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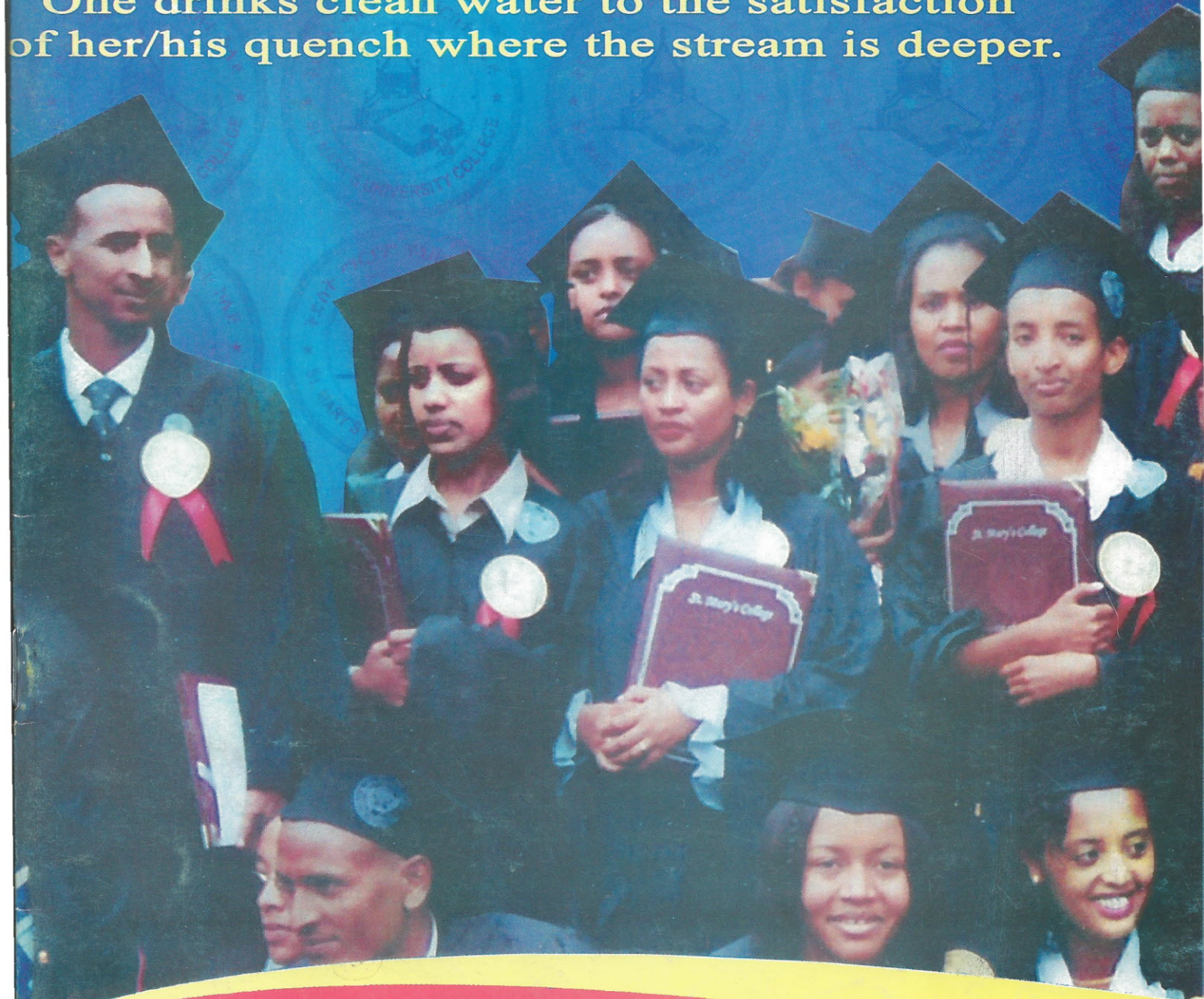
A Quarterly Newsletter

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One drinks clean water to the satisfaction

of her/his quench where the stream is deeper.



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# CONGRATULATIONS !

## THE FOURTH COMMENCEMENT IN DISTANCE EDUCATION DIVISION



St. Mary's University College graduated 4,224 distance education students with diploma in 15 different fields of studies on 25 February 2006. The ceremony was simultaneously held at four different regional cities, i.e. Addis Ababa (995), Bahir Dar- Amhara- (1,167), Adama/Nazareth-Oromia- (1,181) and Awassa – SNNPR- (881). These numbers make the total number of the University College distance education graduates so far 6,991.



