

# **ETHIOPIAN ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION PROFILE**

## **I. Establishment**

The Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA) was established as a non-profit making, non-political and non-religious professional Association in 1991 at the end of the First Annual Conference on the Ethiopian Economy. The Conference was organized by the Department of Economics of the Addis Ababa University (AAU) in collaboration with the Institute of Development Research of the AAU and sponsored by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung of Germany.

The Association has established, under it, the Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute (EEPRI) in July 2000 as its research wing. The Institute is involved in research and in organizing short term trainings on various issues that are of critical importance to Ethiopia's economic development.

## **II. Vision:**

*"To become the premier Economic Association in Africa renowned for its excellence in membership services and economic policy research."*

## **III. Mission:**

*"To represent the professional interests of our members, advance the discipline of Economics and contribute to the development of the Ethiopian Economy"*

## **IV. Objectives**

The Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA) is formally registered with the Ministry of Justice to accomplish the following objectives:

- to contribute to the economic policy formulation capability and broadly to the economic advancement of Ethiopia;
- to promote the professional interest of its members;
- to promote the study of economics in the country's educational institutions;
- to promote economic research and assist in the dissemination of the findings of such

research in Ethiopia;

- to provide fora for the discussion of economic issues, and
- to promote professional contacts between Ethiopian economists and those of other countries.

## V. Organizational Values

**Professionalism**  
**Independence**  
**Credibility**  
**Integrity**  
**Teamwork**  
**Inspiring leadership**  
**Accountability and transparency**

## VI. Governance

The Association holds General Assemblies of members annually where the activities of the Association are discussed and future plans approved. The General Assembly is the highest decision making body with the responsibility of providing an overall policy framework. An Executive Committee elected by the General Assembly and serving for three years provides leadership. All members of the Committee serve without pay. It has a secretariat with employed staff who manage the day to day activities of the Association.

**T**he Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute, which is a subsidiary of the Association is organized under four research divisions namely, Agriculture and Rural Development Division, Trade and Industry Division, Social and Human Resource Division and Macroeconomic Division. Each division is staffed with at least one full time senior researcher and one researcher. In addition, an Executive Director who is appointed by the Executive Committee, provides leadership to the institute supported by several administrative staffs.

## **VII. Major activities & Services of EEA/EEPRI**

### ***a) Research undertakings***

Since the establishment of EEPRI as the research outfit of the Association, several policy related research activities have been undertaken by the respective research divisions.

- The research activities can be categorized into core-research undertakings, self-initiated but non-core research works, collaborative research, and commissioned or demand driven research activities.
- The research results are disseminated to policy makers and other stakeholders through dissemination workshops and are published in the various publications of the Association.

### ***b) Organizing conferences, workshops, lectures and regular discussion forums***

- The Association has a long history in organizing Annual Conferences where research papers on the Ethiopian Economy were presented. Starting from the 12<sup>th</sup> annual conference, EEA has transformed the national conferences to international conferences which are conducted on a yearly basis.
- The Association also organizes different workshops on different thematic and timely issues.
- The Association has been also active in organizing regular bi-monthly Round Table Discussions (RTDs) on which timely and relevant economic issues were discussed. Since 2003, EEA had started organizing a different kind of forum called “Vision 2020 Ethiopia” in which long term developmental issues are discussed on a monthly basis.
- EEA/EEPRI has the culture of organizing public lectures by inviting prominent and renowned local or expatriate economists to speak on different thematic and timely issues with the aim of creating platforms for sharing their experiences.

