



The Ethiopian Millennium
Reflections on the Past, Present Challenges, & Light into The Future
September 8-9, 2007
Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Symposia Program

Thursday and Friday, September 6 & 7

Arrival of Guests

**Holyday Inn, Capital
C St., SW
Washington DC**

Saturday, September 8, 2007

8:00-9:00 A.M Registration Howard University Medical Building, 5th & W St

Opening Session

9:00 – 9:10 Opening remarks by Artist Alemtsehay Wodajo, Executive Director of CCEM

9:10:- 9:15 Welcoming remarks by Mrs Nebiat Solomon, Director of African Affairs
Washington DC Mayor Adrian Fenty Office,

9:15 - 9:40 Keynote speech by Wrt. Birtukan Medeksa

Session 1. THE QUEST FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM
(Co-organized with Support group for Democracy in Ethiopia)

9:45- 10:45 Plenary Session 1.a. Quest for Democracy
(Co-organized with Support group for Democracy in Ethiopia)

Moderator: Ato Negussie Mengesha (Voice of America, VOA)

- *The Quest for Democracy Under TPLF: Lessons from 2005 Elections*
Dr. Mesfin Araya, City University of New York, NY

- *The Challenges of Balancing Collective and Individual Rights*
Mr. Dima N. Sarbo, University of Tennessee,

- *Democratic Response to National Question in Ethiopia*
Ato Ephrem Madebo, Systems Engineer, FAA

10:45-11:00 ***Refreshment Break***

11:00- 12:00 **Plenary Session 1.b. Quest for Democracy (continued)**

Moderator: Ato Negussie Mengesha (Voice of America, VOA)

- *Millennium Beliefs and Radicalization*
Dr. Messai Kebede, University of Dayton

- *Ethiopia and United States Relations:
It's Impact on the Quest for Democracy in Ethiopia*
Dr. Getachew Metaferia, Morgan State University

12:00PM – 12:30 ***Question & Answer Session***

12:30– 1:30 P.M ***Lunch Break***

1:35 – 3:35 P.M ***Sessions 2 & 3 (concurrent)***

Session 2: The Essentials of Peace & Reconciliation in Ethiopia

(Co-Organized by the Ethiopian Women for Peace and Development, EWPD)

Moderator: Dr. Maigenet Shifferaw, (University of The District of Colombia)

- *The Role of Civil Society in the Transformation of Governance and Peace
Building in Ethiopia*
Dr. Berhanu Mengistu, Old Dominion University

- *What Made The South African Reconciliation Possible?*
Dr. Kogila Adam- Moodley, University of British Columbia & Director of Research and
Development at the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre in Cape town, South Africa

- *Conflict Resolution in Divided Societies: Lessons from South Africa for Ethiopia*
Dr. Herbert Adam, Simon Fraser University & University of Cape Town

- *The Role of Women in Peace and Reconciliation: A Case of Women in the Southern Region*
Ms. Agere Tefera, Arlington Diocese Office of Migration & Refugees Services

- *Institutional Formation as an instrument for Conflict Prevention and Positive Change in Ethiopia: The Case of the Ethiopian Institute for Nonviolence Education and Peace studies (EINEPS)*

Ato Elias Wondimu, Tsehai Publishers & EINEPS

Session 3. Ethiopian History, Language, and Culture in the Past Millennium

Moderator: Ato Alemayehu Gebre Hiwot, Author & Poet, Washington DC

- *Ethiopia Ena Lelaw Alem*

Professor Getatchew Haile, St. John University, MN

- *Ethiopian History and Literature*

Dr. Fikre Tolossa, Writer, Poet & Playwright, California

- *The Ethiopian Millennium as a Signifier of Long Historical Journey*

Dr. Ayele Bekerie, Cornell University, NY

- *Ye Ethiopia Uletegnaw Millennium Be getami (Poet) Ayin*

Ato Assefa Gebremariam Tessema, Author & Poet, Las Vegas , Nevada

- *The Ethiopian Calander*

Dr. Aberra Molla, Ethiopic Computer & Software Inc, Colorado

- *Ethiopian Millennium: Past Offerings and Future Appeal*

Dr. Tadele Gebere Hiwot, Houston University

- *Hoping for a Free and Vibrant Press in Ethiopia:*

A Bird's Eye view of the Development of Modern Media over the Last One Hundred Years.

Dr. Meseret Chekol Reta, University of Wisconsin - River Falls.

3:35-3:50

Refreshment Break

3:55 - 6:10 P.M.

