Keynote and Plenary Speaker Bios

Keynote lecture
2 p.m. Friday, August 13
"Innovating Sustainable Governance in Africa: Removing Persistent Social Capital and Institutional Deficits"

Professor Mammo Muchie holds a DPhil in Science, Technology, and Innovation for Development (STI4D) from the University of Sussex. He is currently a DST/NRF Research Professor of Innovation Studies at Tshwane University of Technology. He is a fellow of the South African Academy of Sciences and the African Academy of Sciences. He is currently an adjunct professor at the Adama Science, Technology University in Ethiopia. He has been senior research associate at the SLPMTD programme and now has become a Senior Research Associate at the TMCD Centre of Oxford University, collaborating with researchers on Diffusion of Innovation in Low Income Countries (DILIC) and the potential new research area of Africa-China industrial high-technology sectors.

Professor Muchie has widely published in the areas of: international political economy, development economics of innovation and the making of African systems of innovation, and new technologies and development. Since 1985, he has produced over 365 publications, including books, chapters in books, and articles in internationally accredited journals and entries in institutional publications.
Plenary session
3:15 p.m. Friday, August 13

“Ethiopia’s Democratic Transition: Opposition Politics and the Role of the Diaspora”

Dr. Merera Gudina Jefi is currently serving as the Reagan Fascell Democracy Fellow (March 2014 – August 2014) in Washington D.C. He is an associate professor of political science and international relations at Addis Ababa University, where he previously served as chair of the department of political science and as a member of the academic commission of the College of Social Sciences. He is a former member of the Ethiopian Parliament (2005–2010) and is currently leading two opposition groups, the Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC) and the Ethiopian Federal Democratic Unity Forum (MEDREK). He is the author of two books on political developments in Ethiopia—Ethiopia: From Autocracy to ‘Revolutionary Democracy’: 1960s–2011 (2011) and Ethiopia: Competing Ethnic Nationalisms and the Quest for Democracy: 1960–2000 (2003)—as well as several articles in academic journals, including the African Journal of Political Science, the Journal of East African Studies, and the Horn of Africa Journal. Further, Dr. Jefi has been interviewed on CNN, BBC, and Al-Jazeera for his perspectives on political trends in Ethiopia. During his fellowship, Dr. Jefi is exploring opposition politics, political polarization, and the role of the Ethiopian diaspora in facilitating democratization toward Good Governance in Ethiopia.

Plenary session
10:45 Saturday, August 14

“Challenges and Opportunities of Transforming an African Science and Technology University.”

Professor Jang Gyu Lee is the President of Adama Science and Technology University. Before he joined ASTU in October 2011, he was a Professor at Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea for 30 years. Prior to join Seoul National University, he was a technical staff at The Analytic Sciences Corporation (TASC), Reading, Massachusetts and Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Cambridge, Massachusetts in the U.S. He received a B.S. from Seoul National University in 1971, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from University of Pittsburgh in 1974 and 1977, respectively, all in electrical engineering. As an academic person, his research interests include theory and applications of linear and nonlinear filtering, navigation technologies, and MEMS-based inertial sensors. He published over 150 journal papers and 250 conference papers in the interested areas of research.