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INTERNATIONAL LINKS

Network Event Observed



A two-week long Starters Mission activities of diaspora entrepreneurs took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the auspices of IntEnt and SMUC.

During the weeks of activities the entrepreneurs developed business plan on a variety of sectors including agricultural products, glass produces, etc. that they are planning to engage on. The Ethiopian diaspora held discussions with various high level government officials, the management of financial institutions and other related government and non-government organizations. St. Mary's University College played a key role in arranging these meetings, providing well furnished rooms with laptops, internet service, and making six Marketing Management students available to assist them. The students noted that their participation was a good opportunity to translate their classroom theories into practice.

On February 19, 2010, a Network Event was organized, as part of the activities held, by IntEnt Foundation and St. Mary's University College at Jupiter International Hotel, Addis Ababa.



Wondwosen Tamrat, (Asst.Prof.) President of SMUC, in his opening speech congratulated the IntEnt team and the Ethiopian Diaspora, for being able to successfully launch Starters Mission Ethiopia. He expressed that SMUC is really pleased and proud of being part of the initiative. The President emphasized that the major objective of the Starters Mission Ethiopia corresponds well with the aims of SMUC, which is working towards the creation of Ethiopian entrepreneurs through excellence in teaching, research and services.



The President further remarked that St. Mary's would continue its commitment to ensure similar future initiatives not only to get them started, but also to get their tasks completed successfully.



His Excellency Dr. Hans Blankonberg, Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands, in his Keynote Address, underlined the challenges and the risk which could be faced by people returning to their roots as diaspora entrepreneurs. The Ambassador pointed out that his embassy will always be ready to assist the Ethiopian-Dutch entrepreneurs in obtaining information on issues that concern their business initiatives. The Ambassador, at the end, extended his gratitude to St. Mary's University College, and to IntEnt for their exemplary collaboration in organizing the program.

'Meleya' on its Fourth Year

'Meleya,' is a project that has come into existence in 2005 by the collaborative efforts of Debitu Lusteau, an Ethiopian woman, and Michel Le Roux from France, and the students

of New Business School Amsterdam, and St. Mary's University College. 'Meleya' has now taken another step forward with an ambition to sell 6,000 killos of coffee within the next six months and open coffee corners in Amsterdam and, if possible here in Addis Ababa.



The 14 students team from NBS led by Ben Wijering, Dean of Education at the New Business School Amsterdam, worked with the 12 students of St. Mary's team on the franchise looks of the coffee corners emphasizing both the Ethiopian and Dutch cultures. Besides, linking entrepreneurship centers to the project was also part of the assignments the students were supposed to carry out. To this end, both teams presented their findings on entrepreneurship centers in Amsterdam and Addis Ababa and noted the contribution of such centers to start up businesses such as Meleya.

During the teams visit to the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union, briefings were made to them: Ato Tedesse Meskela, General Manager of the Cooperative Union, on

the role of the cooperatives union in the coffee trading process; Mr. Joe Human, a British fair trade activist, on the paramount importance of the fair trade to the individual farmers, the cooperatives and the country as a whole; and Ato Abinet Bekele, Training Manager of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) on the roles and contributions in the smooth transaction of commercial crops during their visit of ECX to witness coffee auctions.



On the final day, 3 April 2010, the team split into five groups. Each presented its findings on the looks and the feels of the soon to come to existence coffee corners and on the various major marketing mix elements in front of a jury. The jury selected the best setting of the coffee corners. It was composed of Saskia Klaizeman, Managing Director of North South Consulting, Ato Abinet Bekele from ECX, Ato Tadesse Meskela and Ato Zekarias Zerihun, General Manager and Export and Logistics Expert from Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union, respectively.

Finally, brief complimentary comments were given by various persons to all those who took part in the project since its inception. Mr. Michel Le Roux, General Manager of Aelterego noted that Meleya has grown well and the product line will expand further in honey, wine and beer under the some brand name-Meleya. He remarked that the future of Meleya is bright; and invited interested individuals to take part in this historical journey. Mr. Jacques Dubias, consultant partner of Muya Ethiopia PLC, has lived in Ethiopia for over 40 years and worked on promoting Ethiopian culture, passed his compliments to the students on how noble the project that they are carrying out is and its ultimate benefit in changing the image of Ethiopia in the world for the better.



