



REPORT ON THE SECOND
Ethiopian Cities' Day

25 November 2010



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ETHIOPIAN CITIES' DAY

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50th Anniversary of the EPRDF

REPORT ON THE SECOND **Ethiopian Cities' Day 2010**



I. INTRODUCTION

The second Ethiopian Cities' Day was officially opened on Friday the 26th of November 2010 in the city of Hawassa under the theme "Developing Cities Developing a Country". The celebrations took place at Hawassa Meskel Square, the town's spacious city centre. Beyond the myriad of activities celebrating the Day, the event also marked the 50th Anniversary of the city of Hawassa.

The opening ceremony was presided over by H.E. Girma Wolde Georgis, President of Ethiopia, H.E. Ato Shiferaw Shegute, president of SNNP, Ato Shebequ Magana, Mayor of Hawassa, H.E. Ato Mekuria Haile, Minister of Urban Development and Construction (MUDC), and H.E Ato Hailemeskel Teferra, state minister of MUDC.

The second Ethiopian Cities Day benefited all participating cities in promoting themselves and sharing experiences amongst each other and between cities and stakeholders. Many cities realised that there is an existing pool of experiences within Ethiopia that can be tapped in and utilised to speed up the ongoing reform processes.

Eighty cities and several thousand visitors from various parts of the country attended the event and celebrated their cities' developmental achievements for four consecutive days. Live music, dance performances and a circus supplied the visitors with a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment package while panel discussions, workshops and various competitions catered to the intellectual aspects of the event.

The Day was organised by the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, the Ethiopian Cities' Association (ECA, formerly the Ethiopian Cities' Network) and Hawassa City administration. It was supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ, formerly GTZ) GmbH, and the Urban Governance and Decentralisation Programme on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Corporate Media Communication (CMC) was commissioned to facilitate the Ethiopian Cities' Exhibition.

The purpose of this report is to reflect on the preparations and execution of the second Ethiopian Cities Day celebrated in Hawassa in 2010. The report seeks to give an overview of the various competitions, including the processes involved in realising them, and their outcomes. While highlighting what went well it also makes recommendations that will help to improve competitions and exhibitions linked to the event.



II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the second time since its establishment, the Ethiopian Cities' Day themed "Developing Cities Developing a Country" demonstrated that Ethiopia's cities are indeed developing at an amazing rate.

The second Ethiopian Cities' Day was a memorable event and a great opportunity for both cities and the public to form part of the country's development engine. This summary and the publication in general, hope to recapture an essence of the atmosphere created during the Cities' Day by providing an overview of the event's major highlights.

Below is a brief summary of the main events conducted during the second Ethiopian Cities' Day. Given the volume of the report, it does not include recommendations put forward. For a detailed description, please refer to the body of the report.

The Exhibition and City Marketing Award encouraged cities to promote and market their tourism, investment, commercial and other development capacities, and attractions within a competitive environment. Of the nineteen ULGDP cities, Gondar merited the first place, while the city of Shashamene and Bishoftu came second and third respectively. Of the sixty-one smaller cities, Ambo was ranked first, Dukem second and Jijiga came third. The best practice competition encouraged cities to disclose and share successful experiences amongst each other in a competitive environment. Initiated by the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, which has institutionalised the Best practice Award to Improve Urban Life to encourage and scale up successful and sustainable practices, cities submitted a great number of good and best practices relating to urban reforms. The women self help group practice submitted by Bishoftu City Administration was awarded the first price. The second rank went to a practice specifically targeting women: Fenote Birhan Women's saving and Credit Association, submitted by Dessie City Administration. The third winner was the City Administration of Mekelle with their Electro-Mechanical Cluster.

The youth live art & photography competition was a wonderful tool for incorporating the youth's views and visions into such an important event. Both, the paintings and the pictures they produced served as evidence for their eagerness to engage in the affairs of their country and the future of their cities.

The ULGDP best performing award measured and awarded those cities that considerably improved service delivery and good governance in their city administrations as part of the Urban Local Government Development project. Cities were assessed according to their performance with regard to planning/participation, financial management and service delivery. Out of the nineteen cities that were evaluated, Bahir Dar merited the first place, Shire came second and Kombolcha third.

The best master thesis competition among the postgraduate students of the Ethiopian Civil Service College (ECSC) in the Urban Management Masters Programme (UMMP), aimed at promoting postgraduate research that offers practical solutions to the socio-economic challenges faced by Ethiopian cities. Teshome Getachew Shiferaw with his thesis entitled "Urban households energy utilization problems and institutional responses, the case of Woldia Town, Amhara region" was ranked first. Wodaje Manaye came second with his paper on "An Assessment of Alternative Urban Energy Infrastructure" while Ararsa Dirriba made the third place with his thesis entitled "Squatter settlements and policy implication: A case study of Shashemene Town, Oromia Region".

A workshop entitled "the feedback forum" initiated by the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction and the Ethiopian Cities' Association revisited the success and limitations of the various capacity building measures as well as the lessons learned in the process. The feedback assessment focused on two central elements for this session, that is, human resource management and the institutionalisation of reform efforts.

A workshop by the Urban Local Government Development Programme (ULGDP) on Urban Reform Institutionalization gave cities the opportunity to present their experiences with regard to the institutionalisation of ULGDP.

A workshop conducted by GIZ-UGDP for emerging regions served to create awareness and a common understanding about the program. The workshop also served as an introduction for the new regions to the program and introduced the different program components to attending officials.

A further important highlight was the Ethiopian Cities' Association general assembly meeting. The agenda included the annual activity of the ECA, the establishment of a Draft Memorandum and the election of a new board.

Another highlight presented a panel discussion on Lakeside Development hosted by the Ethiopian Cities' Association. The city of Bahir Dar and the city of Bishoftu presented the