President and Founder of the University College, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat in Addis Ababa and the University College representatives at Bahar Dar ,Adama / Nazareth and at Awassa expressed the complexity of distance education and the multi-faceted challenges it poses particularly to students in developing countries like Ethiopia. Immense appreciations were extended to the prospective graduates for the endurance and patience they consistently exhibited during their study years. Enormous gratitude were also made to their families for the support they rendered to their respective family members.

It was also mentioned that the achievement of the graduates was the sum total of efforts exerted by the different offices and centers of the Distance Education Division and the unreserved support and advice of government and non – government bureaus and agencies in the regions and in Addis Ababa.



The guests of honours in Addis and the regions made the remark that prospective graduates should take the graduation as a springboard to continue their education further.



The happiness and satisfaction of the prospective graduates, some accompanied with their family members, was observable.

# CAPACITY BUILDING

The University College is strongly committed and works hard towards the enhancement of quality in all its undertakings.

With the goal of continuous self-improvement, the management, the academics and the administration organize and participate in various trainings, workshops and conferences within and outside SMUC.

## Fulbright Touch



With the full support of the American Embassy, Dr. Laila Denoya,



a recipient of five Fulbright Senior Specialist Awards, was assigned to the University College from January – March 2006. She conducted a seven - week workshop to assist in establishing a campus-wide quality assessment program to improve student learning and strengthen institutional effectiveness as part of her Fulbright assignment.



Dr. Denoya's training will strengthen the Center for Research and Quality Assessment (CRQA) in the institution since it focused on the task of ensuring quality education. Such a task inherently demands the active and transparent accomplishments of the University College community in general and CRQA in particular.



The exemplary academic performance, the human and humorous touch Dr. Denoya lent to the workshop were mentioned and admired time and again by all people who came to the closing ceremony of the workshop held at Hotel D'Leopol on March 11, 2006.

## LMDP Workshops at Adama

### The second LMDP workshop

As it is to be recalled, the second workshop that comprised all public universities and four private higher institutions on Leadership and Management in Higher Education was held on February 20, 2006 at Adama/Nazareth.

Each participant institution presented its change agenda on the first day of the workshop. St. Mary's University College on its part identified three core areas, i.e. establishing academic audit unit, setting up academic resources centers, and making links with national and international institutions of higher learning.

### The Third LMDP Workshop

The President and the Academic Dean of St. Mary's University College participated in the third workshop on 'Leadership and Management', under the theme of 'Managing the Academic Process'. The workshop was again held at Adama (Nazareth) from April 27 – 29, 2006.

The resource persons were drawn from the University of the Witwatersrand–South Africa and from Free University of Amsterdam.

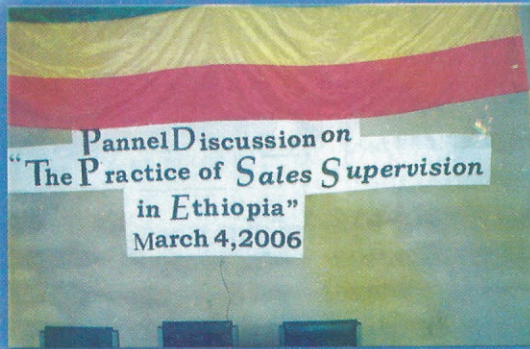
The need for effective leadership and managerial approach were mentioned by the resource persons as essentials to place a disciplined academic work.

## The Five Year Strategic Plan at SMUC

SMUC has embarked on the task of designing a five Year Strategic Plan through the various teams organized for the purpose.

The success of St. Mary's University College, as its experience tells, springs basically from the vision and active participation of the University College community in the process of building the institution, and of course, in overcoming diverse challenges. The new strategic plan will clearly chart the future direction of the institution.

## Panel Discussion

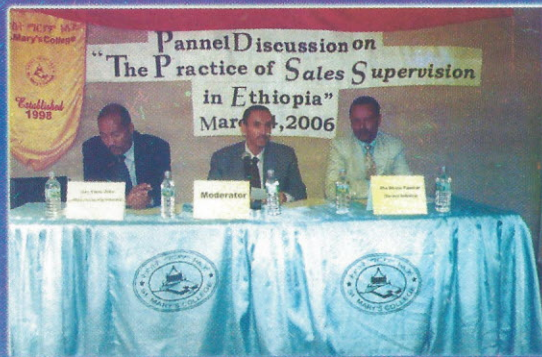


The Department of Marketing Management held a half-day workshop to better acquaint its students with practical skills of salesmanship and related activities.