### ***c) Publications of EEA***

The research findings of EEPRI and the outcomes of workshops, conferences and discussion forums are published and distributed to the different stakeholders in various formats. Some of the regular publications of EEA and its outfit include the following:

- **Conference proceedings** - selected papers presented on the annual conferences and the international conferences are published in the form of conference proceedings;

- **Economic Focus** - the papers presented at the RTDs and Vision 2020 forums, with the comments and views reflected, and other articles are published in the bulletin of the Association titled Economic Focus. A compiled version of twelve presentations on Vision 2020 was also published in Amharic as a book; so far two books published.
- **Ethiopian Journal of Economics** - a bi-annual journal, in which economic research findings are published;
- **Annual Reports on the Ethiopian economy** - provides an independent review of the performance of the Ethiopian economy;
- **Quarterly Reports** - reviews the performance of the macroeconomic variables quarterly;
- **Other publications** - EEA/EEPRI publishes different working papers, research reports on various research findings and monographs regularly

#### ***d) Economic and social Database***

- Since 2004, EEA/EEPRI has started producing an electronic social and economic database on a CD-ROM.

#### ***e) Short-term trainings and Internships***

- Several short term trainings are provided on different economic issues to EEA members and other targeted community members.
- EEA invites third year undergraduate economics students from the different universities in the country for a two months internship program during the summer. It also provides internship facility for economics students from different universities outside the country by request.

#### ***f) Collaborative works and Policy advices***

EEA/EEPRI is often engaged in collaborative works with international organizations, the government of Ethiopia, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations in addition to providing policy advices for such organizations.

#### ***g) Documentation services***

- The Documentation center has a collection of around numerous materials which includes books, journals, newsletters, proceedings, CD-ROMs, video and audio cassettes.
- The Center also provides internet services, offline database and loan to its members, university students and the general public.

### ***h) Other activities***

- As part of the sustainability strategy and expand its activities, EEA constructed a four storey building with a cost of more than 25 million Birr around CMC area on a plot that is leased from the Addis Ababa City Administration that house the Association's head office and its research wing EEPRI. In the future, the Training Institute that will be established will be also housed in the building.
- EEA plans to launch a graduate program in Economics and Business Sciences in its Multi-purpose Building. The program plans to train reasonable number of graduate students per annum. It also projects to train substantial large number of government officials and private sector management personnel in its capacity building short-term training programmes by the Training Institute.

## **VIII. Membership**

Membership is open to all Ethiopians and non-Ethiopians. There are five types of EEA membership.

***Full membership*** is open for those who hold at least a first degree in Economics. Full members have the right to elect and be elected to the office of the Association.

***Associate membership*** is open for those who hold at least diploma in any other discipline. Associate members have the right to participate in the activities of the Association but shall not have the right to elect or be elected to the office of the Association.

***Institutional membership*** is open to any institution who support the objectives of the Association. An institutional member has the right, through its representative to participate in the activities of the Association but shall not elect and be elected to the office of the Association.

***Student membership*** is open for those who are attending school in the department of Economics in their respective Universities/Colleges in Ethiopia. Student member has the right to participate in the activities of the Association but shall not elect and be elected to the office of the Association.

***Honorary membership*** is bestowed by the Association on individuals who have made a distinguished contribution to promote the objectives of the Association. Honorary members do not pay fees and have the right to receive all publications of the Association free of charge.

**N.B.** All the above types of Members have the right to purchase publications of the Association at a discounted price, use/borrow books from the EEA Library, and participate and contribute at different discussions, conferences and workshops of the Association. They have the duty of attending General Assemblies, promoting the objectives of the Association and paying their membership fees regularly.

## **IX. Future Plan of EEA**

EEA plans to expand its services of which the most important ones are: -

- ◆ EEA plans to establish a Training Institute that will provide graduate level trainings in Economics and Business Management and short-term trainings on regular basis.
- ◆ Expand its chapters at regions in collaboration with Universities.
- ◆ Strengthen its research and consulting capacity to meet the growing demands of such services
- ◆ Expand and strengthen services to members of the Association.

## **VII. Development partners**

**C**ore activities of the EEA are currently sponsored by African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and a consortium of donors which include the Embassy of Ireland (DCI), the Embassy of Netherlands, Embassy of Sweden (SIDA), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung of Germany (FES), Embassy of the UK (DFID) and Norwegian Church Aid.

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