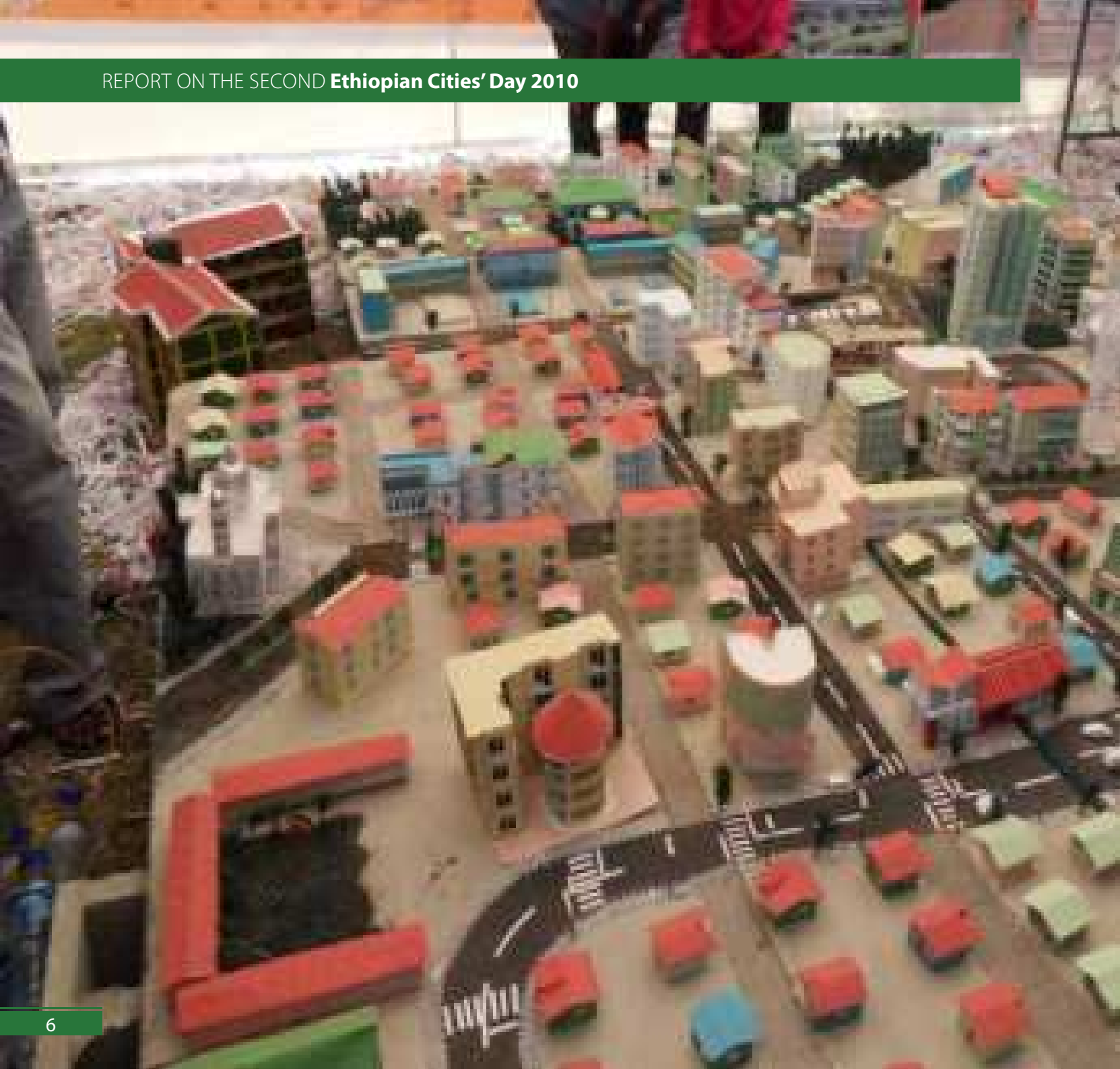




challenges and opportunities they face with regard to lakeside development and the steps they had taken to preserve and restore their lakes.

The Ethiopian Cities' Day also placed focus on mainstreaming two important issues that is gender and HIV/AIDS. The gender-mainstreaming unit of the Ministry presented an exhibition highlighting the participation and success of women in urban development. As part of the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign visitors received testing and counselling.

Overall, the second Ethiopian Cities' Day was a wonderful event and lived up to its purpose of being a platform for cities to exchange experiences and to learn from each other. All competitions, seminars, panel discussions, and exhibitions that were part of the event were conducted successfully. The recommendations put forward in this report must be read against the backdrop of the Ethiopian Cities' Day being a relatively new platform. Nevertheless, they might help in improving and making forthcoming Cities' Days even more successful.



III. THE ETHIOPIAN CITIES' DAY

1. Background

With an urbanisation rate of approximately 4% per annum, Ethiopia has one of the fastest growing urban populations in Africa. It is estimated that 12 million people, accounting for 16% of the total population, are city residents with numbers rising. In Ethiopia, as in many other countries, increasing urbanisation presents city administrations with several challenges such as providing adequate and qualitative infrastructure and social services to urban populations.

Against the above backdrop, the Ethiopian government is implementing a wide scale of urban reforms, which focus on intertwining cities' development with building good governance. Cities are in the process of implementing various reforms towards delivering better services to their citizens, including improvements relating to good governance, improved service delivery, urban poverty alleviation and the reduction of slums.

Taking the lead, the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction has recognised the need for a forum to strengthen relationships between policymakers' authorities and stakeholders, exchange experiences between cities, and create awareness about urban development initiatives. It has thus designated October 23 as the Ethiopian Cities' Day (ECD). This forum, the Ethiopian Cities' Day, will be held every year and promotes the ongoing urban development reforms through various events highlighting the progress and achievements of Ethiopian cities.

Organised by the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, the Ethiopian Cities' Association and Hawassa City administration with technical assistance from GIZ, the second Ethiopian Cities' Day celebration took place in Hawassa from November 25 – 29, 2010. The postponement was due to national elections being carried out before the scheduled date, and the consequent change in leadership within cities and regions at that time. In recognition to the contribution of cities for national development the second Ethiopian Cities Day was celebrated under the theme "Developing Cities Developing a Country".

2. Objectives of the Ethiopian Cities' Day

The general objective of the Ethiopian Cities' Day is to popularise the nation's urban agen-

da to the public at large, including urban residents and relevant stakeholders, and create awareness on urban development initiatives.

Furthermore, the Ethiopian Cities' Day aims at establishing a platform for experience exchange and learning among cities to encourage a healthy and competitive atmosphere among Ethiopian cities. In this manner, it helps them boost their reform effort towards better service delivery for their citizens. In addition, the Cities' Day is concerned with compiling and expanding good practices and experiences registered in the development process of cities. It also enables cities to benefit from investment and tourism opportunities by highlighting their potentials and conducive environments. In doing so, the Ethiopian Cities' Day is concerned with speeding up the implementation of the Urban Development Policy and other urban development programs to help contribute towards accelerated development. Resultant to this will be a sense of ownership and participation of the public in urban development.







IV. THE ORGANISERS

The Ministry of Urban Development and Construction

1. Background

As part of its mandate of supporting urban development in Ethiopia, the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction launched the Ethiopian Cities Day in 2009 to popularise the urban development agenda and to create a platform of experience exchange among Ethiopian cities and other urban development stakeholders.

The Ministry of Urban Development and Construction was established in 2005 by merging the urban development and construction sectors. Among the core responsibilities of the MUDC are initiating and supporting urban and construction sectors reforms, planning and implementing capacity-building measure and setting up national policies and strategies to insure sustainable growth of cities and to alleviate urban poverty are some of them.

2. Processes

The MUDC played a leading role in the design and implementation of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day. The Ministry developed the concept paper and action plan of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day and solicited the support and contribution of various stakeholders for its implementation. The MUDC also coordinated and chaired the cities day organisers committee and monitored the implementation of decisions passed by the committee. The ministry developed the major guiding documents of the second Ethiopian Cities Day (such as Exhibition guideline, city marketing competition guideline, best practice, competition guideline, etc.) and oriented participating cities on their application. Furthermore, together with other members of the organising committee the Ministry launched an awareness creation and orientation mission to all regions with the objective of establishing a regional support and facilitation bodies towards the successful realisation of the second Ethiopian Cities Day.

In cooperation with the GIZ Urban Governance and Decentralisation Programme, the MUDC also successfully coordinated and implemented the second Ethiopian Cities best

practice competition. Through its public relation unit, the Ministry planned and launched an extensive public relation campaign to promote the second Ethiopian Cities' Day.

At the Hawassa Meskel Square where the second Ethiopian Cities Day was celebrated, the MUDC displayed its core tasks and achievements. In addition, the gender-mainstreaming unit of the Ministry presented an exhibition highlighting the participation and success of women in urban development. In partnership with GIZ they also facilitated a two days training on entrepreneurship and environment to the participants of the exhibition.