At the end, Mr. Ben Wijering, on his part, said that the week-long activity has taken the four year-old project into another level and announced that letters of commendations will be written to all the students who have taken part in the project from the beginning.



The Department of Marketing Management, SMUC, expressed that St. Mary's is greatly indebted to Mrs Saskia Kloezeman, Mr. Jaques Dubias Ato Tadesse Meskela, Ato Zekarias Zerihunm Ato Abinet Bekele and the students of both institutions who have contributed a great deal to the success of the week-long event.



The formal mutual experience (cultural and educational) etc sharing were held during lunch time at the Multi-purpose Hall, SMUC, in which formal individual introductions, group discussions and Ethiopian 'Zefen' took turns enjoying the aroma coming from traditional Coffee Ceremony. The event was viewed as educative, entertaining and successful as witnessed by the participants.

Students Exchange Program

Ass. Prof. Mary Vandar Wal of Calvin College, Michigan, USA, and Ato Baye Nigatu, External Relations Office Head (SMUC), arranged a student-exchange program between Calvin College, Michigan, USA, and SMUC students in the month of August 2009 in Addis Ababa.

As agreed, January 14, 2010 early afternoon, Mexico Campus, SMUC, was markedly full of excitement of Calvin College students and St. Mary's.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overhauling Organizational Structure at St. Mary's

At joint session of the AC and senate of the UC held on sept 19, 2009, President and Founder of St. Mary's Wondwosen Tamirat (Ass.Prof) disclosed that significant change had been made on the overall structure of the UC based on the Senate's new legislation.

Accordingly, four major divisions led by Vice-Presidents are established. These are Executive Vice-President, Vice President for Open Distance Learning, Vice President for Research, Graduate Students & Outreach Services, and Vice-President for Business & Administration. Similarly, other offices, centers, units, etc are created or reorganized.

Training

Business Faculty, SMUC, gave training on 'Communication Management' to management leaders of Lideta sub-city at different levels on the 11th and 12th of February, 2010 at the Multi-purpose Hall, SMUC.



The objective of the training was to enhance the communication and management skills of the Sub-city management body.

Ato Abebe Yirdaw, from the Business Faculty, SMUC, gave the training on communication covering such issues as 'Basic Concepts', 'Steps; 'Vertical & Horizontal, and Barriers of communication'; and on 'Effective Speaking & Listening'; etc.



Similarly the Faculty gave 'General Managerial Training' to Management members of 'Kebele' 15/16 (Kirkos Sub-City) at various levels from March 15-17, 2010, at the Business Faculty Syndicate Room, SMUC.

As the objective of the training was to enhance the managerial skills of the participants, issues like, 'Concepts, Methods and Techniques of General Management'; 'Team Management', 'Leadership,' 'planning', Communication' and 'Controlling' were the major focus of the training.

Participants of both training commented that the contents of the training were highly related with their task, and extended their appreciation to St. Mary's.



Practicum Enhancement

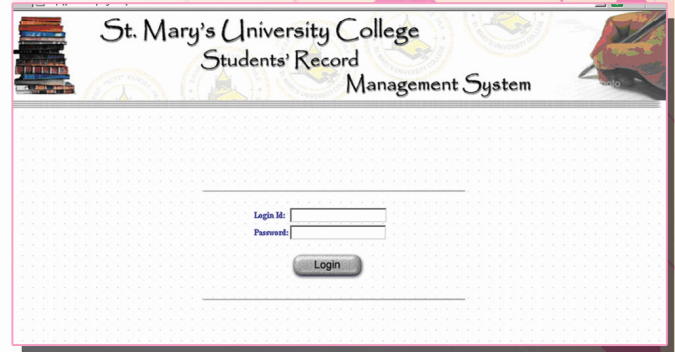
The Practicum and Apprenticeship Office (SMUC) had given a half-day workshop on Feb 27,2010 on 'Practicum Enhancement' to teacher and directors from 13 partner KG schools.

The objective of the workshop, according to Ato Fisseha Tesfaye, Head of the Office, was to create awareness among partner KG school directors and teachers. To this effect, the resource person, Ato Demeke Fekadu, Pre-school Curriculum Expert, Addis Ababa Education Bureau, gave highlights on Pre-school Curriculum, current status of preschool students in Addis Ababa, in the regions and at a national level. He also talked on practicum concepts and its implementation in relation to the Pre-school teachers training program. The workshop was participatory, and was highly appreciated by the participants.

