

Hope Enterprises

Quarterly Report

January, February and March, 2009

Part I: The Headquarters

On February 6, the master plan of the Dessie Referral Hospital that Mr. Daniel De Witte of the Netherlands volunteered to design was formally handed over to the hospital in Dessie in the presence of the hospital's board, the administrator of the zone, the mayor of the city and various other stakeholders. Dr. Minas Hiruy, who was instrumental in getting the technical assistance, interpreted the power point presentation of Mr. De Witte and the design was subsequently accepted with big thanks to Mr. De Witte for the great works and contribution and to Dr. Minas for locating the architect. Subsequent to the handover, the hospital set up an ad hoc committee to raise the funding for the construction of the regional hospital which has been serving the poor in a catchment area of no less than seven million people.

Hope celebrated its annual staff family day on February 14 inviting all the staff members and their dependents for recreation, acquaintances, recognitions for excellence and sharing of meals together. The event was deeply appreciated by staff. The next day, the whole Roggie community in Oromia State recognized Hope's contributions in a public ceremony in the village in the presence of government officials, the elders and other town folks, beneficiaries and the media. During the event, Dr. Minas was awarded the highest traditional award of a traditional garb and a decorated gourd for initiating the project in the village few years back and Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for supporting the various activities in the village. Mr. Zenebe Ayele, the Executive Director of the Ladders of Hope and Mr. Temesgen Tamene, the Director of Finance, were also awarded for their efforts to implement the initiative. Dr. Minas expressed his own gratitude to the community, the government of Oromia and the church. He then presented a solar cooker produced by the vocational training center of the Addis Ababa Branch to the eldest person in the village after demonstrating the cooking that was done in the cooker while the official ceremony was going on.

On February 23, Hope gathered its entire supervisory staff for training on the new proclamation for charitable societies, quality service delivery and the draft manual of policy and procedures. Hope also used the occasion to introduce Dr. Alemu Gebre Wold, the General Secretary, Dr. Fisseha Itanna, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Behailu Abebe, the Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs. On February 23, the senior members of the management led by Dr. Alemu Gebre Wold visited the activities of horticulture and apiculture of the Agricultural Research Center in Holetta, Dr. Alemu's former place of work. The exposure was made to learn about modern efforts in agriculture to introduce to our rural projects.

The executive chamber had its bimonthly meetings at the headquarters. On March 23, Ethiopiaid undertook its annual visit of our Addis Ababa operations and Hope University College. A team including Sarah Jackson, Leanne Neal and Jon Brooks took part in the visit. A number of issues were raised during the visit including the cost increases of construction of the university college. Four members of Hope's management were invited for a partner's meeting of Woord & Daad in Nairobi from March 25 to April 2 to discuss various steps to form regional and global alliances. Dr. Minas was elected to represent the Anglophone African countries in subsequent talks regarding the alliance formation.

Part II: The Ladders of Hope

During the quarter, the effort of job and business mediation continued to succeed as most of the youngsters who graduated in July got jobs. The Ladders of Hope emphasized quality assurance during the quarter. Mr. Zenebe, the Executive Director, visited the various operations of the Ladders to assess quality. In this regard, the Gambella Area Project faced problems in getting quality staff and owing to this gap, performance was not where we wanted it to be. The Ladders conducted performance evaluation of the staff following the end of the first semester. The evaluation was taken more seriously than ever as it was tied to merit increases. This step encouraged those who contributed a lot to the organization and the hope is that it will motivate those whose performance has been wanting to improve.

During this quarter, the Manager of the Dessie Branch, Mr. Teferi Ayalew, was transferred to head the Addis Ababa branch. Mr. Teferi, who was permitted to finish his bachelor's following his long and positive service of the Dessie Branch. The Ladders restructured its operation along sector lines and it began the preparation to have each sector be headed by the requisite specialist. On February 26, the Dessie Branch managed to get its project agreement with the Amhara State renewed for another five years. The signing ceremony and the activities to be implemented were subsequently screened on the regional TV for consecutive days. A number of partners such as Ethiopiaid/UK, Tear Australia and Woord & Daad visited the Ladders.