The Ethiopian Cities' Association

1. Background

The Ethiopian Cities' Association was officially established by 19 cities on the eve of the first Ethiopian Cities' Day on the 22nd of October, 2009. Mayors and City Managers of the founding cities and representatives of the Ministry of Works and Urban Development and Regional Bureaus were present at the launching workshop.

Thus far, the ECA has 28 member cities that constitute its general assembly of which eight cities are Board members. During the latest meeting of the general assembly held during the second Ethiopian Cities' Day, the general assembly elected a new Board serving the ECA for the coming two years. The Board comprises of the City of Addis Ababa (Chairperson), Adama (Deputy Chairperson) and Hawassa (Secretary). The City of Bahirdar, Dire Dawa, Gambella, Harrar, and Mekelle are members of the Board.

The ECA's major goal is to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the urban population in Ethiopian cities through the exchange of information, knowledge, and experiences. It thus aims at playing a pivotal role in speeding up the implementation of ongoing urban reforms to increase their chance of success through city-to-city cooperation and the scaling-up of successful practices. The Cities' Association's thematic focus areas are urban infrastructure and service delivery, urban planning, local economic development, urban governance and management and urban finance. It endeavours to address these issues by way of organising seminars and workshops, study tours, forming thematic working groups and facilitating the placement and exchange of staff between member cities. Aside from the Association's many other activities the co-organising of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day can certainly be called as one of its flagship activities.



2. Processes

Throughout the past year, the ECA together with the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction and the city of Hawassa actively participated in the organisation of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day. Among the major activities planned for the second Ethiopian Cities' Day by the Cities' Association were seminars, panel discussions, and a best master thesis competition, hosted in cooperation with the Ethiopian Civil Service College and various other stakeholders.

Hawassa City Administration

1. Background

The city of Hawassa, located on the shores of Lake Hawassa, was established in 1959 (1952 E.C). As the capital of the Southern Nations, nationalities and Peoples (SNNP), it is a fast growing city, which has developed beautifully over the past few years.

As winner of the city marketing competition during the first Ethiopian Cities' Day in 2009, Hawassa was elected host city for the second Ethiopian Cities Day. The city of Hawassa did its level best to guarantee the fair's smooth operation and a pleasant experience for both exhibitors and visitors.

Following the declaration at the closing ceremony of the first Ethiopian Cities Day, the city administration established different committees, that is, the main committee, technical committees and different sub committees at the national and city level to ensure successful celebrations of the ECD and the city's 50th anniversary.

2. Processes

In preparing for hosting of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day, the city administration of Hawassa established different sub committees to be responsible for the promotion of the events related to the ECD and the 50th anniversary on Ethiopian Television. The city administration was directly involved in the organising and execution of a panel discussion reflecting on the 50 years of historical growth of the city of Hawassa at the Lewi resort. Various people, including high government officials, city mayors, and experts attended the discussion. Hawassa also presented its performance report at a panel discussion or-



ganised by the MUDC on the performance of cities' capacity building plan. On this note, the city administration took full care of all the facilities needed for other panel discussion held within the context of the ECD.

In terms of the actual exhibition, the city administration organised the tents, partitions, chairs, tables and other prerequisites needed to stage a successful exhibition. In addition, 2000 key holders, watches, t-shirts, and capes with the 50th anniversary logo of Hawassa city were prepared and distributed. Moreover, 20,000 brochures containing Hawassa's city business manifesto and best wishes for the day were dispatched from an airplane. Hawassa's city administrations also organised traditional performances, music festivals and a circus show.

Further activities regarding the preparation of the ECD, including fencing, cleaning, beautification and decoration of the city, were conducted.







V. CITIES EXHIBITION AND CITY MARKETING AWARD

1. Objectives of the Exhibition and City Marketing Award

The objective behind the exhibition and city marketing competition was to support cities in effectively promoting and marketing their tourism, investment, commercial and other development capacities, and attractions within a competitive environment. It was furthermore organised to award the different creative and informative techniques cities used in the exhibition to market their cities.

2. Processes

The exhibition and city marketing competition was open for all Ethiopian cities interested in attracting investment and marketing themselves at the second Ethiopian Cities' Day. The eighty participating cities were divided into two categories, that is, ULGDP cities (19 in total), and other cities (61 in total).

The jury, whose identity was unbeknown to the cities until the last day, comprised of a journalist from Addis Admas, a member from the Ethiopian Civil Service College and an expert from the Ministry of Trade. The jury attended the exhibition for three consecutive days and inspected each city's exhibition booth according to the predetermined criteria. Having seen all exhibition booths, the jury sat together and calculated the scores assigned to the criteria below:

1.	Presentation of the exhibition itself Is the content relevant to the city? The quality of the presentation? The use of charts, pictures, text, film? Does the exhibition display the city's developmental activities and investment potential?	30 p
2.	The reception and orientation of visitors Is the content of the presentation relevant to the city's booth? Is the reception of visitors by the host appropriate?	25 p
3.	The value of the cultural presentation Does the city have a logo, make use of giveaways etc.?	15 p
4.	Are development partners introduced in the city?	15p
5.	Feedback and content of feedback by visitors Does the city encourage feedback? Does it provide visitors with a feedback form or similar mechanism to give feedback?	15p



3. Outcome

Based on the above evaluation criteria, of the nineteen ULGDP cities Gondar merited the first place, while the city of Shashamene and Bishoftu came second and third respectively. Of the sixty-one smaller cities, Ambo was ranked first, Dukem second and Jijiga came third. The eighty cities, which participated in the exhibition, were awarded certificates at the symposium held on November 29, 2010.





VI. BEST PRACTICE COMPETITION

1. Background

Best practices disclose successful experiences, which have proven to lead to desired results. For this reason, best practices need to be identified, documented, and transferred in order to maximise benefits. In Ethiopia, documenting best practices in the field of urban development is a recent phenomenon.

The Ethiopian government has launched a number of reform programmes towards improving the socio-economic and infrastructure situation of Ethiopian cities and hence improving the living conditions of urban dwellers. Within this process, the implementing cities have tried various approaches towards achieving their development goals and bringing sustainable change into their surroundings. Some have demonstrated significant achievements by using creative, easily adoptable, and cost-effective methods. These methods are worthwhile documenting and sharing with other cities to speed up the implementation of the various urban reforms.

Within the framework of the Ethiopian Cities' Day, the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction has institutionalised the Best Practice Award to Improve Urban Life to identify, encourage, and scale up successful and sustainable practices in the wide range of urban reforms.

2. Objectives of the Best Practice Competition

The best practice competition has four major objectives: firstly, it seeks to speed up the implementation of urban reforms by identifying and sharing successful practices that have demonstrated concrete and sustainable positive impacts for the urban population. Secondly, the competition aims at creating a positive competitive spirit among Ethiopian cities to encourage innovation, partnership, and development of functional and responsive systems for service delivery. Thirdly, the principles and criteria of best practices shall find their way into future project/programme designs and their implementation. Lastly,

this competition shall help expanding the knowledge base in the urban sector by identifying, documenting, and sharing tested and fruitful approaches, methods, and systems.

