



ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Committed to Excellence!

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The 3rd Annual National Multi- disciplinary Seminar



The 3rd Annual National Multi- disciplinary Seminar was held on September 20, 2011 at the Multi – purpose Hall, Mexico Campus, SMUC, under the auspices of the Research & Knowledge Office, SMUC.

Asst. Prof. Wondwosen Tamrat, President and Founder of St. Mary's, in his welcoming speech underscored that the seminar was within the framework of the requirements of higher institutions with an objective of sorting out the problems that challenge the society.



Eight papers, two from Dilla University, and one from the National Archives Library and the rest from St. Mary's University College, were presented. The major FOCUS of the papers were education and development.

Ato Tedle Haile, the Executive Vice–president of St. Mary's in his closing speech expressed the importance of such multi-disciplinary seminars to develop the culture of research and their contributions to enhance the quality of the teaching-learning process. He also extended his thanks and appreciation to the organizers, paper presenters and participants.



St. Mary's Won the Access Project



St. Mary's University College won The English Access Micro-Scholarship Project of the US Embassy of 2010-2011. The two-year Project Program is intended for improving the English language capacities of 100 students of grades 11 and 12 chosen from public high schools,



SMUC President, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, in his welcoming speech at the launching ceremony of the English Access Micro-Scholarship Project, stated that St. Mary's has had a long-standing and cordial relationship with the US Embassy since its establishment and has been one major beneficiary of such schemes. The President noted that the program would further allow the UC to extend its efforts in the improvements of the language capacities of the selected 100 students. He also mentioned that the needed preparations to ensure the successful run of the two-year program has been made by the language department of the UC. Wondwosen remarked that the execution of the tasks and duties requires the continued assistance of the Embassy and a closer contact among the two parties. He also thanked the American Embassy and the Public Affairs Section.



In a similar development Robert Post, Public Affairs Officer of the American Embassy to Ethiopia, handed out the English ACCESS Scholarship Certificates to the 100 students at the Multi-Purpose Hall, SMUC on October 20, 2011. Mr. Post pointed out that the scholarship was given to academically promising and economically disadvantaged students. He added that the awardees would have a two-year intensive English language classes together with exposure to American Culture and democratic values. He also stated that the training will help the trainees increase their ability to participate successfully in the socio-economic development of their country.



Workshop on Farmer Innovation

A stakeholder workshop on ‘findings of Farmer Innovation Project’ was held on Nov.26, 2011 at SMUC. Participants were farmers, researchers and extension agents.



The project was funded by the Technical Center for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA) based in the Netherlands. The farmers and extension agents were drawn from the three target districts of Ada, Gimbichu (Oromia Regional State) and Morete ena Jiru (Amhara Regional state).



According to the researchers, the study revealed that some of the farmers’ indigenous agricultural technology is superior to that achieved by researchers. The researchers noted that some farmers updated their knowledge faster than the researchers and extension agents with whom they interacted. They also observed that the farming techniques of peasants reflect considerable knowledge of soil management, environmental protection and regeneration of soil fertility.



Finally, it was recommended that a larger sample of farmers from wider area coverage should be used to obtain a more meaningful data and refine the study.



Opening remarks at the workshop were given by Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Asst. prof.), Founder and President of SMUC, and the closing remarks were delivered by Dr Mengistu Hulluka, Director of the Institute of Agriculture and Development Studies, SMUC.

Training

The Center for Entrepreneurship Innovation, SMUC, gave training to 13 would-be entrepreneurs; 3 from ‘Wereda’ 9- Ledeta Sub-city, 5 private and 5 from SMUC. The training on ‘Entrepreneurship Development’ was held from Oct 24-Nov.4, 2011. at two separate syndicate rooms, Mexico Campus, SMUC.

The resource persons, Ato Hailemleket Taye, Ato Taye Nigatu and Ato Mekdela Mekuria, from SMUC, talked on ‘Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneur,’ ‘Idea Generation and Marketing,’ ‘Business Plan Preparation,’ ‘Feasibility Study and Project Cycle Management’.

Ato Tewodros Bezu, Head of the Center commented that the training would help the trainees to be innovative and perform their jobs efficiently.