Constructive reflections and views were aired and some questions were also entertained by the resource persons.

## Salesmanship in Action



The half day workshop on “The Practice of Sales Supervision in Ethiopia ” was held on the 4th of March 2006. Two experienced professionals, from Dan Technocraft and from Nile Insurance, discussed and shared their valuable experiences with the students, instructors of the department and interested members of the University College.



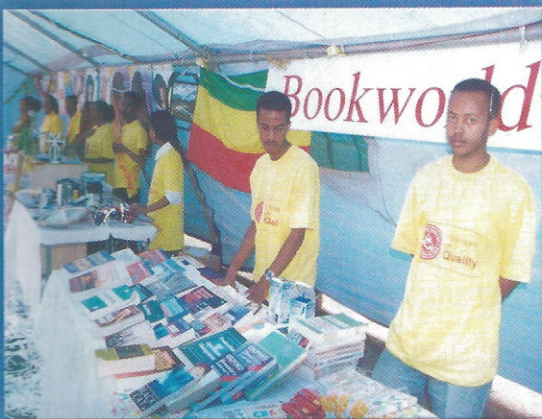
The Department of Marketing Management has established the tradition of holding an annual trade show to supplement students' classroom-based theoretical lessons with practical business transactions.

The third trade show on ‘Salesmanship in Action’ was held at Mexico Campus for seven days, April 3 – 9, 2006.

The trade show was opened on 3 April 2006 by the renowned historian 'Prof. Richard Pankrust in the presence of invited guests.



The department obtained goods from companies like Shoa Supermarket, Nas Foods, Book World, etc. on consignment. The students sold a good deal of goods and were able to secure Birr 5,000.00 as profit.



The department and its students are planning to use the money for community services.

Some students affirmed that the experience thus gathered from real market

interaction was very educative and interesting. The University College thanks the companies, the guests, and department members for their participation in holding the successful trade show.



### The Opening of Student Wellness Development Center at SMUC



The SMUC- Student Wellness Development Center was opened here on 29 April 2006 in the presence of invited guests, the University College officials, faculty and office heads and students.





The resource center was organized by a donation of one hundred thousand birr from the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Organization (HAPCO) along with the financial supplements from the University College.



The resource center will be used to facilitate and enhance awareness of the disease and to render counseling by employing various strategies and methods.



During the inauguration, two papers were presented. One, on 'Prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia' by Ato Eyob Kiflu from Rejoice Ethiopia; and the other by Karen Waters-Higher Diploma Leader of SMUC- on "The Importance of Voluntary Counseling and Testing".



Reflections and views concerning the issue were given; and the vital role that the center could play in such an institution was emphasized.



## Cultural Forum Opens at SMUC



On the 4th of May 2006, St. Mary's University College Cultural Forum (SMUCCF) was opened in the presence of invited guests, faculty members, office heads and students at Mexico Campus.



SMUCCF is a forum created to appreciate both national and international cultures and works of art (poetry & story recitations and readings, drama, talent shows, music, art exhibitions etc;). This was announced by the Head of the External Relations Office (ERO), Ato Baye Nigatu, at the opening of the forum.



The Department of Languages took the initiative to organize the SMUCCF. The main objectives of this forum, according to the chair person, Ato Tariku Abas, are: to encourage research work in the area of culture and literature, organize presentations, and work in collaboration with other cultural centers of the country and higher learning institutions.



Several educative and entertaining works of both Amharic and English poetry were read and recited by invited poets, instructors and students of the University College.



The forum invites instructors, administrative staff and particularly students to actively participate in the forum.

# PARTICIPATION

## International Experience Sharing



Teacher trainees of different teacher training institutions from The Netherlands came to SMUC on experience sharing programme from the April 24 – May 5, 2006.

The programme was arranged and facilitated by Education Foundation (in the Netherlands) and by Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization (JCCDO), a local NGO.

The mission of the experience sharing programme was to exchange ideas and enhance transfer of knowledge on the curricula, teaching/learning activities, teaching methodologies and other related matters.



To that effect, on 26 April 2006, faculty leaders, office heads, and students of the Faculty of Education welcomed 28 Dutch teacher training trainees at Mexico Campus.