3. Processes

24 City Administrations submitted a total of 37 practices for the competition. A committee of technical experts screened them and shortlisted fourteen submissions. Thereafter, an independent jury comprised from the Ethiopian Civil Service College, the World Bank, Cities Alliance, the Urban Development forum of Consortium of Christian Relief Development Association, Abebech Gobena Centre, Ethiopia Radio, Television Agency and USAID municipal and Regional Service Strengthening Project. evaluated and graded the good and best practices. The grade given by each jury member for each practice was totalled and averages were calculated.

4. Outcome

The jury awarded the first place for the women self help group practice submitted by Bishoftu City Administration. The practice aims at bringing women together to help them organise themselves to engage in income-generating activities.

The second rank went to a practice specifically targeting women: Fenote Birhan Women's saving and Credit Association, submitted by Dessie City Administration. The practice describes how the lives of hundreds of women changed through the introduction of grass-root banking.

The third winner was the City Administration of Mekelle with their Electro-Mechanical Cluster. Through the development of formal networks for similar businesses knowledge transfer between enterprises and thus productivity rose significantly.







VII. YOUTH LIVE ART AND PHOTO COMPETITION

1. Background

In 2007, the Census of Ethiopia, conducted by Ethiopian Agency for Central Statistics, revealed that the majority of Ethiopians are below the age of 19 years. This recognition, particularly within the context of urban service delivery, presents an important insight as it compels Ethiopian cities to consider their youth when planning and organising their services. Given this backdrop, the youth, as the largest segment of society has the potential to contribute significantly towards city development when equipped with apposite opportunities and information. Thus, when giving the findings of the Census of Ethiopia its appropriate weight, the facilitation of mechanisms of information and the creation of openings for the youth's participation is indispensable for their spiritual growth, their need to be well informed, and their willingness to shape their city's future.

2. Objectives of the Youth Live Art and Photo Competition

Overall, the objective of the youth live art and photo competition was to encourage the youth's active participation in the affairs of their city and to promote a sense of ownership and belongingness to their city. In addition, by using art as a medium, the live art competition carried the objective of providing young people with the opportunity to reflect critically on urban development and their role as both individuals and a group.

3. Processes of the Youth live Art Competition

For the "A glance at my City" youth live art competition, 11 Ethiopian cities were chosen to participate. The 11 cities comprised of all regional capitals, and Dire Dawa city administration. A technical jury selected six high school students from each city based on the paintings they had submitted for entry.

At the city level, the young contestants submitted paintings that best represented their artistic skills and, if shortlisted, were evaluated by city level jury committees. Following

this selection, the jury, comprising of artists, journalists and urban development professionals, publicised the first city level winners. Out of the many contestants who entered the competition, eleven competitors were chosen to partake in the competition at the second Ethiopian Cities' Day.

The eleven competitors painted as the celebrations of the Cities' Day were taking place. One day before the closing, each of the participants submitted his or her two best painting for the actual competition. All contestants were asked to describe what they had tried to communicate via their paintings to the public at large. The jury members, as well as the public attended the presentation and evaluated the performance according to the predetermined criteria set by the adjudicators.

The criteria set were the following:

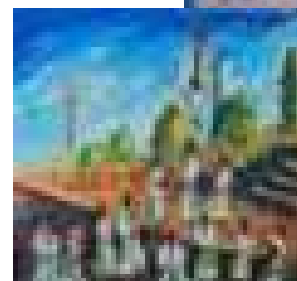
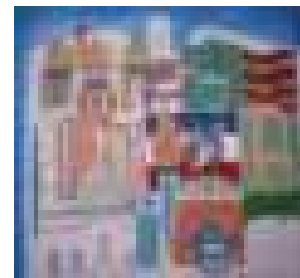
- How well does the contestant present his or her idea? (10 pts)
- Is the content of the painting relevant to the theme? (15 pts)
- Is the composition of colours appropriate? (15 pts)

As the students explained their paintings, the public, whose vote was weighted at 60% in determining the final winners, voted for their favourite artwork and the jury studied each of the presenters closely to grade them according to the first criteria. Following the presentation, the jury took a careful look at the paintings and ranked their professional quality based on the last two criteria.

4. Outcome of the Youth Live Art Competition

Since each student had submitted two paintings previously, the votes for both works were combined and the competitors were ranked accordingly. Consequently, as per the aggregated score, the winners are:

Rank	Name	City	Points Scored		
			Public (60%)	Jury (40%)	Total
1st	Abdella Kassim	Hawassa	35.50	29.17	64.67
2nd	Siham Feysel	Harar	17.34	33.33	50.67
3rd	Gezae Fitwi	Mekelle	15.96	34.67	50.63



5. Processes of the Youth Photo Competition

The contestants of the “A Glance at My City” youth photography competition were selected by way of the lottery method from 15 randomly selected Ethiopian cities. The students had no professional experience with regard to photography; however, they received an orientation on the theme of the competition and attended a workshop where they learned about the basics of photography. All participants were provided with a digital camera to take pictures for the competition immediately after the training. Their best pictures were displayed to the public to vote. The first two winning pictures from each city were invited to compete in the national competition held in Hawassa during the second Ethiopian Cities’ Day.

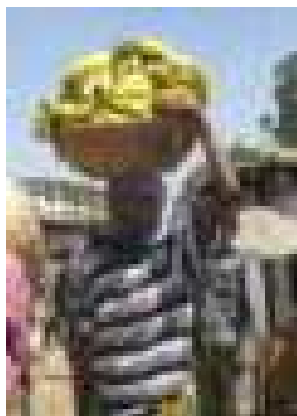
The pictures were coded and the jury members evaluated the professional quality of the picture beforehand by setting the following criteria:

- Colour quality (10 pts)
- Lighting system (10 pts)
- Composition (10 pts)
- Framing (10 pts)

6. Outcome of the Youth Photo Competition

The public voting ran for three consecutive days as the competitors presented the idea behind their pictures. The aggregated result of the two votes affirmed the winners. Accordingly, the winners are the following:

Rank	Name	City	Points Scored Public		
			(60%)	Jury (40%)	Total
1st	Temesgen Denbashu	Hawassa	60	18	78
2nd	Ewnet Ferdu	Hawassa	42.74	19.25	61
3rd	Gemechis Waquma	Harar	27.4	27	54.4





VIII. URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BEST PERFORMANCE AWARD

1. Background

The Urban Local Government Development Programme (ULGDP) is a capacity development initiative to give force to ongoing urban reforms. ULGDP provides a performance based grant amounting to 210 million USD.

2. Objectives

ULGDP was designed to support the government's Urban Development Program and Urban Good Governance Program. The specific development objective of the project is to support improved performance in the planning, delivery, and sustained provision of priority municipal services and infrastructure by urban local governments.

The objective of the ULGDP Best Performing Award was to measure and award those cities that have considerably improved service delivery and good governance in their city administrations as part of the Urban Local Government Development project.