Sessions 4 & 5 (concurrent)

Session 4: Ethiopia's Millennium Challenges: Economic Development & the Environment

Moderator: Dr. Gezahegne Bekele, International Affairs & Trade (USGAO)

- *Ethiopia's Command Financial Economy:*

Measures for Transforming the Financial Sector in Next Millennium.

Professor Lemma Wolde Senbet, University of Maryland

- *The Ethiopian Economy in the New Millennium:*

A Despoiled Economy in Perspective.

Dr. Getachew Begashaw, William Ray Harper College, Chicago, IL

- *The Challenge of Economic Development:
Can Ethiopia Claim the 21st Century or its Coming Millennium?*
Dr. Sisay Assefa, Western Michigan University,
- *Sustainable Development and Peace in Ethiopia: Possibilities of Our Time?*
Ato Mersie Ejigu, Partnership for African Environmental Sustainability,
- *Global warming: the challenges and business opportunities*
Dr. Brook Lakew, NASA
- *Desertification in Ethiopia: A Challenge in the New Millennium.*
Ato Fekade Shewakena, National Institute of Health (NIH)

Session 5: Ethiopians in the Diaspora: Prospects, Challenges, and opportunities

Moderator: Ato Abdul Aziz Kamus, African Resource Center, Washington DC

- *The History of Ethiopian Immigrants in the US, a Profile*
Dr. Solomon Addis Getahun, Michigan State University
- *Ethiopian Musicians at the Diaspora Crossroads*
Dr. Kay Kaufman Shelemay, Harvard University
- *Success in Business & Entrepreneurship:
Lessons for Ethiopians in Diaspora*
Dr. Gabe Hamda, ICATT Consulting, Inc, Jacksonville, Florida.
- *Standing Up and Speaking Up for your community*
Mr. Abdulaziz Kamus, African Resource Center, Washington DC
- *Presentation on Issues concerning Ethiopian Americans,*
Selam Mulugerta, Special Assistant for Cong. Mike Honda, Washington DC

6:30 .P.M.

End of Saturday symposia program

The Ethiopian Millennium Grand Musical and Cultural Show at Stadium Armory
Starting from 8:00 PM on Saturday.

www.ethiopianmillennium2000.com/millennium.html

Sunday, September 9, 2007

9:15-10:15AM *Registration* Howard University Medical Building(5th & W)

10:30- 12:30 P.M. *Sessions 6 & 7 (Concurrent)*

Session 6. Human Rights Advocacy , Justice & the Rule of Law

(Co-organized with Coalition HR 2003 & EACA)

Moderator: Wro Meron Ahadu, Human Rights Activist, Los Angeles, CA

- *Diaspora Human Rights Advocacy: Lessons Learned, Building on Current Capacities, and Setting the Stage for Future Challenges*
Prof. Alemayehu Gebre Mariam, California State University, San Bernardino, CA
- *Targeted Legal Reform To Promote Democracy in the New Millennium:
Building an independent judiciary and reform in criminal justice*
Ato Dereje Demisse, Law Offices of Demisse and Church, Boston, MA
- *Unity on Principles and Deeds*
Mr. Obang O. Metho, Anuak Justice Council, Human Rights Advocate
- *Talking Beyond Human Rights Violations in Ethiopia*
Mr. Birhanemeskel Abebe, Human Rights Center University, Minnesota
- *The Human Rights Condition in the Ogaden Region of Ethiopia*
Mr. Yassin Quassim, Human Rights Activist, Atlanta, Georgia

Session 7. Building Democratic Institutions, & Civil Society

(Co-organized with Ethiopian National Congress, ENC)

Moderator: Ato Elias Wondimu, Teshai Publishers & EINEPS, Los Angeles, CA

- *Way Out of Seven Deaths: Ethiopian Prospects for the New Millennium.*
Dr. Tsehai Berhane-Selassie, Mary Immaculate College,
University of Limerick, Ireland
- *Citizens Charter: The Vital Role of a Strong Civic Movement*
Dr. Berhanu Abegaz, College of William and Mary, VA
- *Peace and wartime shifts in the behaviors of the state and civil society
and socioeconomic and political change in Ethiopia*
Dr. Teshome Tadesse, Michigan State University

- *Building Democratic Institutions of Governance & Civil Institutions*
Dr. Erqu Yimer, Ethiopian Community Center, Chicago, IL

12:30-1:30 P.M. *Lunch Break*

1:40 – 3:50 P.M. *Sessions 8 & 9 (concurrent)*

Session 8. Ethiopia's Millennium Challenges: Health and Women issues

Moderator: Mr. Nebiat Aklilu, Health Program Manager, Washington D.C.