Addis Ababa Branch

Full Family Based Child Care

A total number of 451 children, of which 244 were girls, benefited from the program. The students of the kindergarten and the elementary school celebrated Christmas on Jan 5 and 6 respectively. Bed sheets, t-shirts and socks were presented to each child then. 19 children were medically assisted.

Partial Family Based Child Care

264 students, of which 83 were girls, were supported by way of partial support in basic needs and full support educationally. Of the total, 110 attended our school, 27 attended our vocational training center and the remaining 27 students followed up their education in community schools.

Feeding Center

77,000 destitute people were served lunch during the quarter. Out of these, 36,586 were adult male, 27,339 were adult female, 6,381 were female street children and the remaining 6,694 were male street children. Persons with disabilities were the largest majority of the adult male beneficiaries. The lunch was provided at two places. 750 people were served at the main feeding center on Churchill road and 350 people were served at our Rehabilitative Street Children's Project in the same area. The latter location was for women and children given that most could not manage queuing for long.

Street Children's Breakfast

This project provided breakfast to 730 street children (of which 293 were girls) every day except Sunday. After breakfast, the children were taught some basic literacy by two volunteers named Gezahegne Amare and Samru Mehari. Due to the continuous advice and counseling by these volunteers, 20 street children were reunited with their families.

Hope School, Addis Ababa

791 students, of which 417 were girls, attended our school, which had 16 classes from kindergarten to grade ten. The school was closed from February 6 to 13, for mid-year break. All of the teachers of the school participated in a workshop on HIV and AIDS mainstreaming from February 18 to 20. On February 22, meetings were conducted for grades ten and eight students to begin preparing them for the national examinations that they were to take in the spring. The biannual general parents' meeting was conducted on February 28 and the parents appreciated the improvement that the school has shown. The monthly meeting of teachers was conducted and issues raised during the meetings with parents and students were discussed and addressed. A volunteer from England by the name, Alan Taylor, taught English pronunciation in our school from February 16 to April 2. Judith Lechanteur was another volunteer, who also taught English in April.

The members of the mini-media club visited different radio stations and their leader and two students from the elementary school were trained for two days on the basics of media by UNESCO, which also donated one Panasonic tape-recorder and one sound-recorder to the club. Other clubs like the girls club, literature and language club, civic and know your country clubs have been accomplishing different activities related with their objectives.

Community Based Education Support

I. Street children

450 street children, of which 193 were girls, were supported to attend 49 government schools in Addis Ababa. A look at the result of their first semester exam shows that 420 of them scored more above the passing grade of 50 average points. The 30 students, who did not do so well, were advised to work harder.

ii. Other Children

500 students, of which 282 were girls, were assisted in this program in a different part of Addis Ababa called Bole sub-city. The children attended five government schools. Most of the children were children of migrant laborers and farmers whose land was given up for urban development following compensation. These students did well despite their poor conditions and regular tutorial program that Hope sponsored helped a lot.

School of Home Workers, Addis Ababa

This school enrolled 295 female home workers. Of these, 123 students were in the first cycle, 85 students in the second cycle and 87 students in the third cycle. The schooling was provided in two of our campuses in the city in the early evening. All the four teachers of the school participated in a three day workshop on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming. The home workers school was evaluated by the government and was regarded an exemplary initiative. 70% of the girls got more than average grades.

Scholarship for University Students

11 youngsters, of whom three were girls, benefited from this scholarship attending Addis Ababa University, Mekele University, Debub University, Diredawa University, Haromaya University and Jimma University. Their areas of studies are psychology, physics, forestry, English language, mechanical engineering, midwifery, statistics, horticulture, health science, business and economics. Upon submission of their first semester grade report, all had passes. Hope has been supporting the students with transport allowance and school supplies.