3. Processes

An independent consultant, contracted by the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, assessed the cities' according to their performance with regard to planning/participation, financial management and service delivery. This included:

- i. Timely submission of all progress reports to regions, including progress on procurement and safeguards;
- ii. Timely submission of annual updates of three-year rolling plans/budgets and Annual Action Plans, including evidence of effective public participation in defining the annual updates;

- iii. Achievement of annual targets in revenue generation and implementation of accounting system improvements;
- iv. Annually updated Infrastructure Asset Inventories clearly showing both increases in the asset base and changes in the quality of assets;
- v. Timely submission of external audits and compliance with audit recommendations;
- vi. Evidence of effective public dissemination of information on budgets, expenditure, physical progress of investments, and result of bid evaluations and contract awards, and
- vii. Progress in utilization of the annual capital investment budget;

4. Outcome

Out of the nineteen cities that were evaluated by the independent consultant, Bahir Dar merited the first place, Shire came second and Kombolcha third. Ato Abuye, Director of the urban Good Governance Capacity Building core processes of the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, ceremoniously presented the awards to the winners. The cities received desktop computers and printers donated by US Aid, Municipal Service Strengthening Programme and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).







IX. BEST MASTER THESIS COMPETITION

1. Background

With the aim of strengthening the partnership between cities and universities and encouraging the undertaking of researches geared towards solving the challenges of urban centres in Ethiopia, a Master's Thesis competition among the postgraduate students of the Ethiopian Civil Service College (ECSC) in the Urban Management Masters Programme (UMMP) was organised. The winning students were given the opportunity to present their study papers for discussion on a panel consisting of mayors, regional bureaus and the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction. The winners of the competition were awarded at the closing ceremony of the second Ethiopian Cities Day

2. Processes

The Master's Thesis Competition was the outcome of an extensive process initiated by the Ethiopian Civil Service College (ECSC), the Ethiopian Cities' Association, and the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction. In terms of processes, the formation of a Technical Committee, and the subsequent announcing of the Best Thesis Competition by the ECSC set in motion one of the most intellectual competitions conducted as part of the Ethiopian Cities' Day.

For the best thesis competition ten theses were identified by the Technical Committee to be reviewed by the jury, who agreed upon the following evaluation format:

No.	Evaluation content	Weighting
1.	Identification and relevance of the core issue to the current development scenario in Ethiopian Cities	10%
2.	Depth of the analysis and whether it brought new insights into the understandings of the identified issue	35%
3.	Relevance of the recommendations to the identified issue	45%
4.	Form and presentation of the thesis	10%

The jury reviewed the ten theses initially screened and presented their individual results of the evaluation based upon the evaluation criteria described above. Two members examined each thesis at length and the average of the two was taken as the final weighting allocated to a thesis. Thereafter each member evaluated three theses according to the above-mentioned criteria. The results presented were tabularised in an evaluation matrix prepared for this purpose and the average of two was drawn.

3. Outcome

According to the calculation described above the students listed below merited the first three positions: Teshome Getachew Shiferaw with his thesis entitled "Urban households energy utilization problems and institutional responses, the case of Woldia Town, Amhara region" was ranked first and was awarded ETB5000. Wodaje Manaye came second with his paper on "An Assessment of Alternative Urban Energy Infrastructure: The Case of Biomass Cooking Stoves in Debre Markos Town". His reward was ETB4000. Ararsa Dirriba made the third place with his thesis entitled "Squatter settlements and policy implication: A case study of Shashemene Town, Oromia Region" and won ETB 3000.

The ESCS informed the students listed above about their placement and asked them to prepare for their thesis presentation and award. The students presented their papers during the panel discussion conducted during the Ethiopian Cities' Day.







X. WORKSHOP: THE FEEDBACK FORUM

1. Background

The last five years were marked by an increased attention to urban development. A number of capacity building measures were planned and implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction and regional governments to boost the potential of cities. These measures include policy and legal frameworks, system development, and skill upgrading trainings, and coaching and financing.

At this beginning phase of the Economic Growth & Transformation Plan, the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction in partnership with the Ethiopian Cities' Association revisited the success and limitations of the various capacity building measures as well as the lessons learned in the process. The feedback assessment focused on two central elements for this session, that is, human resource management and the institutionalisation of reform efforts.

2. Objectives

The objective of the feedback forum was to reflect on the effectiveness and limitations of the capacity building measures implemented by the Federal Ministry of Urban Development and Construction. The purpose of this feedback is to improve the design of the next five years plan. Furthermore, the forum served to gather cities' perceptions regarding the success, challenges, and lessons learned from selected capacity building programs that were implemented. Focus was placed on Human Resource Development, Human Resources Management System and current practices of ULGs. The feedback was based on a quick assessment of an independent consultant in samples cities and own assessment of selected cities.



XI. WORKSHOP ON ULDGP: “URBAN REFORM INSTITUTIONALIZATION”

1. Background

The Urban Local Government Development Programme (ULGDP) is the key instrument of the Ethiopian government for advancing urban good governance reforms. Presently, one of the objectives of the government of Ethiopia is to institutionalise these reforms. One of the key-challenges institutionalisation is to install a functioning organisational setup in cities to accommodate standardised planning processes introduced by the reforms. Currently, different solutions are considered to institutionalise reforms and increase cities institutional memory. To achieve this, the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction has taken the lead in cooperating with the Ethio - German Urban Governance and Decentralisation Program (GIZ-UGDP) to advise regional Bureaus and cities on developing comprehensive administrative setups at the regional and city levels. Consequently, an experience exchange workshop titled “Urban Reform Institutionalization” was conducted during the Ethiopian Cities' Day in Hawassa on Saturday, the 27th of November 2010. Invited guests were the Heads of the Urban Development bureaus, regional ULGDP coordinators, Finance bureaus, Civil Service Bureau, as well as Mayors of regional capitals, and other focal persons. The workshop was split into three sections: First, the floor was given to the cities to present their experiences with the institutionalisation of ULGDP. Following this, the Ministry presented an option for the institutional redevelopment and finally each region developed proposals of organisational setups for their respective institutionalisation.

2. Outcome

It was generally agreed that the setup of the city administration must be adopted to accommodate the ULGDP reforms. Also, a consensus was reached to create an Infrastructure Unit accountable to the City Manager.

A further outcome of the workshop was that Asset Management Planning is seen as a technical task, and not as a strategic planning process, which entails the rethinking of the current asset management system.

In addition, during the workshop, two competing logics emerged. One line of thought preferred to mandate the Municipality for the coordination of capital investment and planning (Municipal Setup) while the competing logic preferred to see this task directed by the Mayor's Office (Mayors Setup). The current mandate of OFED to prepare the Capital Budget and thus the Capital investment Plan (CIP) was therefore questioned.

It was decided that the System Development Unit under the UDCBO will analyse the report and will provide suggestions for regions. Regional GTZ and GOPA staff was asked to share the report with the Finance and Urban Development bureaus, respective bureau heads, other stakeholders and mayors of ULGDP cities and to include the outcome of the workshop in the discussions on institutionalisation.



V



XII. EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAWASSA

1. Processes

Established in 1959 (1952 E.C.), Hawassa's 50th anniversary was due to be celebrated in 2009; however, the celebrations were postponed to 2010 to align them with the second Ethiopian Cities' Day.

Organised by the Merry Joy Development Organisation in collaboration with Ethiopian artists, part of the city's 50th anniversary celebrations was a great run to raise funds for the construction of a centre for the elderly and children in Hawassa city. Stakeholders in the run were Hawassa city administration, SNNPRS, the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction. More than 9,500 people participated in the great run raising more than 300.000 ETB.