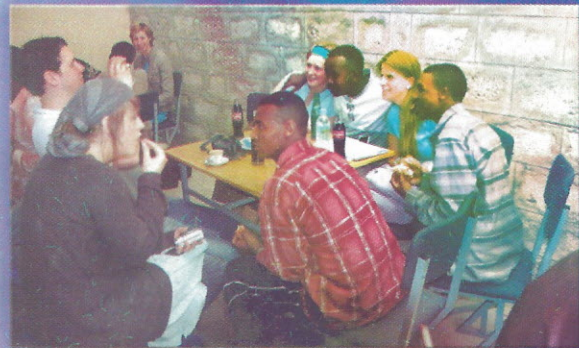
The acquaintance and experience sharing activities took place at the Multi – Purpose Hall- Mexico Campus- where one Ethiopian trainee sat with one Dutch trainee around a table.



General briefings were given by Ato Melaku Girma, the Faculty Dean, and by Ato Bekalu Atinafu, Head of the Education Department, on 'Historical Development of the Ethiopian Education System', 'Synopsis of the Teacher Education Programme in Ethiopia', 'The Teacher Education Programme at St. Mary's University College' and 'Running the Practicum in Ethiopian Schools'. Karen Waters- HDP Leader at SMUC- also gave a talk on 'The Higher Diploma Programme (HDP) in Ethiopia'.



In their turn, the group leaders of the Dutch trainees, Frits Kruiswijk, Campaign Manager, and other two women–trainees gave short and general introduction about the institutes they have come from.



Relaxed and friendly talks, discussions and exchange of ideas continued accompanied by laughters, smiles and camera shots.

The two groups together visited elementary schools in Addis Ababa among which were *Kidus Raguel, John F. Kennedy, Bete – Mengist, Yettibeb – Menged.*

They also visited the ethnographical museum at *Sidist – Killo, Kidus Raguel Church* and the homes of some poor students.

The trainees from the Netherlands and SMUC including school teachers of *Tibeb Menged* played field hockey (similar to our traditional *gena* game). Finally, a farewell party was given by Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization (JCCDA) on May 5, 2006 at Ras Amba Hotel.

During the farewell party, all the trainees reflected on the experience sharing programme in groups. Group leaders noted that the experience sharing program was a great opportunity to understand each other's culture, and to learn helpful methodologies.

## WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

### Enriching the National Youth Policy

St. Mary's University College participated in the three-day national consultative workshop organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MOYS) from Feb. 16 – 18, 2006 at Ghion Hotel.

The work shop was meant to enrich and finalize two documents: 'the ten-year Multi Sectoral Youth Development Strategic Plan (MYDSP)' and the 'Youth Sector Development Plan (MYDSP)'. The University College

was represented by Ato Abrham Getachew, an expert at the Center for Research and Quality Assurance (CRQA).

The representative contributed his share in the 'Capacity Building' group; where the role of private education institutions in youth capacity building was emphasized.

### Workshop of Engineering Capacity Development Program (ECBP)

The Center for Research and Quality Assurance (CRQA) of the University College participated in the 'National Planning Workshop of Engineering Capacity Development Programme (ECBP)' organized by Ministry of Capacity Building and GTZ. It was conducted in Addis Ababa from March 9 – 10 and from 16 – 17, 2006 to deliberate on the summary reports of Addis Ababa regional workshop and of the national workshop respectively.

The five key issues which were the focus areas of discussion for the TVET working group where Ato abraham Getachew, an expert at CRQA participated were: TVET Policy and system development, standardization, testing and certification (OSAC), training & upgrading of technical teachers & institution, support for public & non – public TVET institutions, and promote co-operative & in company training.

Finally, the need for close links and cooperation between industries and universities/higher institutions, and the vitality of considering 'intelligence development' that creates market (demand) were some of the issues noted by the workshop participants.

## **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for the Ethiopian Higher Education Institutions**

St. Mary's University College participated on the one-day consultative workshop conducted by Higher Education Strategy Center (HESC) -MOE and PHEIs focusing on 'Public-Private Partnership of the Ethiopian Higher Education Institutions' at Desalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa on June 1, 2006.

The workshop was opened by Dr. Tesfaye Teshome, HERQ Director. The objectives of the workshop were to identify options that bring relevance and quality education both in public and private HEIs; to create shared vision and responsibilities among HEIs and finally; to explore and define policy options for partnership between private and public HEIs.

The discussion focused on a project paper 'Public- Private Partnership (PPP) of the Ethiopian Higher Education Institutions'. Finally, participants recommended that the paper be further enriched and the comments be included.

## **International Conference**

The Center for Research and Quality Assurance (CRQA) of the SMUC participated in an international conference on the theme 'Strategies for Peace with Development: the Role of Education, Training and Research' from June 12 - 14 2006 at the Headquarter of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The conference was attended by participants drawn from all of the sub-regions of the African continent representing 26 African countries, Representatives from Europe, the U-Peace Office in Geneva, the U-Peace Main Campus in Costa Rica, and from other development agencies; and international organizations in Africa and beyond.