Hope Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa

125 trainees, of which 47 were girls, were enrolled in the four departments of industrial and machine drive technology, general metal fabrication and assembling technology, wood works and hotel services and catering. In January, 30 companies were contacted for

apprenticeship placements of our trainees. All the bulk purchase for the vocational training was completed during the quarter as planned. A number of volunteers came to our training center and shared what they knew. One of the volunteers, Mrs. Elisabeth Henk from London, taught at the School of Hotel Services and Catering for a month. The networking among TVET providers within Kolfe Keranio Sub city was established at a conference that Hope organized. During the conference, Ato Solomon Mulugeta, Manager of Ethiopian Basic Metal & Engineering Industries, spoke on a relevant topic, “what type of professionals demand companies” and an official from Kolfe Keranio Education Bureau spoke on quality audit of TVET. The bi-annual meeting with trainees was conducted on March 7 and points like the discipline of the trainees and occupational safety standards were raised. The staff was evaluated during the quarter.

Job and Business mediation

By the end of the quarter, out of the 77 previous graduates, 70 graduates or (96%) got jobs while two of the graduates freelanced using the skills they acquired. HOPE Enterprises has been advertising its VTCs and graduates on Ethiopian Television & Ethiopian Herald. As a result, our telephones have been busy with employers calling for candidates. The manager of the office was asked as to why our graduates continued to be in high demand during hard economic times. He told us the key factors were our responsiveness to the skill needs of the employers and the integrity of the graduates.

Dessie Branch

The South Wollo Finance and Economic Development Bureau reviewed charitable organizations on March 4 and our Dessie Branch continued to maintain its leading edge. Mr. Teferi Ayalew completed his service at the branch by the end of January and was transferred to serve the Addis Ababa Branch as manager. Mr. Ayalew Tesfaye, the head of the branch’s finance became the acting manager pending the recruitment of a manager. Mr. Teferi served the branch with enviable effectiveness making it an exemplary outreach for a number of years.

Full Family Based Child Care

910 children, of whom 452 were girls, benefited from this care. Of the total number, 636 attended our school, 114 attended our VTC, 62 attended preparatory school in Dessie and the remaining 98 were in various universities all throughout the country. All the basic needs of the children were met. In addition, health education on environmental sanitation, personal hygiene and HIV and AIDS was given. The academic performance of students and other related issues were raised and discussed. The usual services of shower were continued as per the set daily plan. In order to support the children with adequate nutrition, food with different nutritional values were provided during the lunch and breakfast times. Kindergarten students were provided with additional food between

meals. Five children dropped out of the program due to different reasons and were replaced by others. The weight and height of children were measured and have shown proportional increment of both parameters.

Hope Junior Clinic

A total of 98 (37 boys and 51 girls) were medically assisted. Vaccination on Tetanus was also given to a total of 102 children above the age of 14. In addition, voluntary HIV test was conducted involving 180 (78 male and 102 female) students by one counselor, a laboratory technician and nurse.

Food Security

The irrigation diversion work was undertaken in Werebabo and Tehuledere districts. The digging and building works of 378 meters canal construction was completed and checked by the district's Agriculture and Rural Development Office. The remaining work is expected to be completed by next quarter. The canal is to be used for irrigation as part of the effort to make the area food secure.

Hope School, Dessie

636 students, of whom 321 were girls, attended the Hope School. Of the total, 610 scored above the passing grade. 4,353 exercise books and 1,306 pens were distributed to all the students. During a scholastic competition in the district, grade four students ranked first. The monthly meeting of teachers was conducted with issues like better academic performance of students, student discipline, and building relationships between parents and teachers being discussed. Weekly and daily lesson plans were prepared according to the annual plan and supervision and control of the strict implementation of the plans were undertaken. Efforts were exerted to make the learning-teaching process student centered. Student question & answer competitions were conducted and awards were given for the winners. In an effort to increase the interest of those low performing students, computer based English language teaching was given during the reporting quarter. Training was also given to all teachers on basic work processes by the concerned government office for three consecutive days. Teachers prepared the teaching aids that they needed. Counseling for both boys and girls continued on regular basis. Seven teachers, who were trained on HIV Mainstreaming in Addis Ababa, trained their colleagues upon their return.