A New Record System at the Registrar

The Office of the Registrar has introduced a new automated Student Record Management System. The introduction has made data encoding, retrieving, updating, and generating different reports, and transcripts, easier and less time consuming. Every member of the registrar staff has been given a username and password with a privilege according to schedule. The system has also lessened the burden of cash collectors since the Registrar system

provides them with the name and ID number of newly registered students on time.



As the new record management system is also made accessible to Faculties/ Departments, they can give their respective students the appropriate advice and helps them to make decisions by easily reaching students academic status and other related information.

In the future, the Office of the Registrar has planned to make the database accessible for various other offices in the Institution. The plan also includes access to students that would allow them have their personal grade and other general information from the Registrar's database.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

National Rounds Jesup Moot Court Competition



The Faculty of Law, SMUC, facilitated the 2010 Ethiopian National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition at Mexico Campus, Multi-Purpose Hall, SMUC, from February 22-24, 2010.

The National Rounds was held to identify the winning Jessup Team among Ethiopian universities, i.e. Bahir Dar, Jimma, Wollega and Haromaya. The winning team shall represent Ethiopia in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court competition held annually every spring in Washington D.C.

Bahir-Dar University won the National Rounds; and Kenean Assefa from the same University won the best oralist award, while Haromaya University won the Runner-up Best Team Award.

At the end of the competition, certificates were given to the 13 participant students and to 16 judges.



The 51st Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition like the 50th, was sponsored by St. Mary's University College, Justice for All & PF-Ethiopia, and Justice & Legal System Research Institute.



Memorandum of Understanding Signed

St. Mary's University College and BEFIKIR TSERE AIDS MAHIBER signed a Memorandum of Understanding on January 29, 2010.



BEFIKIR TSERE AIDS MAHIBER is a local NGO, established mainly, to work towards a favorable and enabling social environment to children who are orphaned by the HIV pandemic and to the elderly.

SMUC, in signing the document, has agreed to play its own role to the well-being and benefits of those children and the elderly.

Similarly, SMUC signed memorandum of understanding with Hibret Lelimat Maekel (HLM) on March 21, 2010.

HLM, an indigenous not-for profit non-government development organization devoted to Brain Gain is established to operate nationally and internationally. It has its headquarter in Addis Ababa and contact persons in countries with a large number of Ethiopian Diaspora.

SMUC, as an institution of higher learning working towards creating the optimum conditions for effective teaching, research and outreach services, signed the MoU with HLM to promote sustainable scholarly activities through Brain Gain Scheme.

In like manner, an international memorandum of understanding was signed by and between

ORTEC TSS, GOUDA, THE NETHERLANDS AND ST. Mary's University College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 23rd of March, 2010.

The purpose of this agreement is based on the intention to set up a football analysis centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The project implementation, which is to be evaluated by both parties later on, has been underway at St. Mary's, Mexico Campus since December, 2009.

The fundamental focus of the two parties was to create opportunities for the young generation in general for the students of St. Mary's in particular to be technically advanced through knowledge transfer activities; build friendship through sport; and to increase the parties social contribution by offering job opportunities.

Community Gestures

It has almost become an annual tradition for the Welfare Club of SMUC- organized under the Student Union and working closely with Student Support and Services Office (SSSO) to collect clothings and money from the community of SMUC and visit the needy. On February 25, 2010, the Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed (Moulid) the Welfare Club donated clothings, estimated at about Birr 10,500.00 to street children in Addis Ababa.





Similarly, on the eve of Easter, the 3rd of April 2010, the club donated clothings estimated at about Birr, 10,500.00 and sheep, bread, juice and post cards worth Birr 4,000.00 to the sick around Entoto Church.

In another development, Ato Seifu Hailu, SMUC, initiated a charity luncheon event for

thirty orphaned children of 'kebele' 15/16/17, Lideta-Sub-city on the Ethiopian Easter i.e. April 4, 2010. The community of SMUC, very soon, collaborated with Seifu and contributed Birr 810.00. With the Co-operation of W/t Simret Bireda, representative of 'Kebele 15/16/17/ Children Affairs Bureau, the charity was held on April 11, 2010 at the hall of the 'kebele'.



CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Experience Sharing

The Student Support Services Office (SSSO) held experience sharing session of students with invited private higher education institutions. This was held on March 18, 2010 at Mexico campus, Business Faculty Syndicate Room.



Baye Nigatu, Head of Information and Communication Office, and W/o Tsige Tafesse, Head, SSSO, SMUC, talked as resource persons on the issue looking back to their own experiences; and representatives from other

institutions presented their own experiences. At the end of the session, community services was given emphasis as one of the institutional agenda of HEIs.

March 8 Celebrated

Organized by Gender Office, March 8 was celebrated on March 9, 2010 at SMUC, Multi-Purpose Hall, in the presence of students, instructors, office employees and invited guests.



W/rt Hirut Gedlu, a volunteer working on HIV/AIDS; W/o Worknesh Munie, Manager of Kibre-Aregawian Migbare-Senay Dirijit;



W/ro Yenatfanta Kasa from Keble 07/14 Women's Affairs Office, Lideta Sub-City, talked on issues related to HIV/AIDS; and assertiveness as way for success. The historical background of March 8 and explanation on the international motto for the year 2010, 'Equal Right; Equal Opportunity Progress for All' was highlighted by W/o Ergoge Tesfaye, Head of Gender Office, SMUC



W/rt Hirut Gedlu

W/ro Yenatfanta Kasa



W/o Worknesh Munie



W/o Ergoge Tesfaye

French Classes @ SMUC

The UC has taken another step forward in availing extracurricula activities and lessons to the community of the UC by starting a French Language course.

Around twenty students, including former students and staff members, have already registered and started attending class as of 7 April 2010.

The year-long course is expected to have four levels, each with three months length.

The primary objective of the course is to increase students marketability in the business world and improve the interpersonal skills of the trainers.

The Hot Seat

The annual students Question and Answer Competition event organized by the Student Support & Service Office (SSSO) kicked off on 31 March 2010.

Five departments from the three faculties of Business, Informatics and Law, both in the degree and TVET programs, are participating in this competition. The competition is expected to be carried out within seven weeks; the event being held each Wednesday every week.





PARTICIPATIONS

Lideta Sub-City Regular Assembly

Baye Nigatu, Head, Office of the External Relations attended the 2nd year 2nd Regular Assembly of Lideta Sub-City Council as an observer, on the 3rd of March 2010 at the Kebele 15/16/17 Hall. The UC acknowledges the Lideta Sub-City Council Speaker's Office for its respectful invitation.

Educational Assembly

Similarly, the Head of the Office of the External Relation attended the first half of 2002 E.C. Educational Assembly of Lideta Sub-city organized by the Sub-City on March the 14th, 2010 at the hall of Anbassa Shoe Factory.

Baye commented that the reports presented show the initiatives of the sub-city towards quality and the challenges faced and the rewards given to meritorious to better performers of students and teachers would have positive impact to the teaching-learning activities.

Anniversary Celebration

In another development, Baye attended the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Ethiopian Civil Service University College on March 20, 2010 in the presence of HE President Girma W/Giorgis and the Federal and Regional officials within the premises of the University College.

The President of the University College, Dr. Hailemichael Abera, talked on the vital inputs of the institution in the sphere of the civil service and the challenges confronted. The colorful anniversary celebration and the graduation ceremony of the University College were held at the same time.

Welcoming Event

On February 27, 2010, Ato Baye Nigatu joined the Welcoming Event of Queens College President, Ms. Cynthia Streltgou; and visited the Art Exhibition event in the premises of the College. St. Mary's acknowledges Queens College for its invitation.

Inauguration

On March 7, 2010, the Head of Information Communication Office attended the inauguration of the museum erected by the Association for the Erection of Martyrs' Memorial Monument situated at Meskel square.

Training of Trainers

From February 8-13, 2010, W/o Ergogie Tesfaye, Head of Gender Office, SMUC, attended the Training of Trainers on HIV and AIDS Mainstreaming in Private Higher Education Institution organized by the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (FHAPCO) at Adama.

In the presence of 31 different private higher education institutions, issues like 'concepts and Definition of HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming;' 'Steps in Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS'; 'Key HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming Tool' 'Social Mobilization on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS'; etc. were discussed.

