respective catchments.

The Forum was given due attention by representatives of the Federal Ministry of Health and partner organizations due to the fact that the majority of these Woredas are located in hard-to-reach and pastoralist areas of the Country.

...Contd. to page 11
CCRDA/Sida Joint Program PIPs Review Workshop Held

CCRDA/Sida joint program project implementing partners (PIPs) bi-annual review workshop was held here at the head office from 29-30 July, 2010.

The workshop was aimed at reviewing the 2010 first six-month project progress, discussing observed challenges and problems, sharing experiences and best practices and arriving at common understanding on the way forward.

During the course of the two-day review workshop 22 PIPs engaged in Environmental Development and Protection as well as HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control projects made presentations on the progress of their respective projects.

Thorough discussions were made on each presentation and participants of the workshop exchanged experiences and best practices in their respective fields of engagement.

Concerning the progress at the Head Office level, Ato Mesfin indicated that a proposal has been prepared and submitted to Sida for the third time project extension period.

An agreement has been signed for the release of the total secured fund amounting to SEK 6,000,000 (Birr 11,001,600), he said adding that 22 PIPs have been requested and mentored to submit proposals for the third time project extension period.

With regard to facilitation for additional budget, a proposal has been submitted to Sida office for additional budget of SEK 2,500,000 (Birr 4.6 million).

Speaking on the challenges and problems faced at the Program Office level, he said lack of long term budget commitment with Sida, staff turnover in some of the PIPs as well as lack of quality and timeliness in reports, account settlement and other project related information were some of the challenges witnessed in the third time project extension period implementation.

The two-day workshop has reached on consensus on several issues as the way forward. In this regard, participants underlined the need to expedite the signing of an agreement with Sida for the additional budget of the third time program extension period.

The participants also underscored the urgent need to finalize the approval of additional budget for each PIP project and getting revised the six-month plan of PIP projects.

It was stated at the conclusion of the workshop that PIPs are required to prepare a one-year exit strategy and incorporate the strategy in their action plans.

PIPs were also urged to seriously consider the issue of transparency and good governance in their administrative system.

Draft WASH report presented for discussion

A consultative workshop aimed at discussing the draft annual Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) report of Civil Society Organizations was conducted here at the Secretariat on 20 August, 2010.

The draft WASH report of 41 CSOs was presented to the workshop by members of the taskforce established to compile the undertakings of NGO’s engaged in water, sanitation and hygiene activities.

The draft report compiling task force is composed of professionals drawn from CCRDA, Le Voluntaers International, German Agro Action, Catholic Relief Service, Water Action and Ripple.

It was noted on the occasion that the annual WASH CSO report provides, among other things, a monitoring and evaluation framework and regular assessment of the efficiency, effectiveness, impacts and sustainability of CSO interventions in WASH.

Together for a better future!
CCRDA Briefs Members on Charities ... (...Contd. from p.6)

An overview presentation on the Charities and Societies Proclamation, regulation and directives was made by Ato Jima Dilbo, a consultant and attorney-at-law, during the course of the briefing session.

Ato Jima’s presentation covered various issues including the historical background of registration of the CSOs, purpose and major elements of the new proclamation, major contents of the regulation and outstanding issues in the Charities and Societies Agency (CSA), which is mandated to implement the Proclamation.

Panel Discusses Situation of Street Children in Addis (...Contd. from p.7)

NGOs have adopted various strategies, models and approaches believed to be instrumental in addressing the problems of street children through various preventive, rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

The half-day panel discussion was attended by 31 participants drawn from various NGOs operating directly or indirectly on street children related issues.

WDF Holds Panel Discussion

Women’s Development Forum (WDF), one of the seven major thematic forums under the auspices of CCRDA, held a panel discussion here at the Secretariat on 24 August, 2010.

Presentations on women’s related packages, conventions, policy frameworks and NGOs intervention in gender issues were made at the half-day panel discussion.

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Vol. 2 No. 6, Aug.– Sep. 2010
www.crdaethiopia.org

Consultative Meeting on Draft GF HIV/AIDS Proposal conducted

A half-day consultative meeting on the draft HIV/AIDS proposal to be submitted to the 10th round Global Fund (GF) was held here at the head office of CCRDA on 6 August, 2010.