The Girls Club was trained on issues affecting girls by the city's Women's Affairs Office. The members of the Mini Media Club had an experience sharing visit with the same club of Hote High School. Drama was presented by HIV and Red Cross Club to the school community and the School of Home Workers. Language and Literature Club set aside a day and encouraged all in the school to use English in their communication.

Community Based Education Support

500 students, of which 273 were girls, were enrolled in this useful program. A total of 3,731 exercise books, 500 pens and pencils were distributed to the students. This assistance helped the targeted children to continue their education. The performance of the children was regularly followed up and tutorial help was given to low performing students. Six children were medically assisted. Out of the 500 students, only 64 students scored below average.

School of Home workers

The 248 female home workers of the school being spread in the three levels of the school, there were 97 students in level one, 58 students in level two and 53 students in level three. The performance of the youngsters during the first semester was fine and needed supplies were distributed to the students for second semester's use. The youngsters also received a number of helpful teaching regarding their lives.

Scholarship for University Students

98 students of whom 43 were women, continued to be assisted in the various universities of attendance. Birr 95.00 per month was sent to each student who attended a university and Birr 60.00 per month was given to each student in a preparatory school.

Hope Vocational Training Center, Dessie

113 youngsters, of whom 62 were girls, were enrolled in our training center. The spread of the trainees was 27 in the industrial and machine drive technology, 28 in general metal fabrication and assembling technology, 30 trainees in administrative office and secretarial technology and 28 trainees in masonry. Soon after the completion of first semester in January, a number of supplies were distributed to the trainees for the second semester. Follow-up and supervision works were undertaken to ensure that all courses were given according to plan and the policy of practical teaching in the ratio of 80% was implemented. The various fields of training have had their own achievements during the quarter. For instance, under the Department of Industrial and Machine Drive Technology, the computerized digital electronics, electrical drawings based on the program and design works of the graduating class, maintenance works of the electric lines and appliances of the campus were completed. The second year students of this department had an educational tour of the Kombolcha Textile Factory. The Department of General Metal Fabrication and Assembling Technology accomplished different theoretical and practical works. The students of this department visited the Kombolcha College's poultry production centre and the Kombolcha Textile Factory. The masonry department was engaged in the construction of a store on campus, maintenance of water pipelines and manufacture of brick buildings. The Department of Administrative Office and Secretarial Technology completed their major course called Office Administration, which also had practical component.

Though the vocational training center faced shortages of computers and reference materials, it was able to manage the teaching according to its plans. The center participated in a three days consultative meeting sponsored by the Amhara Technical and Vocational Promotion Agency from January 19 to 21. We presented our accomplishments in comparison to our plans of the previous six months. Then discussions ensued on how to improve the quality of the training.

Job and Business Mediation

Of the 25 youngsters who did not get jobs from the graduates of the previous July, ten of them got employment leaving 15 still in need of work. Continued follow up of the unemployed showed that a number of them were freelancing using their skills and managing to stand on their own.

Gambella Area Project

Family Based Child Care

Of the 579 children who were assisted, 526 students attended our school, 26 students attended our VTC, 21 students attended various universities in the country and six children attended the preparatory school in Gambella. The usual breakfast and lunch were provided every school day to those attending our institutions. The quality of the food was supervised by the branch's nurse and the child care office. A total of 35 students were medically assisted during the quarter. The monthly allowances to each cluster of children were sent regularly. The monthly parental meetings were conducted and improvements in child support began to surface. 17 children left the program due to their own reasons and were replaced by others just as needy. During the quarter, a total of 47 homes of the children were randomly visited and checks were made on the use of student allowance. On balance we were happy to note that spending went as per our expectation.

Community Based Child Care

34 children, of whom 16 were girls, received community based care with us covering their educational expenses in the different governmental schools and providing a stipend of Birr 45.00 per month to each child. Ten of the students left the area moving out with their parents. As the project was slated for phase out, there was no replacement.

