9th International Conference on African Development, May 27 - 28, 2016

"Challenges and Opportunities for Good Governance and Leadership for Sustainable Development of African States"
AAU College of Business and Economics,
Eshetu Chole Building Conference Hall
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Introductory and Welcoming Remarks by Sisay Asefa, 9th ICAD Conference Director

My name is Sisay Asefa. I was born in the former Arsi Province in Ethiopia in 1950. I am professor of Economics and Director of The Center for African Development Policy Research at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA. I welcome you all as esteemed participants to the 9th ICAD 2016 that will convene over the next two days: in this conference we have packed agenda over two days, a total of 9 parallel sessions and 4 plenary sessions-three keynote and one special plenary session. Two plenary sessions are scheduled each day as you can see on Summary program. We will run 4 parallel sessions Friday, and 5 parallel sessions on Saturday.

The first day agenda includes papers on subthemes of: Governance and Corruption, Gender and Development, Tourism and Development, Federalism and Regional Integration (2 sessions), Agriculture for Development, Water for Sustainable Development, and Youth in Development of African states. The Keynote and plenary sessions include on Day 1 or Friday, a keynote by professor Mammo Muchie on the relevance of Ethiopianism for today and future progress of Ethiopia, followed by key note on “China and Post Millennium African Development strategy as non-zero sum Game” by Professor Paulos Milkias of Canada. If there is time, I will show you a presentation of paper by professor Teshome Abebe of Eastern Illinois University based on PP notes he prepared asked me to deliver on the topic of: “Embracing the Ambiguity of Economic Development and Its Implications for Good Governance” in absentia. The First day also includes a Special Plenary Session discussion on Book Drive Event entitled “Made in Africa: Industrial Policy in Ethiopia” authored by Dr. Arkebe Eqsobay, Advisor to the PM of Ethiopia and Minister, FDRE that includes Participants Ethiopian Government Officials, invited guests and conference participants and AAU, AASTU, Arsi University academic staff faculties.

On Day 2-Saturday May 20, The agenda begins with Key note lectures by Dr. Alemayehu Seyoum, Senior Research Fellow in International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Ethiopia , on a topic of “Pathways less explored: Aspirations and Economic Transformation” followed by Distinguished Research Professor, John Ishiyama of Political Science at University of North Texas, USA on the topic “Is Democracy Necessary for Good Governance?”

The remaining day includes parallel sessions on Health and Development, Peace and Conflict Studies, Land Tenure and Land Use, Livelihoods and Food Security Governance, Entrepreneurship and Development (2 sessions), Environment and Sustainable Development, Urbanization and Sustainable Cities and Towns, Education and Development, Economic Development, Finance and Trade that constitutes the final parallel sessions. The 3rd plenary key note session is on “challenges through Private and public partnership both from national and global Health Initiatives for African States” by Dr. Ingida Asfaw, the eminent cardiac surgeon and Professor at Wayne State Medical School in Detroit Michigan followed by a presentation by Mrs. Mulu Solomon who will speak on “Challenge for effective public-private partnerships” based on her experience of first elected Woman Chamber of commerce chairperson as well as Managing a private company called Right Vision International Plc. in Addis Ababa. I must add Mrs. Mulu is talented, teacher, trainer and poet as well being both fluent in Amharic and Oromiffa Languages. Please see details of bios of the Key note speakers on your agenda program as well history of four collaborators, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, and Western Michigan University. I thank academic leaderships of these 4 institutions for strong support of this conference.
9th Background and Scope and history: The 9th ICAD builds on the tradition of eight successful conferences on African sustainable development, four of which convened in Ethiopia and four in Michigan on Western Michigan University, organized by WMU's Center for African Development Policy Research in collaboration with WMU colleges and departments and local universities such as University of Michigan. The aim was to provide forum for academics including graduate students to explore various dimensions African development with participation from public and private universities and colleges. The conference is open to policy makers in Ethiopia and all other African countries, including business leaders and diplomats located in Addis Ababa and other cities in Ethiopia as well as local international institution such as the African Union, United Nations for Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), USAID and US, including diplomats all African states represented in Ethiopia and their Embassy staff including Ambassadors or their representatives. Accepted papers will appear in the conference proceedings and selected papers will be considered after peer review for publication in CADPR’s open access e-journal, the International Journal of African Development founded in September 2013 that published issues two times a year with over http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/ijad/. IJAD papers published so far have been downloaded over 10,000 paper around the world.

9th ICAD 2016 Conference Motivation: The Value of Democratic Good Governance

This conference is motivated by a strong belief that the most important factor in achieving sustainable human development and social and economic progress—including peace and justice—as well as reducing poverty, inequality, and violent conflict, is democratic good governance and leadership, both in Africa and around the world. Governance is a multidimensional concept that involves the traditions and institutions under which political authority in a country is exercised. Governance includes: the process by which rulers are elected, monitored, and replaced; the capacity of governments to effectively formulate and implement sound and inclusive policies; and the ability of a government to earn the respect of its citizens, as well as the cooperation of the institutions that determine economic and social policies which influence free interaction among citizens. Sustainable human development requires good governance and leadership that is predictable, open, enlightened, accountable, inclusive of all citizens, and which operates under the rule of law and justice. Democratic good governance is desirable as a goal in its own right, beyond being an important means of sustainable human development. Good governance involves following six aspects: Voice and accountability, political stability and the absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, control of corruption. Governance measures for all countries of the world are available at www.govindicators.org (World Bank and Kaufmann 2010) also see The Political Economy of Good Governance, edited by S. Asefa and W. Huang 2015.

After my introductory remarks on about 9th ICAD, I want to introduce and thank AAU President, Dr. Admasu Tsegaye to make welcoming remarks. I also thank the other Presidents collaborating universities Dr. Nurlign of ASSTU and Dr. Tolla of Arsi University for their financial support and thank the local organizing committee members listed on program agenda as well Western Michigan University. My special thanks to Dr. Degefa for his valuable advice and input to conference agenda and Mrs Mahalet who made significant effort in implementation of conference the later as an effective logistics manager.