The Director and Deputy Director of FHAPCO, the Director of ETQAA, Presidents and Vice-Presidents of PHEIs and other distinguished guests discussed on how



HIV/AIDS mainstreaming program could be implemented. Consequently, after the Presidents, Vice-presidents and representatives of PHEIs discussed the matter thoroughly, the participants issued a resolution of commitment to mainstream HIV/AIDS in their respective institutions. FHAPCO, on its part, promised to offer technical and financial support to the universities, and university colleges to mainstream HIV/AIDS.

Workshop at Gondar University

Dr. Girma Mitiku, Head, Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, SMUC, attended a five day workshop, i.e., April 16 – 20, 2010 on “Auditing the underground curriculum for employability-a method and its implications to the degree program in Tourism Management at Gondar University, Ethiopia. The project as jointly undertaken by the UK Department for Business, Innovations and skills (BIS) and Gondar University Department of Tourism and Hotel Management.

The objective of the workshop was to share and enhance the employability of BA graduates in Tourism Management based on the study and experience of Gondar University.

Forum Against HIV/AIDS

As a continuation of the Training of Trainers on HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming in Private Higher Education Institutions, the ‘Schedule for Workshop to Establish Higher Institution Forum Against HIV/AIDS’ was held on March 26 and 27, 2010 at Adama, Dire International Hotel. It was organized by the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (FHAPCO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

The objective of the forum was to establish partnership among public and private institutions against HIV/AIDS.

Baye Nigatu and Ergogie Tesfaye, Head of Information and Communication, Head of Gender Office, SMUC, respectively, attended the forum which constituted public & private higher education institutions.

Issues like ‘Ethiopian Multisectoral HIV/AIDS Response & Governance’ (FHAPCO), ‘Response of the Federal Ministry of Education Against the Epidemic in Coordinating Higher Institutions & Partners Working in the area, Lesson Learned & Challenges’ (MOE); ‘Partnership, Concept, Managing, Reviewing & Sustaining; National partnership forum and UNAIDS etc. which highlighted the objective of the forum were presented and elaborated by the participants themselves.

After briefings on the TOR, the plan of action was presented and endorsed.

Finally, the workshop ended it’s a day and half session by electing members of the executive committee of the Higher Institutions Forum Against HIV/AIDS.

ICT Workshop

Member of the Informatics Faculty, SMUC, Asrat Mulatu, attended a launching workshop of ‘Localized ICT Content’ organized by i-Concept Publishing PLC in collaboration with Ethiopian Information & Communication Technology Development Agency on February 6, 2010 at Jupiter International Hotel, Addis Ababa.



The objective of the workshop was on how to foster localization of ICT content and on how to integrate and synchronize efforts.

The resource persons, Ato Teshome Worku from EICTDA, talked on 'EICIDA Overview and Progress Made'; and Ato Naoll Addisu from i-Concept Publishing PLC, on 'Localization of ICT-Key Issues Challenges and Ato Yemiru Chanyalew from Eventive LLC on Development of Local Systems/Outstanding works in Ethiopia'. According to Asrat, the workshop created the opportunity to the participants to enrich their grasp on the existing efforts on ICT content localization and its accessibility.

Participation in Conference

Similarly, Ergogie Tesfaye, Gender Office Head, SMUC, attended the 'Conglomeration of local, Ethiopian Diaspora and International Women's Conference' organized by People to People, Inc. /P2p/, whose headquarters is in the USA and operational offices in Ethiopia, on February the 27th 2010 at Intercontinental Hotel.

The conference which was held under the theme of 'Empowering Women is Empowering a Nation' was officially opened by Dr. Theodros Adhanom, Hon. Minister of Health.

The focus and objective was to facilitate a platform where key stakeholders in government, and non-government organizations, the diaspora, national and international partners, the medical and public health community, and advocacy groups for women exchange proven approaches and strategies of tackling crucial issues which are near and dear to women.

Several papers related to women's health and education were presented. Among these, 'The Perceived Impact of Family Planning and Reproductive Health on Women's Empowerment' by Yemisrach Belayneh, (Country Advisor Packed), 'Women and HIV/AIDS' by W/o Tsigie Teferi (HAPCO) 'Women and Education' by Dr. BT Constantinos, were some among the many.

The conference was interesting and participatory, Ergogie Tesfaye commented; and gave opportunity for different organizations (government and non-government), to create links.



Photo Gallery