Hope School, Gambella

526 students, of whom 269 were girls, attended our school. Achievements of first semester were not as we would have liked with 447 students or 85 % scoring above the passing mark. We had meetings with both teachers and students to discuss the poor performance. In the end, responsibilities for certain failures were accepted by both groups

and steps for an improvement began to be taken. One of the steps was strengthening the tutorial sessions. The other step was ongoing and closer supervision of the staff. At the same time, the extra-curricular activities proceeded well. The Anti HIV and AIDS and Red Cross Club received training from the Gambella Red Cross Branch. The club established a relationship with Generation to Generation Anti HIV and AIDS Club and presented its performance about the pandemic to the public.

The Environmental Sanitation Club mobilized students every Friday and cleaned the grounds of the campus, had different sessions on awareness about the needs of keeping sanitation and planted papaya trees in the school's compound. The Girls Club conducted a workshop for female students above grade four on different cultural issues that hinder girls from attending their school. Two women were invited to speak on the harms of early marriage and pre-marital sex. The Pedagogy Club had assisted teachers in making different kinds of teaching aids.

Vocational Training Center, Gambella

26 students, of which 11 were girls, were enrolled in the VTC. Level three training was offered with majors in administrative office and secretarial technology on one hand and masonry on the other. Four of the female students dropped from the program due to their own reasons. The major problem of the training center continued to be finding qualified teachers with hands on skills.

Daycare Project and Community Based Education Support

I. Day Care

The day care project has been supporting 160 little children of which 80 were girls. The children were provided breakfast and lunch every day except Sunday at four of our daycare centers. Literacy in Amharic and English, basic arithmetic and sports were also taught. 31 of the children were sick and treated using government health institutions. Health education was given to parents and children during the monthly parental meetings.

ii. Community Based Education Support

The other 160 children under the community based educational support attended their education in the four government schools in Gambella City. Their expenses for school supplies and uniforms were covered by us. The results of the exams of the first semester were satisfactory.

Assosa Area Project

Family Based Child Care

The usual provision of breakfast and lunch for the 250 (124 boys and 126 girls) students continued. The food has been catered by a vendor. The 40 birr allowance was also given to the families of the children each month. Parental meetings continued to be held when the parents came to pick up the allowance. We used the meetings to gather beneficiary feedback about a whole range of issues including how we can improve our outreach. 25 students were medically assisted. The 2009 bundle of love gifts were presented during Christmas celebration on January 6. The gifts were bed sheet, socks and T-shirts with HOPE logo printed on them. Two staff members participated in our HIV and AIDS Mainstreaming workshop in Addis Ababa and then they gave the same training to their colleagues in the area project. Ato Temesgen Tamene, the Director of Finance visited the finance office of the area project and gave training on a number of themes to the staff.

Hope School, Assosa

The second semester began on February 9 with 250 students in attendance. On that very day, a general teachers meeting was conducted evaluating the performance of the school during the previous semester. Overall there was satisfaction about student performance with no one failing. During the first meeting with parents of the second semester, parents were asked to send their children to school early enough for classes to start on time. The usual teaching on HIV and AIDS and malaria prevention were also made. A classroom was set aside as a media center. After an evaluation of the school by the concerned regional office, the accreditation certificate was given to our kindergarten and the first cycle elementary school. The evaluators expressed their appreciation and thanks to Hope.

Weekly lesson plans were prepared and checked every Friday. Tutorial classes were given to all students after the normal classes every school day and on Saturday morning. 1,511 exercise books, 330 pens and 400 pencils were purchased and distributed to all the 250 students. The health club taught students about the different health issues by giving emphasis on personal hygiene and HIV and AIDS. The drama and literature club presented its shows during the flag ceremony and the Christmas celebration. Inter-class football competitions were also conducted during the reporting time.

The Construction Project

Construction activities were stopped after the reluctance of the contractor to finalize the remaining work. The responsible monitoring authority of such construction activities in the region called the Bureau of Works and Urban Development had advised us to claim the deposit from the insurance company before the bill bond's expiration on account of the contractor's cessation of work.