- *The Role of Women in the struggle for Democracy & Human Rights*
Wro. Aslefech Retta, IEWO
- *Health and Good Governance: The Challenges in the New Millennium*
Dr. Kassa Ayalew
- *Health and Women*
Wro Lemlem Tsegaw
- *HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia*
Dr. Ashenafi Waktola

Session 9. The State of Education and the Youth in Ethiopia

Moderator: Ato Yohannes Assefa, Attorney & Publisher, Washington D.C.

- *Modernity, the Ethiopian Youth and the Challenge of the Third Millennium*
Dr. Paulos Milkias, Concordia University
- *Timhert BeEthiopia: Tinanet Ena Zare*
Dr. Aklilu Habte, Former President of Addis Ababa University
- *The Psychological Consequences of Miseducation*
Dr. Abeba Fekade
- *Ethiopia's Beleaguered Youth:
Can It Meet the Challenges of the New Millennium?*
Dr. Abraham Bekele
- *Matter of Interest*
Ato Mehari Belay, Strayer University

3:50 – 4:05

Refreshment Break

4:10- 6:10 P.M

Closing Plenary Session 10

**Session 10. The State, Ethno-nationalism , regional politics,
and security issues:**

Moderator: Ambassador Ayalew Mandefro, former Ambassador & Minister of Defense

- *Millennium Hopes for creating a Security Community from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean: Confronting the Challenges with Courage and Wisdom*

Dr. Mamo Muchie, Aalborg University, Denmark

- *Be Haya Andegnaw Kifele Zemen Be Ethiopia Yetedergu*

Ye Lewit Mukerawoch: Tahisas, Yekatit Ena Ginbot.

Dr. Negede Gobzie, Author and Political Activist, Belgium

- *Whither Ethio-Eritrean Relation in the Next Millennium? A Time for Reflection.*

Dr. Shumet Sishagne, Christopher Newport University, VA

- *Ethno-nationalism as a Hindrance to the Democratization of the Ethiopian State*

Dr Assefa Negash, De Geestgronden Institute of Mental Health,
The Netherlands

6:10- 7:15

Questions and Answer period

Closing Remarks & End of symposia program

8:00 P.M. CCEM will host a dinner reception for symposia guests at Meaza Restaurant, VA

To contact the Council for the Celebration of Ethiopian Millennium, regarding the Symposium you can write to: Neaminz@aol.com, or symposium@ethiopianmillennium2000.com; phone: 202-386-3037 or 301-681-1201

Monday, September 9, 2007

9:00a.m.-2:00pm

*Strategies to Raise The Ethiopian Community's National Political Clout
(Co-organized with Coalition for HR 2003 & EACA)*

Part I.

1. Panel Presentations:
2. Moderator and Opening Remarks –
Professor Al Mariam,
Professor of Political Science at California State University in San Bernardino,
CA, Defense Lawyer, Human Rights Advocate

Mr. Hamparian , Armenian National Council

Mr. Tewodros Dagne:

Mr. Gregory Simpkins:

Ms. Chelsea, Just Foreign Policy

Discussion
3. Closing Remarks and Next Steps: Professor Al Mariam

Part II.

4. Teach-in Workshop on Effective Advocacy in Congress
 - Member from Coalition for H.R.2003 will explain & elaborate written notes on the Dos & Don't of grassroots Advocacy in Amharic
 - Member of Just Foreign Policy will lead the workshop on Hill Week.
 - Member of local organizing committee will make a presentation on the logistics of visiting congressional representatives during the Millennium Week.

Professor. Alemayehu Mariam: Professor of Political Science at California State University in San Bernardino, CA, Defense Lawyer, Human Rights Advocate
Ms. Chelsea, Just Foreign Policy
Ms. Meron Ahadu, Human Rights Advocate, Coalition for HR2003
Explanation of the logistical arrangements for the visit to Congress (Hill Week)
Dr. Mekdese Kassa, Ethiopian American Civic Advocacy (EACA)
The teach-in will be held in English and Amharic

Part III

2:00p.m.-5:00pm

Visit to Congress: Meet the Representative for your District

Tuesday – Friday, September 11-14, 2007

9:00a.m.-4:00pm

Teach-in Workshop and Visit to Congress to Advocate for H.R.2003.

Place: TBD

www.ethiomeia.com