The objective of the consultative meeting organized by CCM was to share the draft proposal and get inputs from the concerned stakeholders.

In his welcoming address to the meeting, Ato Kifle-mariam Gebrewold, Special Advisor to CCRDA Executive Director said that the proposal writing team has been working for over a month in closed session to come up with a national HIV/AIDS proposal to be submitted to the Global Fund.

Ato Kifle-mariam also noted that CCRDA was glad to host the consultative meeting on the draft HIV/AIDS proposal, which he said has a national significance.

Participants of the workshop in partial discussions and exchange of experiences on the 10th round Global Fund HIV/AIDS proposal were made by participants of the consultative meeting, who were drawn from various CSOs, FBOs and CBOs.

It is to be recalled that CCRDA organized last June an orientation session to brief its members involved in anti-HIV/AIDS endeavors on the application process of the 10th round Global Fund grant scheme.

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

Together for a better future!
Sida Financed Wireless Network Launched

A wireless network financed by the in-house joint program of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and installed by Clear ICT was launched at the CCRDA on August 15, 2010.

As a training institute and host of several other NGO events, CCRDA will use the wireless connection to better serve trainees and guests, improve connectivity of the Secretariat and build its capacity to provide quality services to the Civil Society at large.

Information obtained from the Publication and Information Management Core Team indicates that the wireless connection is expected to serve thousands of customers and guests in the premises of the Secretariat within 50 meters radius.

The launching of the wireless network inside CCRDA will avail an alternative and sufficient Internet access to members, non-members, guests and other stakeholders.

CCRDA Briefs Members on Charities, Societies Proclamation

The Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA) conducted a briefing session to its members on the implementation of the new Charities and Societies proclamation and the subsequent regulation and directives here at the Secretariat on 18 August, 2010.

In his welcoming address to the half-day briefing session, Ato Regassa Aboma, Director of Membership Development and Networking Core Team noted that CCRDA regularly organizes such briefing sessions with a view to updating its members on the provisions of the Proclamation.

Panel Discusses Situation of Street Children in Addis

A panel discussion that deliberated on the situation of street children in Addis Ababa was held here at the Secretariat on 19 August, 2010.

The half-day panel discussion was organized by Children and Youth Welfare and Development Forum of CCRDA.

Presentations on the situation of street children in Addis both from the government’s and NGOs’ point of view were delivered on the occasion.

Ato Mesfin Zewdie from the Ministry of Women Affairs presented the government’s perspective on the situation of street children in Addis. His presentation covered various issues including, among others, magnitude of the problem, reasons and effects of streetism, policies, laws and plan of action related to street children, government responses and future directions.

According to a study conducted by Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE) in 2003, there are an estimated number of 100,000 street children in Ethiopia, Ato Mesfin said, adding that the figures is expected to have steadily risen at present.

Low family income, poverty, disintegration of parental life, family discord, death of parents, abuse and neglect by parents, lack of educational opportunity, parental push of children to work in the street to earn money, rural-urban migration, peer pressure and illegal trafficking are some of the major causes of streetism in Ethiopia, Mesfin noted.

Concerning the life situation of street children, the presenter said some are engaged in petty businesses like vending of different goods and articles; others are involved in worst forms of labor such as child prostitution, cleaning dirt and toilets.

Street children in Addis are also exposed to drug addiction, abuse, rape, stigma and discrimination. Still others are making a living by begging, and indulging in some social evils such as theft, according to the presentation.

With regard to the government’s responses to the problems of street children, he said, the Ethiopian government has developed economic and social policies and two plans of actions, ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, launched a national program on child protection and established national and regional task forces on orphan and vulnerable children.

The formulation of a Comprehensive Child Policy, which is in the pipeline, and the drafting of a law to establish a Child Fund are the other initiatives taken by the Government to mitigate the problems of vulnerable children in the country.

Presenting the situation of street children in Addis from NGO’s point of view, Ato Abebaw Bekele from Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE) said over 60 NGOs are directly working with street children in Addis Ababa. The program interventions of more than 105 NGOs are indirectly targeting street children.
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Members & staff using wireless network

It is to be recalled that CCRDA had run a series of advertisements on the Ethiopian national television announcing that its training facilities could be accessed by interested groups and the public at large.