Rift Valley Area Project

The Roggie Child Care and Training Center

Family Based Child Care

250 students of which 126 were girls benefited from this program. In addition to the regular provision of lunch to all students, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church was willing to fund the provision of breakfast to the children. A bid was out and a caterer was selected. During the quarter, 28 children received medical treatment mainly for malaria. A number of meetings were held with members of the community to discuss community health, child care and income enhancement. Members of the community formed a small credit association and named it after Hope.

Hope School, Roggie

First semester ended on January 23. After two weeks of break, all students returned to their schooling. Looking at first semester tests, all of the students scored above average. The necessary educational materials were distributed to all students and office supplies were also sent to the project during the quarter. Different clubs like Anti-HIV and AIDS Club, Environmental Health Club, Sports Club and Girls Club were formed and became operational. Many students joined these clubs and were benefiting from their activities. The school's director participated in a workshop that was organized by the district Bureau of Education from February 25 to 27. The main agendas of the workshop included quality in schools, educational action plans, academic performance of students and civic education. Two of the teachers of the school also attended our workshop on HIV and AIDS mainstreaming.

Adult Education

Following the authorization of the Bureau of Education of the district, 82 adults were enrolled in our night school. Of the total, 29 were female. The adults were divided into those who could not read and write and those who could. The Bureau of Education granted to the school 55 books for different levels of adult education. During the usual meetings with community members, the adult school was promoted in order to increase the number of participants.

The Water Project

The provision of clean and potable water to students of the school and to the 2,200 community members continued well during the reporting quarter. The committee was fulfilling its responsibilities. So far, Birr 2,352.00 was collected from the sale of the water and the money was deposited in a bank account opened for this purpose. This money will be used for regular maintenance of the water well.

The Hirara Child care and Training Center

Family Based child Care

The usual support given to the 250 children continued. The personal hygiene of students was regularly checked each morning during the flag ceremony. 17 students visited health centers for mainly malaria and parents were told about the importance of using mosquito nets while asleep each time they came to pick up the monthly allowances of their children. Christmas was celebrated on January 1 in the presence of the Executive Director, Ato Zenebe Ayele and the newly appointed General Secretary of Hope, Dr. Alemu G/Wold. Mr. Dave Hunt, a long time friend of Hope, made a short speech about Christmas. Then T-shirts from Venture Christian Church of California were given to each child and mosquito nets were distributed to each of the children in the nursery.

Hope School, Hirara

90% of the students did well in their examinations. Educational materials were distributed to all students. Two teachers of the school participated in our HIV and AIDS mainstreaming workshop. Four clubs, namely Anti-HIV and AIDS Club, Environmental Health Club, Sports Club and Peer Education Club were formed and became operational performing different activities that were both educational and entertaining. During the reporting quarter, inputs for the annual plan of action and budget we made by the area project's management.

Adult Education

The 100 adults of whom 43 were women, continued to follow their education during the reporting quarter. A team of 17 members from TEAR Australia and led by Ms. Mariam Bebis visited the Adult Education Program on January 12. In its discussion with the farmers, the farmers began to talk expressing their hopes to benefit from doing simple arithmetic, reading material that affects their lives and being able to write letters. Some indicated that their education may also help them in learning about certain skills.

Construction of the Elementary School

The construction of the school progressed well during the reporting quarter. The framework for the ceiling of the block that housed grades 1 to 4 and the inside plastering work of both blocks were completed. Doors and windows were fixed on both blocks. The ceramics work and the toilet construction were also under progress. The construction is planned to be fully completed in April.

Part III: Hope University College

The university college started the year with the employment of Dr. Fisseha Itanna as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Behailu Abebe as Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs. Both started work in their respective fields with

the former working on the curriculum and the latter on administrative and financial manuals. The President, Dr. Minas Hiruy, in turn has been working on various fronts.