THE MORATORIUM ON DISTANCE LEARNING LIFTED

On Nov 8, 2010, the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Audit Agency (HERQA) released assessment results on Distance and Cross-Border Education. The Agency stated that the assessment was carried out on both public and private higher education institutions, employing institutional inspection and administering examinations on selected subjects to students of the distance mode. The Agency added that higher institutes which provide masters degrees through Cross-Border Education in collaboration with foreign institutions were also assessed on their institutional quality. Accordingly, St. Mary's University College is certified by HERQA as one of the higher education institution that will continue to provide training in Distance Education in the under-graduate and Cross-Border Education.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Training on Customer Handling



In another development, St. Mary's University College gave training on 'Customer Handling and Services' from October 7-8, 2010 to 40 different Woreda Executives, Lideta Sub-city Administration. Lideta Sub-city Administration Capacity Building Office wrote a letter of thanks to St. Mary's for the training their employees were provided.

A Small Gesture of Support

St. Mary's extended financial support to the inauguration the opening of the school Yetsedoye Merkorios Secondary School 'የፀደየ መርቆሪዎስ ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ት/ቤት' at Mikre, Simada Wereda, a remote area in South Gondar Zone.

WITHIN-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Dissemination workshop



Gender Office, SMUC, held a 'Dissemination Workshop on 'HIV / AIDS and Anti -Sexual Harassment policies on Nov.17,2010 at the Multi-purpose Hall, Mexico Campus.

The objective of the workshop was to create awareness on the policies and their implementations. It was given to all members of offices, faculties, centers and units.

Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-president of St. Mary's, in his opening remarks underscored that the two essential policies were approved by the Senate of the UC and were made institutional policy documents as of Oct. 29, 2011. The workshop, he pointed out, was intended to create awareness on the two policies so that they could translate into real practices. This, he noted, would help minimize the spread of HIV/AIDS and prevent attempts of Sexual Harassment toward creating favorable working and teaching - learning environment. Since its establishment, St. Mary's has put in place the basic principles governing anti-sexual harassment.



HIV/STI Prevention

Recognizing the importance of addressing HIV/AIDS issues in order to solve or minimize the problems of HIV/AIDS, St. Mary's University College was the first private higher education institution to sign the MoU with the National Alliance State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). In addition, St. Mary's University College has adopted institutional HIV/AIDS and Sexual Harassment Policies and Programs to adequately implement and address HIV/AIDS and gender issues.

The Task Force, SMUC, which includes the Executive Vice-president of St. Mary's, Gender Office Head and HIV/AIDS institutional focal person, NASTAD focal person, Assistant V/President for Student Support Services, Student Wellness Unit Head, two staff representatives, Student Union President, and the Head of the Department of Marketing, works together with NASTAD team on HIV/STI Prevention Schemes.

The Task Force established on Oct.28,2011, held its first meeting here at St. Mary's. During its first session, the Task Force deliberated on its composition, duties and responsibilities, campus-wide HIV/STI Preventive Action Plan (from Nov.2011-June 2012) and mainstreaming. In addition, the Task Force talked on the need of institutional action plan of every office and faculty to incorporate gender and HIV/STI.

After W/ro Yetinayet T/wold, a member of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee, and W/ro Ergogie Tesfaye, Gender Officer, presented papers on 'Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy' and 'HIV and AIDS' respectively, participants actively discussed the issues to enrich the implementation of the provisions in the documents.

Review Meeting

It is to be recalled that St. Mary's won the grant allotted by the Association of African Universities for the Anti-Sexual Harassment and HIV/AIDS Policies it developed. Consequently, a review meeting was held on Nov.21, 2011 at St. Mary's with Prof. Malangu Matambwe from the Association of African Universities including the team that participated in the formulation of the policies. The team presented a report on the progress of the two policy documents and discussed related issues and the challenges that might emanate upon implementing them.

The review, among other things, reflected on opportunities, resource availability that could help and facilitate further the institutions engagement on HIV/AIDS, particularly mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into the curriculum, programs and plans of the UC; best practices of some African universities, including challenges, were also the main focuses of the Review Meeting.



