

# Horn Blower

A monthly update from around the Horn

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*Light*



## Professor Sahadat Hossain Visits HoA-REC&N for a Public Lecture



Dr. Sahadat Hossain, a leading expert in sanitary landfill management and Director of Solid Waste Institute for Sustainability (SWIS) at the University of Texas at Arlington, gave a public lecture on landfill management at HoA-REC&N's headquarters. During the lecture on 8th January, Dr. Sahadat addressed the concept of bio-cell landfills and their benefit, experiences of landfill management in Denton, USA, and the future of waste management in developing countries.

While explaining the benefit of bio-cell landfills, he said that it is advantageous over the traditional landfill because of the rapid decomposition of waste. This decomposition induces a higher production rate of methane gas, which, in turn, produces more electricity. Furthermore, because of the rapid decomposition, the space can be recovered quickly when compared to traditional landfills, which can take up to 100 years to degrade. This is particularly important since the biggest problem of landfill elsewhere is lack of enough space and land is increasingly becoming a scarce resource.

The bio-cell landfill is often called a perpetual landfill, since its operation allows for recycling of waste materials and reusing landfill space, as waste decomposes. The major concern about bio-cell landfills, however, is that monitoring moisture movement, which plays a vital role in waste decomposition, could prove difficult and expensive, as Dr. Hossain explained.

Dr. Hossain also spoke about Denton Municipal's experience in converting its landfill's gas to usable energy. The Denton Municipality began to collect gas from its landfill in 2008, and, today, 1,600 households in the city use electric energy generated from the gas. Dr. Hossain added that additional research work is being undertaken to make the landfill operation more efficient.

Speaking of the future of waste management in developing countries, Dr. Hossain said that developing countries can jump from the use of open dumps to perpetual landfills. He expressed his concern that waste materials are not converted into money in many developing countries but are actually a valuable resource. "This is your future," he said, referring to the reusable perpetual landfill. "We don't have to look for a new place to dispose waste." He underlined that waste management has social sensitivity, and improperly managed waste causes air pollution, flooding and diseases, such as diarrhea and respiratory ailments.

Dr. Hossain also spoke about collaboration between Solid Waste Institute for Sustainability (SWIS) and HoA-REC&N. SWIS gave landfill training for two HoA-REC&N employees last year, and Dr. Araya Asfaw, Director of HoA-REC&N, also paid a visit to the University of Texas Arlington and the City of Denton in 2015 for experience sharing. HoA-REC&N is helping the City Government of Addis Ababa in the proper management of the closing of the Repi (Koshe) Dumpsite and the proper management of the newly opened Sendefa Landfill in and around Addis Ababa.

HoA-REC&N, in collaboration with SWIS, plans to establish a research and training centre - a prototype of SWIS - in Addis Ababa in the near future. There is also an ongoing negotiation to make the new Sendefa Landfill a bio-cell landfill. It should be recalled that since 2009 HoA-REC&N, in collaboration with the City Government of Addis Ababa, is working on transforming Repi Dumpsite, Addis Ababa, into a public park ■





## ILDP of Gambella Region Lauded as a Model for Ethiopia

H.E. Mr. Sultan Mohammed, Director General of the Ethiopian Mapping Agency (EMA) lauded the Integrated Land Development Plan (ILDP) of Gambella Peoples' National Regional State (GPNRS), saying, "It could become a model for our country at large." Mr. Mohammed said this on Saturday, 16th January 2015 at a workshop that sought to review the progress of ILDP in the GPNRS.

The Workshop was organised by HoA-REC&N with the aim to inform concerned ministers, beneficiaries, and development partners about the principles, processes and progress of the ILDP. The land use plan serves as a guide for careful, optimal and responsible use of lands of GPNRS. It envisages that the land and its resources do effectively contribute to the social, economic and environmental transformation of the regional state.

Speaking at the workshop held at HoA-REC&N's headquarters, Gullele Botanic Garden, Mr. Sultan explained how the ILDP fits into the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) of the Ethiopian Government, which ensures environmentally friendly and sustainable development. "The development plan will harmonize all the resource-based initiatives and opportunities in the Region," he said. Mr. Sultan reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to become a middle income country by 2015 and expressed his conviction that the land use plan could help GPNRS attain this vision.