Faculty Options

In view of the Advisory Board's decision to deliberate on the departments of the second faculty, science and technology, and on a choice of a third faculty in a half day workshop, a rapid assessment on the third faculty considering various options was done. Dr. Fisseha spearheaded the rapid assessment involving stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education and known experts. He also visited Addis Ababa University, Adama University and Haromaya University for inputs. As the faculty of science and technology was to be built on the three streams construction technology, general mechanics and electrical technology of vocational training that we offer within our Addis Ababa and Dessie branches, Dr. Fisseha had to find out what the fields would embody at a degree level. A lot of useful information was gathered in Adama University, which started out as a technical college. In an attempt to design a program that is of high demand and that reflects current technology, the programs of Thames Valley University and what were gathered from the Internet were very helpful. The three fields chosen were found acceptable, feasible and marketable. Then as to the third faculty a number of faculties were considered.

These included faculties of information sciences, environmental science, food science, social science and music. Dr. Fisseha weighed the options in terms of market relevance, feasibility, funding opportunity and acceptance. Based on these criteria, information sciences and environmental science were found to be most favorable and recommended for application during the first cycle while the rest were considered for subsequent cycles. The findings of this rapid assessment were sent to the principal sponsor, Ethiopiaid, and the other partners for their comments. Useful feedback was gathered from them.

The Advisory Board met on March 3, 2009 at 9am in the temporary office of the university college and discussed the findings along with the feedback gathered from our partners. After lengthy discussions in the presence of the Senate, the three faculties of 1. business management and entrepreneurship, 2. science and technology and 3. information technology were adopted. As to the departments within each faculty, business was to have three departments in management, finance and marketing, science and technology was to have four departments of industrial technology, construction technology, electrical technology and environmental science. Information technology was to have two departments of information systems on one hand and computer science on the other. Following these decisions, Dr. Fisseha began to prepare the details regarding courses.

Pre-accreditation Process

Keeping in mind our plan to start classes in September 2009, Dr. Fisseha approached the Ministry of Education during the week of March 10 about the pre-accreditation process. To our surprise, we were told that the requirements had changed requiring all institutions to have everything on board for the pre-accreditation assessment first rather than

operating on promise of investment like used to be done before. This meant that for September 2009 commencement, we have to have the buildings, equipping, the furnishing, the book stocking and the staff hiring completed first before the Ministry could come and do its assessment. We gathered that the pre-accreditation was to be given within two months of assessment, which are scheduled in December and May. The Senate discussed the new development and assuming to invite the assessment team of the Ministry next May, the Senate was of the stance that we will not be ready for the assessment given that the buildings in the first phase will not be ready by then.

Administrative and Financial Affairs

Dr. Behailu was deployed to attend to the completion of the administrative and financial handbook based on the draft charter prepared by the President and subsequently endorsed by the Advisory Board. Dr. Behailu contacted a number of government institutions to get a sense about exiting laws and directives in these matters. He then contacted both public and private institutions to get an understanding of their administrative and financial systems. He also collected detailed pre-accreditation and accreditation material from the Ministry of Education and distributed copies to the other members of the Senate. Dr. Behailu attended to matters related to the VAT and duty free importation of certain items that are to come from abroad. In early February, he followed up on the president's letter to the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to get VAT free status. The letter was passed to a committee with an instruction to make recommendation as to whether or not NGOs can qualify for VAT free status. Unfortunately, the committee has not submitted its recommendation since the assignment last June. Specific material lists for furniture and data systems are being awaited to approach the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency with requests for duty free importation of items.

Construction

China Jiangsu had its ups and downs causing work slow down up to about mid February, 2009. The president along with the project manager, Niek Hoffius, and the consultant complained about this problem noting the sad consequence of delay and the absence of many of the Chinese that were required to be on site working as per our agreement. The President then wrote a letter detailing the complaints to the contractor. In a joint meeting held between the company and the university college, the contractor acknowledged the complaints and promised to make amends. Soon after wards, we found out the main reason for the slow down. The country representative and the project manager of the company did not see eye to eye. The very day we found out about this tension, we had a meeting with the country representative, who told us things would be resolved very soon. Very soon indeed both went to China and matters were resolved with the project manager coming back as the country representative and the speed of work picking up. Additional Chinese workers were also deployed. However the building materials that were to be imported from China for the finishing of the buildings of the first phase did not come by the end of January as promised. We complained about this delay. In February, we got a letter from the contractor asking for an extension of delivery time from May to June. We

objected to this request realizing the impact to our timetable. And as March came, we noted that none of the finishing items came and we even began to doubt if the buildings can be completed by June.