A further highlight presented a panel discussion, conducted on the 27th of November, 2010, which dealt with the 50 years development patterns of Hawassa city. The discussion was based on research presented by H.E Ambassador Markos Tekele regarding the establishment of Hawassa city administration, the city's history, and its development patterns. City residents as well as delegates from other cities participated in the discussion and gathered vital inputs for the city's future development.

To commemorate the city's founding date, the city administration of Hawassa also organised a city tour, cultural shows, and a circus.



XIII. WORKSHOP WITH EMERGING REGIONS

1. Background

GIZ-UGDP's support to the new program regions, that is, Gambella (Gambella town), Afar (Samara-Logia town), and Somali (Jijiga-city) and in Benishangul - Gumuz (Assosa- town) commenced in January 2010. Support mainly relates to urban good governance and decentralisation issues through capacity building, infrastructure development, local development planning, the establishment of functional city administrations and new financial system installations. The program partners are the Bureau of Urban Development and Construction, the Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, and the city administrations of the capitals of the respective regions. To enhance the support to these regions/cities, GIZ has assigned teams of professionals who are placed in the Bureau of Urban Development and Construction to assist the cities in realising their interests. Accordingly, taking the opportunities created during the second Ethiopian Cities' Day, the UGDP kick-off workshop was conducted on the 27th of November, 2010 at the Hawassa Management Institute.

Below is a brief summary of the workshop to recall major results and to serve as a benchmark for similar consultation workshops for new program cities in the future.

2. Objective of the workshop

The workshop's main objective was to create awareness and a common understanding about the program. The workshop also served as an introduction for the new regions to the program and introduced the different program components to attending officials. It also gave partner bureaus and cities the opportunity to reflect and to voice their commitment and concerns.

3. Processes

To begin with, as an introduction to the program the first presentation dealt with the agenda and the role of KfW and GIZ regarding their financial and technical support.

Later presentations elaborated on GIZ UGDP's intervention in planning issues and the program's support regarding the preparations of the Local Development Plan. GIZ UGDP's involvement in crosscutting issues such as mainstreaming gender and HIV/AIDS issues, the provision of councillor's training and TOT and its support concerning the compilation of urban related laws and handbooks was also highlighted.

Moreover, the new regions learned about the program's capacity support regarding the development of Capital Investment Plans (CIP), Revenue Enhancement Plans (REP) and Asset Management Plans (AMP). The presenters outlined UGDP's objective to give capacity support to city staff and mentorship in areas of infrastructure management as well as support the establishment of project execution units.

In addition, one presentation dealt with UGDP's involvement in establishing a city administration in Assosa and its support concerning the development of by-laws and guidelines. The presenter outlined UGDP's objective to help refine the organisational structure and system and to support service delivery improvement in selected areas.

The last presentation related to the establishment of improved financial systems, which the program supports. In line with this, its support in the preparation of regulations, procedure manuals and directives, the unification of accounts and staff training, amongst others, was articulated.

Following the presentations, participants were asked to highlight their cities' status in terms of the program's major indicators regarding the establishment of city administrations, and the introduction of ULGDP tools.

In his closing speech, GIZ UGDPs Programme Director stated that the financial support for the cities would be addressed by the Ministry and/or by KFW. GIZ's main responsibility, as outlined in the activity plan and agreed upon with the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, is to focus on technical matters only.

He furthermore emphasised the importance of creating a sustainable system to help cities become self-reliable with regard to improving revenues, enhancing participation, as well as consolidating resources for infrastructure development.





XIV. ETHIOPIAN CITIES' ASSOCIATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

1. Background

The second general assembly meeting of the Ethiopian Cities' Association was held on the eve of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day on the 25th of November, 2010 in Hawassa Central Hotel. Nineteen out of 23 cities were represented by their Mayors at this special gathering, chaired over by the Deputy Mayor of Addis Ababa and chairperson of the Ethiopian Cities' Association board, H.E. Ato Kefyalew Azeze. Ato Kefyalew opened the general assembly and introduced the agenda.

2. Processes

The agenda was split into three major blocks. Below is a brief summary of the main discussions:

i. Annual Activity of the Ethiopian Cities' Association

Ato Solomon Endrias, coordinator of the ECA's secretariat in Addis Ababa, presented the annual activity report of the ECA. Undertaken activities included a visit to all member cities to introduce himself as the coordinator of the ECA, and to identify the needs of the cities' to serve as the basis for the ECA's annual action plan.

Ato Solomon Endrias reflected on the first experience exchange workshop organised and conducted by the ECA. The first experience exchange of the ECA focused on Cobblestone Management and environmental safeguard measures in urban infrastructure development was hosted by Adama city administration. He also outlined the ECA's involvement in the Ethiopian Cities' Day.

In addition, the annual activity report referred to the strengthening of the institutional setup of the Association and the consequent travelling of the board's chairperson and the secretariat's coordinator to Germany to hold discussion with the German Association of Cities.

A further important issue was raised when the presentation arrived at the ECA's legalisation process, which – in November 2010 – was well underway.

ii. Draft Memorandum of Establishment

The draft memorandum of establishment of the ECA was presented together by H.E Ato Kefyalew Azeze and Ato Solomon Endrias. Each of the 30 articles was deliberated upon by the general assembly, comments and questions were forwarded and finally the draft Memorandum of Establishment was approved by the general assembly.

iii. Election of new executive board

The third point of the agenda referred to the election of a new board to succeed the board that had served the Ethiopian Cities' Association during its transitional period. However, due to the ECA's and its board's good performance, the general assembly agreed to continue with the exiting board for a further two years, thus renewing the former board's duties. Furthermore, the general assembly unanimously concurred to Ato Kefyalew carrying on as the board's chairperson. Adama and Hawassa were voted for the role of deputy chairperson and secretary respectively. The city of Bahirdar, Dire Dawa, Gambella, Harrar and Mekelle continue as members of the Board.

One highlight of the meeting of the general assembly presented the signing of a sister city partnership between the city of Debre Markos and the city of Dire Dawa.





XV. PANEL DISCUSSION: LAKESIDE DEVELOPMENT

1. Background

To determine the challenges and opportunities related to Lakeside development in Ethiopia, a panel discussion was held as one event of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day. The event was chaired over by the Ethiopian Cities' Association and was attended by seven member cities, namely, Bahir Dar, Bishoftu, Arbaminch, Wolita Sodo, Kombolcha and Dessie.

Ato Solomon Endrias, coordinator of the ECA's secretariat, who briefed the participants about the Cities' Association's main tasks, gave the opening speech. He also outlined the panel discussions main objectives and expectations. Thereafter, he invited the city of Bahir Dar and the city of Bishoftu, both cities with lakes, to present the challenges and opportunities they face with regard to lakeside development.

2. Part one: Bishoftu

Bishoftu, translated a "place of water", attributes its name to the abundance of water in the area. The town has seven lakes, which, for a long period, did not contribute towards the city's economic gain. The majority of Bishoftu's lakes were highly susceptible to various industrial, agricultural, and municipal solid and liquid waste pollutants. The biggest lake, for instance, served as a waste disposal site, which greatly contributed to the extermination of its ecosystem and the diminishing of birds and other species.

