

St. Mary's University College

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CONVOCATION

St. Mary's University College graduated 1,124 students of the regular division in diploma and degree of which more than 57% were female. The graduation took place on the 28th of August 2010 at the Addis Ababa University, Christmas Hall.



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Asst. Prof.), Founder and President of the UC, stated that the UC, since its inception, has been working hard to provide quality education in Technical & Vocational Education and Training, Undergraduate and Graduate Programs to fill the gap of skilled humanpower at the national level. Moreover, the President remarked that the UC continues to play a significant role in encouraging the contribution of students and teachers in the field of research. In this regard, the UC published three scientific journals and a bulletin, in addition to organizing three annual

research conferences which assist the dissemination of research results to users and to the society at large. St. Mary's, the President added, also encourages the publication of materials for students prepared by instructors of St. Mary's as well as other scholars from other higher institutions.

In the sphere of community services, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat added that the contribution of the UC in the scholarship grants to the economically disadvantaged families of the society and the welfare supports to orphans, the elderly, the youth, the needy, etc. in collaboration with pertinent organizations, are many and of various dimensions.

The President, finally, advised the graduates to be ready to shoulder more social responsibilities and to be competent enough to solve challenges they might encounter in the world of work.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The 8th National Conference on Private Higher Education in Ethiopia

The 8th National Conference on Private Higher Education, sponsored and organized by St. Mary's University College, was held on the 25th of September 2003 at UN Conference Center, Addis Ababa –Ethiopia.

The conference comprised about 300 participants from government and non- government offices, lecturers from almost all Public and Private Higher Education Institutions, members of the Ethiopian Private Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education Institutions' Association, other professional associations and societies, education bureaus, financial institutions, embassies, the donor community and international organizations.

More than 15 research papers were presented on its major theme, “Invigorating the Work on Access, Equity and Quality of Higher Education in Ethiopia” and on cross-cutting issues like gender, HIV/AIDS, etc.



The Guest of Honor, Ato Eyesuswork Zafu, President of Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations, in his opening speech, mentioned the assistance of private education institutions to the government after the FDRE the introduction of a market-oriented economy. Eyesuswork continued, in situations where the required humanpower and educational facilities were limited, more flexible admission criteria based on gender, ethnicity and differentials in levels of development, to redress past imbalances in access to education were in place. He remarked that the quality concern noticed in Ethiopia is applicable to both Public and Private Intuitions. “In my humble opinion”, he went on, “the truth lies somewhere in between and the more logical response to the deterioration of quality in our education system may be better informed supervision, more inclusive, consultative and constructive engagement of all the parties to formulate more realistic and consensual solutions”.



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, (Asst. Prof.), Founder and President of St. Mary's University College, in his welcoming speech, stated that the private sector is contributing its share for the poverty reduction strategy of Ethiopia. As access, equity and quality are still the major concerns of many nations, including Ethiopia, of course, the President pointed out, the 8th National Conference has deservedly focused on these major issues.



The Key-note Speaker, Mr. Luc Rukingama, UNESCO Country Representative-Ethiopia, on his part, noted that the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is committed to collaborating with both private and public providers of higher education.

African countries, the UNESCO Country Representative-Ethiopia added, have increased their share of private higher learning institutions, in which Ethiopia is no exception, as financial constraints have hampered the efforts of creating access to all in need. He also pointed out that private operators should work towards ensuring quality in the service they are rendering though quality is not exclusively a private agenda.

Recalling governments' agreement to enhance the quality of higher education in their meeting in Paris in 2009, Mr. Luc Rukingama stressed the important role of research and extended his appreciation to St. Mary's for organizing and sponsoring the 8th National Conference with a fitting theme considering the fact that quality is high on the global agenda.



In his closing remark, Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-President of St. Mary's, thanked paper presenters, participants, the UN Conference Center Team, the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA), at SMUC, and individuals for their respective assistance. The Executive Vice-president ended his closing speech by extending his heartfelt gratitude to Ato Eyesuswork Zafu and Mr. Luc Rukingama for the opening speech and the keynote speech they gave, respectively. He also acknowledged the assistance provided by SMUC staff, other HEIs, UN-ECA, Sheraton Addis in the success of the Conference

The 4th Student Research Forum

The Academic Development and Resource Center of SMUC organized the Fourth Annual National Student Research Forum on the 21st of August 2010 at the Multi-Purpose Hall, SMUC.

Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, (Asst. Prof.) in his opening speech, stressed the necessity and importance of developing the culture of research in the institution. He noted that it is to provide the opportunity and draw the interest of young higher institution graduates that St. Mary's University College has initiated an Annual National Student Research Forum. The President expressed the commitment of St. Mary's towards the Student Research Forum.



Twelve research papers were presented of which 10 were from different faculties of SMUC and 2 from Haromaya University.

The 2nd Annual Multi-Disciplinary Seminar



The 2nd Annual National Multi-disciplinary Seminar was held on August the 26th 2010 at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall under the auspices of the Academic Development and Resource Center, SMUC.

Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, (Asst. Prof.), in his welcoming speech pointed out that research works should be geared toward solving real problems which challenge our society. The President underscored that the seminar was within the framework of the requirements of higher education institutions with an objective of sorting out the problems that challenge the society.

Twelve papers which mainly addressed various issues of education, business, law, informatics and social concerns were presented by professionals from SMUC, other higher education institutions and government organizations.

In his closing speech, Ato Tedla Haile, the Executive Vice-president of St. Mary's, 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. The Executive Vice-president extended his thanks and appreciation to the paper presenters, the organizers and the participants.

WINNING A GRANT

Upon the call for policy Formulation on sexual Harassment and the HIV/AIDS by the Association of African University (AAU). The proposal from St. Mary's University College, has won USD 5000. As a result, agreement paper was signed between the Association and St. Mary's has already sent the first policy draft to the Association

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

In-house Training

An 'Internal Quality Assurance System and Management Training' was organized by Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA), SMUC, from August 4 -5, 2010 at Mexico Campus, Marketing Syndicate Room.

The resource person Dr. Wondimagenge Chekol, Director of the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA), SMUC, during the training, discussed on how to assess the strength and weakness of the academic program and the services provided by the UC. In addition, formulation of plan of actions for internal quality, continuous monitoring and evaluation improvement; and periodic quality assessment of faculties, schools, offices, centers, units of each member of the Quality Committee were discussed by the resource person. The resource person also talked on how each member of the Quality Assurance Committee should formulate plan of actions for continuous monitoring & evaluation and periodic quality assessment of their respective faculty, office, unit and center.

In another vein, The Human Resource Management Office , SMUC, organized training on 'Basic Computer Application' from August 16 – Sept.3, 2010 to the support staff members at the Computer lab, SMUC.

Similarly, Ato Birhanu Yaie and his Team, from Educational Media Agency, MOE, and Distance Experts from SMUC, gave training on 'Educational Media Selection' and 'Script Writing' to Open and Distance Learning tutors and assessors of SMUC. They talked on issues such as audio-video programs production formats, interviewing techniques, media selection, monitoring & evaluating of audio-video programs, etc. The training was given from August 30-September 3, 2010 at the Moot Court., SMUC.



Panel Discussions

The Business Faculty, SMUC, organized a panel discussion on the origin, pros and cons of Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) to the students and community members of SMUC on the 30th of July 2010 at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall.



The resource person Ato Tsegaye Tafere from Civil Service College talked, among other things, on the definition of BPR, its relationship with evaluation of work and the challenges faced in implementing BPR in Ethiopia.

In like manner, the Business Faculty, SMUC, held panel discussions on 'International Business in the Ethiopian Context' and 'Ethiopian Taxation Regulations, Directives & Proclamation with special emphasis on 'VAT, TOT, and 'Employment Income Tax & the Role of Accounting in Agricultural Business'. The panels took place on August 27 and September 6/2010, respectively, both at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall.



The main objective of the panels were to help students gain some practical experience. Accordingly, in the first panel, Ato Adinew Bekele from the Chamber of Commerce gave his talk on World Trade Organization, Ethiopia's effort to be a member of WTO, hindrances for international trade and export-import procedures of Ethiopia.