Budget Revision

In the meantime the construction consortium had been meeting in Holland following up on the progress of the construction. Knowing that unending cost overruns and payment of VAT had adversely impacted the budget of the university college, a new bill of quantity was prepared by the consortium and emailed to the President along with proposals for cuts in the volume of work. The new bill of quantity that also included the VAT was done by the donor of the master plan, Mr. Hans Treurniet, who also did the original bill of quantities. The new total came to Birr 89,717,826.00, being almost twice the amount of the initial budget of Birr 46,124,435.00. The consortium, planning to discuss the proposal in Addis Ababa on February 3, deployed its delegation involving the chairman and donor of the university college, Mr. Henk De Pagter and two other members.

The delegation arrived in the morning of February 2 and that afternoon, it visited the construction in the presence of the President and the project manager as well as representative of the contractor. The following morning the consortium held its formal meeting starting at 9 am right in the office of the construction site. During the first half of the morning, the meeting was held with the contractor in the presence of its new country representative, Mr. Zhou Jun and the contractor's site manager on one hand, our project manager, Mr. Niek Hoffius, the Director of the consulting firm and the president on the other hand. During the second half of the morning the meeting was held with the consulting firm without the presence of the contractor. Various technical issues were addressed during both meetings and there was a resolution on each much to our happiness. After lunch, the consortium then held a meeting with the President and the project manager without either the contractor or the consulting firm. At this time, the main issue was the cost overrun and the proposals for cuts in the volume of work.

In this regard, it was proposed that the installation of six of the seven elevators and the back up generator be pended until funding allows. There were also proposals for cuts in cost in certain areas like books and digital infrastructure. Furthermore, cheaper manufacturing options for the furniture were sought while maintaining European standard. Considering the proposed cuts, the cost was brought down to Birr 82,622,525.00 giving a saving of Birr 7,095,301.00. Then, upon examining the income side of the project, it was realized that additional money was given and/or pledged through Woord & Daad and the Chairman of the consortium, who expressed a willingness to fund the additional costs including that of the elevator of the library whose original cost he had sponsored. This brought the total of funding on hand to Birr 60,000,000.00 leaving a deficit of Birr 22,622,525.00.

Furniture

We explored various options in getting the furniture of the college manufactured. We assessed what our workshop could do and what we could do by way of imports of finished furniture. We realized that while our workshop could make the furniture, quality and material durability could be a problem. Chinese finished products were seen to be inferior during our visit therein and imports from Europe were found to be expensive following search by our project manager. Then we approached a Dutch company that has a plant here in Ethiopia. This company told us that if we could import Austrian timber, they could manufacture the furniture here with the desired quality. We visited samples in its Debrezeit plant with the project manager and the chairman of our Board, Mr. Negash Kebede, early in March and realized that both the quality and price was suitable.

ICT

While the contractor is putting in place the entire infrastructure to enable Internet connectivity all throughout campus, a bid was sought for the data system. We had a local firm of reputation, Global Solutions, submit its quotation. Turning over the proposal to our partners for analysis, the experts of Ethiopiaid and our partners in the Silicon Valley and the Netherlands gave us very helpful feedback. Two other vendors from the UK and the Netherlands also submitted their proposals. We approached the local firm with all the comments. It told us that it would meet the recommendations of the experts. Meantime, with one of the comments being that the digital system is overdone, the bill of quantity is being revised with the consulting firm. The purchasing committee shall then assess the offers and make a decision.

Respectfully Submitted,

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