



ህብረት ለልማት ግንኙነት

Hibret Lelimat Ma'ekel (HLM)

Center for Co-operative Development

Office: +251 115 51 35 54
Mobile: +251 911 75 68 88
P. O. Box: 11966, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia
E-mail: bishawtewabech@yahoo.com
Alternate Email: hlm@ethionet.et

Ref No HLM/40/2007
Date: 01 May 2007

Dear colleagues and friends,

I am pleased to share with you the good news that Hibret Lelimat Ma'ekel (HLM) was officially launched on 29 March 2007 in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.

As you may know, HLM, a non-profit, non-governmental development organization, was registered in January 2006 under the Ministry of Justice in Ethiopia. The NGO is organized to support human resource and institutional capacity building through transfer of knowledge, skills, technology and other resources from the Ethiopian Diaspora and friends of Ethiopia around the world into the country. HLM envisages the full mobilization and utilization of the Ethiopian Diaspora's intellectual and other resources to facilitate optimal brain gain and capacity building for accelerated and sustainable development and prosperity of the Ethiopian people. HLM operates in partnership with individuals, associations, as well as national, regional, bilateral and international development forces in and outside the country.



L to R: Dr. Tewabech Bishaw (Founder & MD of HLM), State Minister of Capacity Building, Vice Chairperson of HLM Board, Directorate for Ethiopian Expatriate Affairs in the Minister of Foreign Affairs

The official launch of HLM took place at the Ghion Hotel in Addis Abeba. H.E Ato Fikru Dessalegne, the State Minister for the Ministry of Capacity Building, officially launched the Ma'ekel. Over 150 participants, representing government and non-government organizations, civil society, the private sector, the UN, bilateral agencies, embassies, reporters from national and international media and members of the Ethiopian Diaspora attended the occasion.

At the launch, the strategic plan of HLM was discussed and endorsed. Also

Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and Education shared their experiences on utilizing Diaspora resources, while the International Organization on Migration (IOM) spoke on their regional and international experiences. The Ministry of Youth and Sports shared their views on the importance of youth participation and networking.

One of the highlights of the discussion was a personal experience shared by a Diaspora member currently working in Ethiopia. This



Some of the HLM Board and founding members at the launch

stimulated a lot of discussion on current issues, practices, constraints and opportunities for the Ethiopian Diaspora's participation and contribution to Ethiopia's development.

During the discussion, it was encouraging to note the interest expressed by all participants on the importance and timeliness of the creation of HLM to provide the much-needed



Participants at the launch

organized link and serve as a bridge between the Ethiopian Diaspora and institutions in the country. This would improve partnerships and networking for the incremental channeling of Diaspora resources into the country to improve collaboration with professionals and institutions

in the country for enhanced capacity building and synergy. At the discussion, it was very clear to see

that, in collaboration with stakeholders and development forces in and outside the country, HLM could support (a) the strengthening of networks, partnerships and coordination among institutions, individuals and organizations working on Diaspora related initiatives; (b) facilitate the compilation of and the two-way flow of essential and up-to-date information on identified priority needs in the country and the available resources among the Ethiopian Diaspora and friends of Ethiopia; (c) streamline processes, systems and guidelines for improved participation and collaboration and (d) finally, implement programs that involve Diaspora input to strengthen human resource and institutional capacity in Ethiopia through a win-win partnership between the two groups.



Speaking: Invited member of the Ethiopian Diaspora currently in Addis Abeba

I am sharing this good news with you for your information and by way of expressing my appreciation and thanks for your encouragement and support in the creation of HLM. It will be greatly appreciated if you could share the good news with others that have interest on the Ethiopian Diaspora's involvement in the country's human resource and institutional capacity building efforts.

Based on its strategic plan, Hibret Lelimat Ma'ekel has identified the following four areas as its immediate priorities for action:

- 1) Strengthen HLM's organizational set up to undertake planned activities,
- 2) Develop a dynamic and interactive website that would link Ethiopians globally and serve as a gateway to Ethiopian professionals in the Diaspora and to friends of Ethiopia to increase opportunities for brain gain, enhanced participation and partnership with professionals and institutions in the country,
- 3) Undertake and document a situation and process analysis to have better understanding of existing situations, processes, systems, guidelines, needs and constraints as well as establish a database on available Diaspora resources. This

would serve as a baseline as well as help to determine planning and implementation priorities and monitoring indicators, and

- 4) Mobilize financial and other resources to enable HLM to support and facilitate the implementation of identified priority interventions

I would like to take this opportunity to express HLM's desire to join hands with all organizations and individuals that have interest in strengthening the networking and partnership opportunities for the channeling of the Diaspora's intellectual and other resources into the country, including participation from the youth, to contribute to the sustainable development and prosperity of the Ethiopian people.



Invited guests presenting comments and questions to the panelists

As a local Ethiopian NGO, I believe that HLM has a comparative advantage and can serve as a major link between the Diaspora and institutions in the country and can facilitate enhanced implementation of projects to achieve our common goal.

HLM expects to have several contacts in different countries and regions wherein members of the Ethiopian Diaspora and friends of Ethiopia are found. Below are the current contacts for USA, Europe and Canada. I look forward to hearing from and working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tewabech Bishaw
Founder & Managing Director

USA:

Ms. Sefanit Mesfin- Champagne
431 North Armistead St.
Apt 611
Alexandria, VA. 22312, USA
Email: bongrethio@gmail.com

Europe (Sweden):

Dr. Wubshet Mamo
Algrytebacken 13
S- 12731 SKARHOLMEN
Sweden
Email: wubshetmam@yahoo.com

Canada:

Dr. Fikre Germa
APT 311
476 Rangelake Road
Yellow Knife NWT, Canada XIA3Z3
Email: Fikregerma130@hotmail.com