3. Part two: Bahir Dar

Bahir Dar is a rapidly expanding city and an important centre where tourism and commercial activities are taking place. The naming of the city called Bahir Dar relates to its near proximity to Lake Tana and River Abay. Lake Tana is the source of the Blue Nile River and is emerging as one of the world's most important inland water bodies as it serves for local transport, the generation of electric power, fishing, ecological restoration, recreational purposes, and dry season irrigation supply. The lake, its shores and its islands are main pull

factor for investors, tourists, international interest, and the public at large.

Nevertheless, the overexploitation of wet and forests lands and, among others, pollutants from lakeside businesses, runoff waste from the city centre and agricultural chemicals threaten the town's water resources.

i.Environmental Protection and Conservation of Lakes in Bishoftu Town

A change in attitude by the regional government as well as the city administration in 2000 EC., who realised the potential for tourism and investment around the city's lake, initiated a major change.

Today, Bishoftu's Land and Environmental Protection office pays great attention to the environmental conservation of the town's lakes. The office is taking proactive prevention measures and has installed strict controlling and supervising mechanisms for industries, hotels, restaurants, and resorts around the lakes. Sustainable conservation and management programs of lakes in the town are promoted and industries that threaten to introduce polluting activities near the lakes are relocated.

A tourism council and an environmental management committee have commenced operations and an intensive awareness creation process among investors, private developers and the public has been carried out.

One of the challenges faced by the city of Bishoftu, however, is the managing of established developments that are not environmentally friendly. In addition, the supervision of trade-offs between open spaces and highland and the expanding of build up areas and temperature remain challenges. A further issue lies in the managing of environmental degradation and the enhancing of biological conservation.

i. Environmental Protection and Conservation of Lakes in Bahir Dar

Over the past few years, different institutions have undertaken several studies related to Lake Tana and Abbay River of which the most important ones are:

1. An action plan for Lake Shore development, by Devecon Engineers and Architects
2. Master plan implementation and
3. Flood Control and drainage action plan



The above studies have contributed towards preserving/restoring Lake Tana's ecological balance and have enhanced the following urban activities: manufacturing industries, for example, may no longer operate within the lake environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, the height and design of buildings has been reconsidered and is now predetermined. Furthermore, no person/institution is allowed to take any kind of initiative without asking for permission of the master plan first. Additionally, a buffer zone is nowadays preserved as per the master plan, and natural forests are maintained.

In addition, in order to keep the lakeshore from environmental degradation the city administration has formulated the following rules and regulation:

- to provide land for investors an EIA study is prerequisite;
- EIA's are reviewed by the Bureau of Land Administration and Environmental Use;
- Environmentally fragile areas are not provided for investors;
- Lodges, hotels and recreational facilities located around the lake side are absolutely prohibited to drain their waste in the lake;
- Continuous supervision is executed by the city administration;

While there has been much progress with regard to lakeside development and preservation, challenges continue to exist. That is, public awareness concerning water resource and environmental management, for example, is low and rules and regulations are often not enforced. In addition, the monitoring and evaluation of the prescribed rules is insufficient and research and capacity building regarding the impact of urban waste on the lake, information on quality and quantity of urban waste, wetland areas and training is wanting.

4. Outcome

The panel discussion revealed that conservation measures through physical and biological techniques must be enhanced. Moreover, the panellists decided to construct appropriate drainage systems and to initiate development projects with proactive and holistic strategies to reduce various environmental, health and safety risks. Furthermore, the need for designing an appropriate sewerage network for the city and enforcing sanitary policies that safeguard the lake's water quality and reduce pollution was established. Aside from this, the importance of preparing solid waste and liquid waste disposal sites and the recycling and reuse of waste was emphasised.





XVI. WOMEN IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT EXHIBITION

1. Background

In recognition of the fact that the Ethiopian Cities' Day is not only about celebrating tangible urban developmental achievements focus was also placed on mainstreaming two important issues, that is, the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and gender inequality on urban, and, to a greater extent, national development.

2. Objectives of the Women's Exhibition

The main objective behind the women's exhibition was to highlight the importance of mainstreaming gender issues to enable women in participating in and benefitting from economic and thus national development. Moreover, the integration of gender issues into planning, coordination, and implementation of development initiatives was highlighted. On this note, the exhibition aspired to demonstrate the value of including women in development activities by exhibiting how women can be involved in micro finances, in public and family decision making, participate in economic activities and environmental protection, the arts, and the creation of markets. It was furthermore emphasised that the promotion of good governance must include women as women make up for more than 50% of the general population and thus play an important role in steering the nation's development into the right direction.

3. Processes

The gender-mainstreaming unit of the Ministry presented an exhibition highlighting the participation and success of women in urban development. Successful women from all regions showcasing their achievements were represented. The women exhibited industrial products, embroideries, traditional clothes, gift items and processed raw materials for traditional beer, tella prepared for easy preaprtion especially for condominium dwellers. In addition, the mainstreaming unit of the MUDC in partnership with GIZ facilitated a two days training on entrepreneurship and environment to the participants of the exhibition.

4. Outcome

The women's exhibition enabled participating women to gain market access; they established new clients and formed an informal network for experience exchange. They also got a full sponsorship for their participation in the third ECD by the exhibitor from Mekelle. They also acquired new entrepreneurship skills through the training.





XVII. HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN URBAN CENTRES

1. Background

Although awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic among Ethiopians has increased, very few people are aware of the devastating impact that misconceptions, stigma, discrimination, and prejudice can have upon those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

Today, the estimated number of people living with HIV, both, adults, and children, represent 1,116,216 of Ethiopia's inhabitants. Each day an estimated 358 people, accounting for 131,145 people annually, are newly infected. HIV & AIDS poses a major threat to poverty reduction in Ethiopia and is a major cause of disadvantage in Ethiopia.

The highest infection rate among young women occurs between the ages of 35 – 39 years whereas the prevalence among men is between the ages of 40 – 44. Evidently, HIV/AIDS is affecting the productive group for whom it is of vital importance that they receive access to resources, counselling, effective medicines, and so forth to be able to join in on the country's path towards development.

2. Objectives of the HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign

The HIV/AIDS awareness campaign sought to sensitise visitors on an unbiased dealing with HIV/AIDS to enable those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS to participate in and benefit from urban development. The awareness campaign also highlighted the importance of testing and counselling.

3. Outcome of the HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign

With regard to the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, non-governmental Organisations like the Organisation for Social Services for AIDS (OSSA), Social Marketing for better life (DKT), and the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (HAPCO) offered voluntary counselling and testing, they distributed t-shirts, condoms, and informational educational communication materials and awareness creation regarding HIV/AIDS.



XVIII. VISITORS OBSERVATIONS AND FEEDBACK

1. The Ethiopian Cities' Day

To begin with, the second Ethiopian Cities' Day celebrated in Hawassa in November 2010 was an inspiring event and an excellent platform for Ethiopian cities to exchange experiences, reflect on their developmental achievements and to promote and market themselves to the public. The cities' efforts to improve their service delivery, infrastructure etc. in the year leading up to the second Ethiopian Cities Day were clearly visible; cities were eager to show their achievements and potential and it was also observable that cities appreciated the opportunity created for them through the Ethiopian Cities Day. Undoubtedly, the event was utilised well by cities in their endeavours to share their experiences and lessons learned through exhibitions, seminars and panel discussions, and various competitions.