Speaking of traditional knowledge, Mr. Mohammed expressed his expectation that the communities knowledge "in conservation, development, and wise use of resources is mainstreamed in the ILDP planning process." Without this, he believes environmental degradation in GPNRS could reach an irreversible level. He further expressed his conviction that the ILDP initiative safeguards the fate of the next generation.

The ILDP necessitates that the communities of GPNRS, who are the drivers of the planning process, be organised into the various livelihood and community consultative groups. They shall be capacitated to articulate their intentions and to connect with the expert team guiding the process.

The development of ILDP of GPNRS is the first regional level plan, which would serve as a model for the other regional states of Ethiopia, according to Dr. Azene Bekele, lead consultant for the development of the ILDP. At the event, Dr. Azene presented on, "Principles, Processes and Progress of Integrated Landuse and Development Plan for GPNRS." Finally, the plan will have to be endorsed by the Ethiopian Parliament before its implementation.

Mr. Mohammed concluded his speech by thanking HoA-REC&N for its role in ensuring sustainable development in Ethiopia and by calling upon the participants of the workshop to join hands and promote the ILDP initiative. The workshop was attended by representatives from various Ethiopian ministries, federal and regional government bureaus, embassies, media and member organisations of HoA-REC&N.

The event culminated with a handover ceremony of a 1:50,000 scale digital topographic map of GPNRS. Mr. Sultan Mohammed of the Ethiopian Mapping Agency handed the map over to Dr. Araya Asfaw, Executive Director of HoA-REC&N. The map will be used to support the ILDP initiative in GPNRS.

The main focus of the ILDP development process is using a beneficiary-driven, expert-guided, and institution-facilitated planning approach. This leads to the high quality production of an integrated land use and development plan for Anywa, Majang, and Nuer zones, Gambella City, Itang Special Woreda and Gambella region as a whole. The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MANR) serves as a facilitating institution of the ILDP development. Also, HoA-REC&N facilitates the process of ILDP development and serves as the secretariat ■





## IGERT Fellows Visit Ethiopia

HoA-REC&N hosted the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Boston Integrative Graduate Education Research and Traineeship (IGERT) programme visit to Ethiopia starting on 18th January 2016. HoA-REC&N has been closely collaborating with UMass Boston since 2011. In 2013, UMass Boston, in partnership with HoA-REC&N, received a \$3.1 million U.S. National Science Foundation IGERT grant to train a new generation of environmental academic and policy leaders, focused on the human-natural interactions of coastal communities in Boston Harbor and in the Horn of Africa.

The visit of UMass faculty and fellows began with a workshop at HoA-REC&N headquarters. During the one day workshop, IGERT fellows and faculty presented on the purpose of the IGERT program and the importance of its relationship with HoA-REC&N and Addis Ababa University (AAU). This was followed by a presentation and discussion session among representatives of the collaborating institutions.

The IGERT workshop involved the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce from the private sector and partnerships in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Biodiversity Conservation, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Africa Climate Policy Centre, and Network members of HoA-REC&N. This was aimed to share experiences and discuss current issues in the Horn of Africa Region.

IGERT is aimed at facilitating and putting research into action to address concrete problems and creating opportunities for collaboration with Ethiopian institutions.

During the afternoon session, Mr. Peter Vrooman, Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Ethiopia, introduced the fellows to environmental issues in Djibouti. Mr. Abdirahman Ahmed, Deputy Director of the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Network, followed Mr. Vrooman's presentation with a detailed explanation of environmental and development challenges, such as groundwater salinization, drought, flash flooding, and maritime pollution, especially focused in Djibouti.

After the presentations, fellows had breakout sessions with presenters and other experts on business management

and social change, governance and human security, marine science and policy, environmental science and environmental biology.

