

# **Report on the establishment of the Ethiopian Association of Hydrogeologists (EAH)**

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General Manager of the Association**

Date of meeting: Aug. 20, 2006

Venue: Faculty of Science, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Theme: Rural water for rural development

## **Introduction:**

One of the fundamental conditions for the growth and development of a nation like Ethiopia is certainly the progressive fulfilment of its most urgent water needs. Past and recent studies have shown that the most suitable solution to this problem is undoubtedly the rational utilization of surface water. In fact, due to great extent in territory, which is characterized by sporadic rainfall, the solution is a proper regimen control of the rivers by erecting dams, which can regulate the evapotranspiration and supply water depending on local requirement. However, such interventions require a lot of money. In rural areas where more than 85% of the population lives, water shortage problems can be solved by proper utilization of groundwater.

At present Ethiopia has a population of over 74 million growing at a rate of over 3 % per annum. Access to the fresh water resources development is beyond the reach of the overwhelming majority of the Ethiopian population. The widespread problem of soil erosion and land degradation further reduced the already low capacity of food production and directly or indirectly hampered the development of water resources for agriculture. The water resources potential of the country pre-supposes a good scientific and technical capability for its judicious and sustained development of Ethiopia, with a very limited experience in irrigation, hydropower, reliable water supply for community and other areas of water resources development needs to exert a concerted and systematic effort to raise its capability in water resources assessment and development. The fast growing population and the recurrent drought has demanded such an effort more than ever. The country has enormous surface water and groundwater resources, although the distribution is uneven. Very little has been done in this field and development of the water resources, particularly in areas of groundwater resources. Groundwater utilization

has been limited to community water supply using shallow hand dug wells and unprotected springs. Limited deep boreholes were drilled in few rural areas, mainly in the rift valley, in some peripheral semi-arid regions and in the vast highland volcanic terrain. The use of deep groundwater from boreholes for agriculture is almost non-existent.

In Ethiopia, water for drinking, agricultural and industrial use is becoming under great pressure. The traditional surface water usage is now slowly moving to the groundwater. This extremely precious, clean resource is relatively cheap to develop when compared to the surface water. Developing ground water is unthinkable without good knowledge of Hydrogeology. So far, Ethiopia has produced some good number of hydrogeologists over the last 20-30 years (it is estimated that not less than 400 hydrogeologists exist in the country).

The core objective of the meeting was to help rural people to get freshwater in order to meet Millennium Development Goals.

At 9:00 AM on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2006, hydrogeologists from near by localities to Addis Ababa have been gathered to establish the Association. Due to long distance from the capital city, large number of hydrogeologists could not make to appear on the Founding Conference. However, over 70 hydrogeologists and 40 guests have attended the meeting besides the presence of Mr. Segun Adelana, IAH Vice president for sub Saharan Africa. He has delivered a long speech through which he explained the role of Burdon commission. The members elected three electoral members.

Electoral members

<b>No</b>	<b>Presentation Title</b>
1	H.E Mr Juneydi Saddo
2	Dr. Dereje Ayalew
3	Dr. Berhanu Gizaw

The electoral members have run election for board members according to the TOR given by the Federal Ministry of Justice.

#### Board members

No	Name	Duty
1	Mr. Tariku Negera	Board Chairman
2	Mr. Engda Zemedagegnehu	Vice Chairman
3	Dr. Deksissa Debele	Secretary
4	Mr. Gebretsadik Eshete	Member
5	Mr. Dereje Abdeta	Member

#### Executive body

No	Name	Duty
1	Dr. Tamiru Alemayehu	General Manager
2	Mr. Solomon Waltenigus	Finance Chief
3	Mr. Wagari Furi	Treasurer
4	Mr. Paulos Masresha	Editor
5	Mr. Damtew Assefa	Public relation

Six scientific papers have been presented in the same day and raised a lot of discussion.

#### Presented papers during the Conference.

No	Presentation Title	Presenter
1	Hydrogeology, hydrochemistry and isotope hydrology of Borkena valley	Mr. Sileshi Mammo
2	The drawback effect of insufficient groundwater resources on the natural lake: A case study in north central sector of East Hararghe Zone	Mr. Wagari Furi
3	Hydrogeology of Mohoni sub basin and lake Ashange catchment in the Raya valley (Northern Ethiopia)	Mr. Ermias Hagos
4	The Productivity of Shallow Wells Groundwater in Agriculture and Interacting Systems: A Case Study at Debre Kidane Watershed, Eastern Tigray, Northern Ethiopia	Dr. Nata Tadesse
5	Groundwater surface water interaction around Tsenkanet and Rubafeleg reservoirs, Tigray Northern Ethiopia	Dr. Dessie Nadew
6	Groundwater recharge and fate of groundwater storage in the Weybo river catchment	Mr. Aychiluhm Debebe

Main Organizers were H.E Mr. Juneydi Saddo and Dr. Tamiru Alemayehu.

The founding congress was sponsored by various organizations out of which IAH has contributed 2000 US\$. For facilitation we thank Dr. Alan MacDonald and Mr.

Segun Adelana. All members of the association are indebted to the concern of IAH to help Ethiopian Hydrogeologists.

Now officially, we can get together to share hydrogeological knowledge and learn from other prominent hydrogeologists. The members are confident that IAH will help us to develop our country particular and east Africa in general.

Attached is the abstract distributed to the participant.



Dr. Tamiru Alemayehu  
Introducing the sessions



Mr. Segun Adelana  
Giving IAH Message



H.E Mr. Juneydi Saddo  
Minister, at the opening speech



Participants