In addition, the city of Hawassa was applauded for her efforts towards making the second Ethiopian Cities' Day such a wonderful event. The location for the event was well chosen as people could easily access the festivities, the city was clean, and facilities were well prepared to host their guests. Both visitors and exhibitors were impressed by the city's beauty and the friendliness of her citizens.

Aside from the positive feedback received by the organisers, an internal evaluation disclosed a number of general shortcomings, which ought to be considered in the preparation and execution of forthcoming Ethiopian Cities' Days.

i. The level of noise

Naturally, an event of this size and importance is always accompanied by noise. It creates an atmosphere characteristic to celebrations and must not be compromised on. It is understandable or even recommendable for cities' booths to be equipped with sound-systems to play pleasant music; having stated this, however, the volume level is of equal importance to the overall atmosphere and experience shared by exhibitors and visitors alike.

At times, the noise level, caused by loud music in combination with moderators using the full power of their amplifiers was fairly unsettling. It is commendable for cities to have amplifiers for the booths' hosts to be heard by the visitors; nevertheless, visitors should not receive the volume level of the moderation as a nuisance.

The ECD guidelines addressed the noise issue but not all cities adhered to them. In order for both visitors and participators to have a peaceful experience, the organisers could think of stricter rules to enforce the guidelines.

ii. Sanitation facilities

As expected and well provided for in terms of location, the Cities' Day celebrations attracted a great number of visitors and exhibitors alike. In terms of size, Hawassa's Meskel square was a superb location as it allowed for enough movement and exhibition space. In addition, because of its central location visitors and exhibitors were able to leave the exhibition for refreshments in the surrounding cafes. Nevertheless, to keep the area clean and to make it easier particularly for exhibitors it is recommended to install trash bins and lavatories/washrooms and perhaps even a place for refreshments in close vicinity to the site of the third Ethiopian Cities Day.

iii. Security

Similar to the right level of noise, security is 'a must' for such large events. The overall security measures taken at the Ethiopian Cities Day were well planned and coordinated. The presence of security forces conveyed a feeling of safety and counteracted disturbances effectively.

Understandably and rightly so, the city of Hawassa was concerned with assuring the exhibitors and visitors a safe visiting experience. However, the security situation at the Meskel Square was perhaps a bit too excessive.

Without a doubt, the right security measures, as was in the case of Hawassa, must be installed, however, for future Cities' Days the organisers could perhaps think of measures to strike a balance between necessary security considerations and smooth exhibition activities. To guarantee smooth exhibition activities it is certainly advisable to search visitors at the entrance, however, searching exhibitors who were easily identifiable by their exhibitor tags might not be necessary.



iv. Award ceremony

The Award ceremony was a grand conclusion to the celebrations and both exhibitors and honourable guests were excited to be part of the ceremony. However, to ensure smooth proceedings it could be suggested to reserve seats for both, the honourable guests and the winners, to avoid disorder and delays in the handing over of awards.

In addition, to ensure equal applause for competition participants, it may be worth considering calling in larger groups as one instead of calling in people individually.

Furthermore, in view of the large number of invited guests and the various competitions participants it may be worth preparing a bigger stage to accommodate all those present comfortably and to have awards ready.

2. Exhibition and City Marketing Award

The city marketing competition and exhibition demonstrated beautifully the efforts undertaken by participating cities to promote themselves and share experiences. The exhibition also gave testimony to the notion that Ethiopia's cities are in action and that they are becoming more business oriented in promoting themselves. The competitive atmosphere was noticeable if not infectious.

As one of the most popular events of the Ethiopian Cities' Day, it was apparent that cities were eager to participate and to find creative ways of presenting themselves in the best possible light.

Their efforts added force to the importance of having this wonderful platform, and reinforced the organisers' positive outlook on forthcoming Cities' Days. Already, the number of cities participating in the event has doubled since the first Ethiopian Cities' Day and thus presents a good indicator for the years to come. Given this backdrop, it may be worth setting out more clearly the concept behind event, i.e. is it for tourists, or is it the industry or the city administration presenting itself to ensure the ECD's objectives in the celebrations of future Cities' Days.

On this note, the organisers could think of and enforce an overarching theme for the next Cities' Day to structure the cities' presentations and to avoid the cities' losing sight of the



ECD's objectives. Cities should be encouraged to focus on demonstrating their development efforts and achievements to fully utilise the ECD as a platform.

3. The Youth Live Art Competition

The youth live art competition was a beautiful and valuable contribution to the Ethiopian Cities' Day. The competition was commended for its interactivity and the active inclusion of the youth into the celebrations of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day. Noticeably, the participants were happy to be part of the event and be afforded with the opportunity to learn from this experience. From the feedback received by participants and visitors, it is strongly recommended to continue having this competition as part of future Cities' Days.

Visitors recommended that the public voting process should be replaced with a jury system only to prevent people from host cities voting for contestants from their city and to offer equal chance of competing.

4. The Youth Painting Exhibition

The youth photo competition was a wonderful and very exciting instrument for incorporating the youths' perceptions and visions into the Ethiopian Cities' Day. The competition was well received by both exhibitors and visitors. The young artists were commended for their eye for composition, and the motifs they chose. However, aside from the exceedingly positive feedback some points of criticism were raised that ought to be considered for future competitions.

Most criticism related to the display arrangements, which were not always favourable. Pictures were displayed in a crowded manner, which undermined equal competing chances for each contestant's photography. It could be recommended for future youth photo competitions to display photos in two rows facing each other. In addition, it is advisable to have a distance of at least two metres between the rows, which will allow for enough movement space. This way, visitors will fully be able to take in the pictures on display.

5. Ethiopian Cities' Best Practice Competition

In effect, the best practice competition was a great success. The competition encouraged cities to reflect on their own means to serve their citizens and to learn from the experiences shared by others.



For the upcoming years, the jury recommended conducting the whole event in Amharic to make best practices even more effective. This would allow cities to better describe their projects and to introduce them more rapidly into their own structures. Furthermore, the jury suggested holding the competition in different categories; to allocate more time for the entire process; and to review supporting documents more exhaustively. In addition, projects presented for the competition should demonstrate the active involvement of the City Administration.



XIX. CONCLUSION

In closing, the celebrations of the second Ethiopian Cities' Day and the marking of Hawassa city's 50th Anniversary were conducted successfully. As anticipated by the organisers the event served to popularise the nation's urban agenda to both, the public at large and relevant stakeholders. Within in a competitive, yet festive environment, it contributed toward creating awareness on urban development initiatives and encouraged experience exchange and learning among cities.

Building on the first Ethiopian Cities' Day, and based on the large number of participating cities, the second Cities' Day gave testimony to the notion that this forum will continue to attract a growing number of cities and visitors and help speed up ongoing urban reforms. All participating cities demonstrated that they are committed to development and eager to learn from each other's experiences.

Together with the city of Hawassa, the cities contributed their level best toward making the second Ethiopian Cities Day a successful and memorable event. Chosen as host city for the third Ethiopian Cities' Day, the city of Mekelle is expected to host an equally superb event.

Nevertheless, despite the competition's and exhibitions great success both events could be even more successful if cities were given training on how to market themselves more effectively.

Some cities focused on retailing Teji, coffee, food, woodworks, clothing, etc. instead of focusing on city marketing. The actual objectives of the Cities' Day, namely, showing how cities perform was not always at the forefront. Thus, it could suggested to display products of city development with regard to good governance and service provision and not traditional products only.