International White Ribbon Day Observed

The community of St. Mary's observed the International White Ribbon Day at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall, SMUC, on Nov.26,2011.



According to W/or Ergogie Tesfaye, Gender Office Head, SMUC, the panel discussion on 'Sexual Violence against Women' and the 'White Ribbon Day' was organized by the UC in collaboration with Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC). Ergogie noted that this year the Day was marked under the theme, 'Stop Gender –Based Violence and Speed up the Renaissance Development'.

Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-president of St. Mary's, remarked that the community of St. Mary's University College has zero tolerance towards sexual harassment. The Senate of the UC, Ato Tedla added, has ratified 'HIV/AIDS and Anti-Sexual Harassment policies' and a committee that follows up and passes decisions and measures on filed sexual harassment cases. At last, he thanked EHRC, the Gender Office, the students and the instructors for their contributions to make the panel discussion a success.

W/rt Hilina Girma, an instructor from the Department of Accounting, SMUC, presented a paper on Sexual Harassment' & on the '16 Days Campaign on Sexual Violence Against Women' making reference to the relevant codes of Human Rights. Ergogie Tsfaye, on her part, offered brief explanations on the Anti- Sexual Harassment Policy of SMUC.



W/ro Asmaru Berihun, EHRC Commissioner for Women, Youth and Children, in her closing remarks, pointed out that the legal and political steps taken by the government are assisting the participation and improvement in the lives of women. The commissioner concluded her remarks by requesting the male and female participants to stand-up and pledge to join hands to alleviate and to bring an end to Sexual Harassment.

The Flag Day Inauguration



Baye Nigatu, Information & Communication Office Head, and Abebe Zenebe, Student Wellness Unit Head, SMUC, held a discussion with Lideta Sub-city representatives on the Annual National Flag Day Celebration during the first week of September 2010. On September 26, 2010, the community of St. Mary's celebrated the day at the Mexico Campus.



OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS

National Partnership Forum

Executive Vice-president, Ato Tedla Haile participated in the two - day long (Nov 5 and 6, 2011) training on 'HIV Leadership & Discussion on Current Status of HIV Main Streaming and the Way Forward'; and Gender Office Head, W/ro Ergogie Tesfaye, SMUC, the 'TOT Program on HIV Main-streaming' from Oct. 31 Nov- 4, 2010. The Higher Education Institutions' Partnership Forum Against HIV/AIDs in Ethiopia, which organized the above two training sessions, was sponsored by EHAPCO, MoE, National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) and Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC). The consultative meeting was held at Adama. Thirty-nine public and private higher institutions, that signed the MoU took part in the meeting, though 66 were expected to sign it.

The forum was opened by Ato Moges Menna, coordinator of the HEIs Forum Against HIV/ADS in Ethiopia. The opening and closing remarks were made by the State Minister of Health, Dr Kebede Worku and the State Minister for Higher Education, Dr. Kaba Urgessa, respectively. The two-day sessions were presided over by the two state ministers.

The main focus in both sessions was on how to implement the key term 'mainstreaming' in the educational sector.

Finally, emphasis was given on the commitment of the leadership in HEIs without which the realization and implementation of the objectives of the forum would bear no fruit.

Training

W/t Hilina Girma, an instructor in the Business Faculty, Department of Accounting, Bedria Jami, Gender Club President and Samuel T/Yesus,

Student Union President participated in a training organized by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. The training was intended for creating awareness on "Anti-sexual Harassment and Anti-sexual Abuses in the Eyes of Women's Rights". The training was held on Nov.10, 2011. at Churchill Hotel.

The participants reported that they found the training useful and shared a lot of views since the participants were from diverse organizations and higher education institutions.

Conference

Luisa Gattesch, a Research Officer at the Research and Knowledge Management Office, SMUC, participated in the African Economic Conference, 2011, on 'Green Economy and Structural Transformation in Africa.' The conference took place at the UN-ECA Conference Hall, Addis Ababa, from October 25-28, 2011.

Luisa commented that the conference mainly dealt on Africa's change in economic approach and environment protection focusing on innovative solutions.