In a related news, CCRDA is making preparations to upgrade its web portal system with the financial assistance it secured from Sida.

The upgrading of the web portal is mainly aimed at providing efficient, fast and responsive web services to members, Forums, non-members, development partners, donors and other stakeholders.

Currently, CCRDA has issued a bid to hire a consultant that can redesign the Consortium’s website in such a way that it can support e-CSO and e-Forum transactions; such as on-line form submission, on-line application and a variety of other online services.

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It was noted on the occasion that the annual WASH CSO report provides, among other things, a monitoring and evaluation framework and regular assessment of the efficiency, effectiveness, impacts and sustainability of CSO interventions in WASH.

Participants of the workshop deliberated at length on the draft report and expressed their comments and reflections on the document.

Draft WASH report presented for discussion

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**Workshop Discusses GO-NGO Operations, Relations in Oromiya**

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Around 400 Ethiopian CSOs have been benefiting from capacity development activities in the framework of this joint European Union-government of Ethiopia program.

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**Annual Partners’ Planning Forum ...**

It was noted on the occasion that CORE Group Ethiopia polio project plan for Fiscal Year 2011, which combines plan of the Secretariat and of all partner organizations, would be prepared soon.

CORE Group Ethiopia conducts planning forums every year being aware of their critical importance for proper planning of project activities, which will bring an added value to effective implementation of activities at field level.

Besides, such forums provide participants with the opportunity to share best grass-root experiences and practices that would enable them to scale up the implementation of EPI and surveillance activities in their respective catchments.

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It is the first legally recognized umbrella association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Ethiopia. It has been the voice of the Ethiopian civil society for over 37 years now.

It grew from a mere relief coordinating office formed to respond to the humanitarian crisis of the 1973/74 famine to a complex organization engaged in a multi-dimensional development endeavors. Over the years, its services and membership have expanded by leaps and bounds.

It is credited for promoting collaborative working relationship between the government and the NGO community in Ethiopia. Its contribution towards enhancing the role of the civil society in the nation building process has been quite remarkable. Strengthening NGOs/CSOs execution capacity is one of the multitude tasks that it is well known for.

This organization is none other than the Consortium of the Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA), which is reputed for striving indefatigably for societal transformation and a vibrant civil society in Ethiopia.

Restructured from CRDA to CCRDA in 2009, the Consortium is ready more than ever before to redefine its efforts to build a robust Ethiopian civil society that is strong enough to influence and make a difference.

About CCRDA

Annual Partners’ Planning Forum Conducted

CCRDA CORE Group Ethiopia conducted Annual Partners’ Planning Forum and Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Management training at CCRDA main conference hall from 26-31 July 2010. Updates and refresher training on different immunization topics were given in the first four days while the remaining two days were allotted for planning exercise of the project partner organizations for the Fiscal Year 2011.

Senior advisors from CORE Group Head Quarter in Atlanta, USA, Director and program officers of CORE Group Secretariat and senior experts of the Federal Ministry of Health, World Health Organization and UNICEF made presentations on broad range of related topics.

NGOs Role Said Vital in Implementation

To buttress the urban development agenda, NGOs can engage in training and awareness raising activities, provision of loans, transfer of knowledge, construction of various public facilities such as water and sanitation services and youth development centers.

NGOs are also most welcome to actively participate in solid waste management and rehabilitation of Addis Ababa, he said.

With a view to encouraging NGOs participation in the urban development sector, the City Administration has taken several tangible measures, according to Ato Ireal.

He said the City Administration has established an NGO Coordinating Unit, GO-NGO Partnership Forum and a General Assembly comprising NGOs, CBOs and government bodies that work on issues related to urban development.

On the occasion, a presentation on the current urban policies, programs and packages of Ethiopia was also delivered by Ato Tadese G/Gorjig, Policy and Program Formulation Directorate Director in the Ministry of Works and Urban Development.

Mrs. Dora Ward, Senior Technical Advisor of Core Group Headquarters addressing the Forum

The presentation topics focused, among other things, on disease surveillance, routine immunization, communication and behavior change framework, newborn tracking, vaccine and cold chain management as well as planning and management of EPI at Woreda level.

During the planning exercise of the training, each Woreda prepared annual plan for Fiscal Year 2011 based on the knowledge and skills gained during the course of the training and with technical support from officers of partner organizations and CORE Group Secretariat.