IGERT fellows from UMass Boston also visited Addis Ababa University and met with various departments in an effort to learn departmental activities and seek future collaboration between UMass and AAU. Following these meetings, the fellows visited various places in Ethiopia on the 20th and 21st January 2016. In addition to attending the Timkat (Epiphany) celebration, the fellows paid a visit to the Born Free Foundation in Addis Ababa and Soil and More –Ethiopia and Castel Winery in Ziway. While visiting Ziway, they also attended a presentation by the Sustainable Trade Initiative – IDH and visited the islands on Lake Ziway via the community tourism initiative that was supported by HoA-REC&N ■

## High Level Environmental Diplomacy Workshop Held in Addis Ababa



The Center for Governance and Sustainability at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston), and HoA-REC&N, co-hosted on 13th January 2016 a high-level environmental diplomacy workshop at the Gullele Botanic Garden in Addis Ababa for three days. The workshop,



known as the Regional Environmental Diplomacy Institute (REDI)-Africa, is the inaugural in an annual series convening officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Members of Parliament from Djibouti and Ethiopia as well as experts, practitioners and civil society advocates from Addis Ababa and Boston.

The historic milestones in 2015 included the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals and 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of the UN Climate Change Convention in Paris, France. Building on these achievements, REDI-Africa covered during the workshop key concepts in the field of environmental governance and will focus on the structure, negotiation, and implementation of global environmental conventions. Furthermore, it placed special emphasis on the political, economic, social and scientific implications of the development and implementation of various environmental agreements. The training aimed to equip diplomats with necessary skill-sets in environmental diplomacy, enhance interdisciplinary understanding and dialogue, and promote sustainable learning and future collaborations among participants.

“The COP21 Paris Agreement was a significant step forward in negotiating how to solve the global climate challenge,” said David W. Cash, PhD, Dean of the McCormack School. “Now, this workshop convenes researchers, policymakers and civil society to work on how to negotiate and mediate the regional, national and subnational decisions that will make the aspirations of a sustainable future into reality.”

H.E. Mr. Taye Atskeselassie, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, opened the meeting by stressing the importance of multilateral partnerships and congratulated the organisers for their joint collaboration. State Minister Taye welcomed REDI-Africa by highlighting the prominent role that environment and sustainability play



in the Government of Ethiopia’s national development strategy.

H.E. Desta W. Delkasso, MD, MPH, MAIHD, Director General for Women, Children, and Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added, “I applaud REDI-Africa for engaging Ethiopian women diplomats and ensuring that we also have the tools and skills necessary to advocate for our country’s strategic climate objectives.”

Maria H. Ivanova, PhD, Associate Professor of Global Governance and Director of the Center for Governance and Sustainability at the McCormack School, highlighted UMass Boston’s dynamic partnership with HoA-REC&N. “REDI-Africa engages stakeholders from the Horn of Africa and beyond, aiming to strengthen local capacity to address global challenges,” she added.

Araya Asfaw, PhD, Executive Director of HoA-REC&N, expressed cautious optimism of the Paris Agreement saying, “The negotiations will continue in terms of financing, knowledge transfer, and implementation.” REDI-Africa will seek to inform various government agencies in environmental governance and management while also assisting them in aligning their respective policies to a uniformed agenda, he added.

H.E. Tewolde Berhan Gebreegzabher, PhD, Advisor to the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Ethiopia’s preeminent environmental authority, advised the delegates as they participate in REDI-Africa to think broadly about the long-term consequences of a collective action.

## HoA-REC&N hosts Eastern Africa GEOHealth Hub Launching

HoA-REC&N hosted a launching meeting for the Global Environmental and Occupational (GEOHealth) Hub for East Africa. The meeting took place on 5th and 6th January 2016 in the presence of lead investigators from higher education institutions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda and the USA.

The meeting aimed at evaluating the status of GEOHealth in all partner

countries and establishing parameters for collaboration. It also aimed to foster a common understanding among the partner institutions on air pollution, climate change and health.

GEOHealth is a programme that supports the development of institutions in the low or middle income countries that will serve as regional hubs for collaborative research, data management, training, curriculum and outreach material development, and policy support around high priority local, national, and regional environmental and occupational health threats. GEOHealth Hubs are expected to bring together multiple disciplines to advance the pace of scientific discovery initially in one focal environmental or occupational health area.

As part of a network of seven hubs from around the world, the East African GEOHealth Hub was established recently through funding from the National Institutes of Health (USA) and the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The programme is funded for the next five years.

The lead institution of East African GEOHealth Hub is Addis Ababa University, while the partner institutions are Makerere University (Uganda), University of Rwanda, Masai Mara University (Kenya), University of Kabianga (Kenya), and the Great Lakes University of Kisumu (Kenya) ■

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