During the second panel, Ato Samuel Tadesse from the Ethiopian Revenue Customs Authority and Ato Ayele Kebede, Addis Ababa University, were the resource persons. They spoke, among other things, on the types of taxes, the different regulations & proclamations related to tax and the contributions of accounting in agricultural business.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Training

The Business Faculty, of SMUC gave training on 'Customer Service' to 15 secretaries from Lideta Sub-city on the 3rd of September 2010 at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall. Ato Yalew Gorfu from the Department of Marketing Management, SMUC, discussed ways of handling customers.



Similarly, on the 31st of July 2010, the Faculty of Business, in collaboration with the Department of Accounting, gave training to 31 owners of small scale enterprises from Lideta Sub-city on Basic Accounting concepts. The training was given by Ato Ayele Kebede from Addis Ababa University.

Welfare Gesture

Employees of the Distance Education Division (DED), Head Office, St. Mary's University College, held a luncheon event to orphans drawn from 'Woreda' 10, Lideta Sub-City. It was held on the 30th of September 2010 at the 'Wereda' Hall.



The money for the luncheon and for the stationary distributed to the children was contributed by willing and interested employees of the DED. The event, reported Ato Brihanu Teshome, Head of Oromia and Central and Eastern Ethiopia Desk, DED, SMUC, was to show solidarity to the orphans and economically disadvantaged children on the occasions of the New Year and the 'Meskel' celebrations as part of the welfare gesture of St. Mary's.



W/ro Abrehet G/yohannes, Women and Children Officer of 'Wereda' 10, Lideta Sub city, extended her appreciation and thanks to SMUC in the name of the children.

The Center For Education Improvement and Quality Assurance, SMUC, gave training on the ‘Application of Internal & External Quality Audit’ to the TVET institutions’ and colleges’ quality audit committees to Lideta Sub-city on October 29, 2010 at Lideta Sub-city, and to Nefas Silk Lafto Sub-city on November 9, 2010 at Nefas Silk Lafto Sub-city Office. The training was organized by the TVET Office of each Sub-city.

Ato Mesfen Tekleab and W/t Essete Abebe, SMUC, talked on the general theory of the introduction of Quality Audit elaborating the main points to be focused at.

Letters of thanks were written to St. Mary’s by each Sub-city.

PARTICIPATIONS

Inauguration of Postal Stamps

At Baye Nigatu, Information and Communication Head of SMUC, attended the Inauguration of Postal Stamps printed for four noble writers on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Ethiopian Writers’ Association. The inauguration was organized by the association on the 6th of August 2010 at the National Theater.

Talk show

In a similar manner, Ato Baye, participated in a talkshow organized by ‘አዲስ ዝክረ-ሃሳብ’ on the 3rd of August 2010 at Churchill Hotel.

Conference

Ato Biruk Megersa, Library Head of, SMUC, participated in a two-day conference on June 28 and 29, 2010 on ‘Cultural Pluralism for Peace Building and Development’ organized by Oromiya Cultural and Tourism Office.

Experience-sharing Visit

Members of the Red Cross Club, SMUC, participated in a three-day experience sharing visit as per the invitation of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

Five members of the Club of the Red Cross Society of St. Mary’s University College along with 12 invited students of Hong Kong- China institutes visited the support and the welfare deeds of the Red Cross Society ‘Mehal-med’a’, ‘Menz Woreda’ dwellers.

The students of the two groups discussed the basic principles of the Red Cross Society, exchanged views on the roles of the Red Cross Society and some cultural practices of their respective countries.

The China-Hong Kong Students presented the banner of Hong Kong Red Cross Society. The Students of St. Mary’s, in their turn, presented the banner of their institution to the China-Hong Kong Students as a sign of solidarity.



Workshop

W/o Ergogie Tesfaye, Head of the Gender Office, and Ato Abebe Zenebe from the Student Support and Services Office (SSSO), both from SMUC, attended a familiarization workshop on 'Regional Education Sector HIV/AIDS Policy, Strategy and Implementation Guideline.' The workshop, organized by the Federal Ministry of Education and UNESCO, was held at Bishoftu, Tommy International Hotel from September 2- 4, 2010.

The resource persons, W/o Gimbwegish, from the Ministry of Education, presented a paper on the Implementation Guideline and Gender and HIV/AIDS; and W/o Sifraye, from the Regional Education Bureau of Addis Ababa, on 'Regional Education Bureau and FHAPCO HIV Response.'

Photo Gallery





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