Cont’d to page 3
In open and transparent voting procedure, the Meeting elected members for CCRDA Board, Membership Development Committee as well as Organizational Development and Financial Management Committee.

Of the eight candidates fielded for CCRDA Board membership, the meeting elected Wz. Mekdes Yilma, National Network of Positive Women Ethiopians, Ato Berhanu Geto from Rift Valley Women and Children Development Association, Ato Zegye Asfaw from HUNDE and Ato Feleke Tedelle from Oxfam Canada as CCRDA board members.

Six candidates including Ms. Sarina Prabasi from Water Aid, Dr. Yared Mekonnen from Life in Abundance, Ato Amare Bedada from OSSA, Ato Alemayehu Teshome from LIVE-ADDIS- Ethiopian Residents Charity, Ato Melaku Sibhat from Redeem the Generation and Ato Zemicheal Amare Bedada from OSSA, Ato Alemayehu Teshome from ASSR were elected as Membership Development Committee members.

In a related news, six candidates namely Dr. Fesseha Hailemeskel from ADHENO Integrated Rural Development Association, Wz. Beletu Mengestu from ISAPSO, Ato Joseph Negassa from Action for Development, Ato Ephrem Berhanu from Talent Youth Association, Wz. Rele-musa Dubale from Fares Integrated Development Organization and Ato Adane Kassa from Water Action were elected as members of the Organizational Development and Financial Management Committee.

Dr. Retta Memberu from Action Aid Ethiopia was elected as Membership Assembly Vice Chairperson.

In its half-day session the Meeting also heard and unanimously endorsed CCRDA Board report, CCRDA 2009 Performance and Audit report as well as minutes of the 230th CCRDA General Assembly Meeting.

In addition, the Meeting established a three-member committee charged with the task of critically reviewing CCRDA’s draft bylaws and present its reflections and comments to the Board.

The Meeting was attended by 151 people representing various CCRDA members.

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**Newly Arrived Reference Materials**

- World Development Indicators 2010
- World Bank Civil Society Engagement
- Integrated Natural Resource Management to Enhance Food Security
- Mainstreaming Minerals Wealth in Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategies
- Environmental and Poverty Reduction (World Bank)
- Understanding Growth and Poverty (World Bank)
- Global Development Finance
- African Development Indicators

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**Inside this Issue:**

- Annual Partners’ Planning Forum Conducted
- CCRDA/Sida Joint Program PIPs Review Workshop Held
- Consultative Meeting on Draft GF HIV/AIDS Proposal Conducted
- Sida Financed Wireless Network Launched
- CCRDA Briefs Members on Charities, Societies Proclamation
- Panel Discusses Situation of Street Children in Addis
- WDF Holds Panel Discussion
- Draft WASH Report Presented for Discussion
- Workshop Discusses GO-NGO Operations, Relations in Oromiya
- NGO Role Said Vital in Implementation of Urban Policies, Programs
- Newly Arrived Reference Materials

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**PM Meles, Ministers held discussion with NGOs/CSOs on Growth & Transformation Plan**

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Ato Girma Birru- Minister of Trade & Industry and Ato Meckonnen Manyazewal- State Minister of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) held discussions with representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Civic Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations on the national Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) on 25 & 26 August, 2010.

The discussions focused, among other things, on the underlying assumptions, core principles and objectives of the Growth and Transformation Plan as well as the role of NGOs/CSO in the realization of the five year plan that runs from 2003 to 2007 E.C.

Exchange of views and ideas was also made on the pillar strategies of GTP and the action/program plans designed to implement the strategic pillars.

The discussion held on 25 August, 2010 at the Sidist Kilo Convention Center was chaired by Ato Girma Birru, while the one convened at the Office of the Prime Minister on 26 August was chaired by PM Mel's Zenawi.

It was noted on the discussion forums that the GTP would enable the nation to double its agricultural produce and accelerate the general economic growth by registering 14.9 percent growth on average.

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**EU Grants 1.6 mln. Euro to Ethiopian CSOs**

The Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia has awarded grant contracts to 12 Ethiopian NGOs/CSOs worth about 1.6 million euro from the European Commission Civil Society Fund in Ethiopia program.