The conference sought to achieve two major objectives: to focus policy attention on strategies to integrate peace with development; and to identify specific needs and strategy follow-up activities where education, training, research and the dissemination of knowledge can be focused to advance peace and development.

During the three days discussion and analysis, key conclusions that constitute the bases for recommendations were made. A number of these recommendations will be incorporated in the plan of Action for the AU's Second Decade of Education for Africa - to be launched in September 2006.

## Legal Education and Training Discussion Programme

The University College participated in the 'Legal Education and Training Reform Discussion Programme' conducted on May 29 - 30, 2006 at the Ministry of Capacity Building.

The objectives of the programme were to present and discuss the draft document for the 'Reform of Legal Education and Training in Ethiopia'; and to obtain feedback from stakeholders.

The programme was opened by Ato Tefera Walwa, Minister of Capacity Building.

The deans of law faculties of all participating institutions shared their reflections on European and American Universities. The major part of the presentation involved problems in legal education and minimum standards that are to be observed as from September 2006. Accordingly, constructive comments were given on the issues discussed.

After questions and suggestions were entertained, the programme was closed by Ato Tefera Walwa, Minister of Capacity Building.

## World Environment Day

The External Relations Office (ERO) of the University College attended both the Addis Ababa Green Award (at the Addis Ababa City Hall in the morning) and the National Green Award (at the National Palace in the afternoon) Program Presentation Ceremonies on June 5, 2006 -World Environment Day.

Both programmes were organized by Forum for Environment under the patronage of HE Girma Woldegiorgis, President of FDRE.

At the event, those who demonstrated outstanding environmental efforts and activities in the country were awarded.

A drama performance that vividly depicted the disastrous impact of deforestation on the Ethiopian population was presented in both events and left most of the participants in tears.

## Community Concern



Members of the Welfare Association Club at SMUC have been involving themselves in welfare activities targeting the needy since 1996 E.C.



As a tradition that has been in place for years, members of the Association , collect money and clothings annually from the University College community and go out to the streets and hospitals of Addis Ababa, together with the Student Affairs Office and the Student Union to accomplish their noble objectives.





Accordingly, they went out to the streets and distributed the clothing items to street dwellers on April 10, 2006



Again, on 22 April 2006, the club members and organizers of the charity went to the Addis Ababa City hospitals and to *Entoto Mariam* Church to visit the sick. They served them with fruit-juice in the middle of consoling talks and gave them post-cards to demonstrate their concern and sympathy. Candles were also lit to communicate hope in the hearts of the sick and the destitutes.



# VISITS

## Students' Visit to CSA and SSA



Two sections of the first year TVET regular students of the Department of Secretarial science and Office management with their three instructors, visited Central Statistics Authority (CSA), and Social Security Agency (SSA)- Addis Ababa- on the 14th of April 2006.

The purpose of the visit was to supplement the classroom teaching/learning activities with actual practices. After their visit, the students were made to write reports relating their classroom lessons with their observations.



Ato Abate Lakew, Head of the SSOM Department, appreciated the co-operation exhibited by the record office staff of the same. The University College Management extend its gratitude to the Central Statistics Authority and to the Social Security Agency for their cooperation and the support they rendered to our students.

## The Awassa Trip

This year, about twenty-eight instructors of the Faculty of the Teacher Education including two expats Higher Diploma leaders at SMUC traveled to Awassa from May 29-30, 2006 as part of an annual tour program organized by the University College.

According to Dr. Nicolas Dima , one of the Higher Diploma leaders of the UC, the tour has helped the instructors to exchange ideas, share experiences and to know each other more.

# SPORTS

## The Great Ethiopian Run

A five- kilometer run was organized by the Great Ethiopian Run Organizers on March 5, 2006. Participants in the race include diplomats, persons with disabilities.



At the event, twenty women employees of the SMUC were among the nearly 8,000 participants of this year's Great Ethiopian Run which was held under the theme "Let Women Decide for Themselves."

## Soccer Match



It has almost become an annual practice of the graduates of Addis Abeba University

Technology Faculty-South- to organize football match among colleges/universities.

This year, the match was among 5 colleges/universities, i.e. Africa Beza College, Technology Faculty-AAU, Bulding colleg-AAU, St. Mary's University College and Unity University College.



Finally, St. Mary's University College and Unity University College came out to be the two strong teams to contest for the Cup. St.Mary's University College took the trophy beating Unity University College 2 to 1.





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