



SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER

April - June, 2014

Introduction

As the year 2014 progressed further, our second semester also moved towards the end of the academic year. Activities that are closely associated with both wings-academics as well as administration, are presented in this issue.

Academic Affairs

It has been three years since the initial accreditation of the two programs in Business and Information Science faculties, we had to prepare several documents and submit to HERQA for reaccreditation. Any and all academic programs we have need to be reaccredited every three years as this a standing regulation. We are now waiting for the formal inspection of our curricula in the two faculties by HERQA. It is hoped this will be carried out during July-August, 2014.

During the quarter our academic departments showed marked activities. Professional experience sharing discussions took place between staff of the Architecture department and visiting architects from the Unity University in Addis Abeba. This meeting was meant to create close professional links for more experience sharing including possible staff exchange.



Architectural discussion

The students of this department attended a special lecture that was conducted by Hans Treurniet (master planner of HUC) from the Netherlands. His topic of lecture was “What is Architecture?” It is believed the students received an added boost and motivation for joining the department to become future architects.



Mr. Hans Treurniet conducting lecture

In the following lines, the department of Environmental Science and Sustainable Development is presented to share what it encountered during the quarter.

“Environmental Science and Sustainable Development department engaged in lots of active learning in the lab and field, and made lots of contacts with professionals working in the field.

-Active lab and field sessions were held in Ecology and Geology courses. In our labs and on our campus, students learned techniques in quantitative ecology and rock identification. Subsequently on a field visit to Awash National park, students observed a variety of ecosystems (riparian, bush land and wetland) and a number of landforms and hydro-geologic features produced by both internal and external geomorphological processes (Awash river valley, Mt. Fentale volcano geologic hot springs, the expanding saline Lake Beseka). On the field visit students took water quality readings at the hot spring, lake and river, and they also carried samples back to the lab for further analysis.



Traveling in the HUC bus to Awash National Park for field work



Collecting water quality data in a natural hot spring



Hydrogeology lecture on the shores of the saline, alkaline and expanding Lake Beseka

-Later in the semester, our students registered for geology course visited the offices and laboratories of the Geologic Survey of Ethiopia, part of the Ministry of Mines; the guide for this visit was a geo-hazards expert who showed students some of the processes of geo-hazard mapping and geologic resource identification.



Testing rocks for carbonate minerals at the HUC lab



Samples for mineral testing at the Ministry of Mines lab



Platinum crucibles at the Ministry of Mines lab

-Guest speakers Mr. Dereje Mekonnen (MA, GIS) from Information Security Agency and Dr. Sam Walker (Geology and Archaeology) from Aksum University, discussed with students the ways that they are applying environmental science in their professional lives.



Mr. Dereje Mekonnen



Dr. Sam Walker

-Two PhD candidates, Bikila Wudeneh in a Netherland university and Desalegn Yayeh in UNISA assisted our permanent staff in the teaching of Ecology and Geology courses offered this semester, adding latest, locally pertinent contents to those courses. “

The above news from ESSD is meant to show how we do care for the practical teaching-learning activities at HUC. We will endeavour to provide such narrative departmental activities in the future.

In order to implement the competency based education, major decisions and actions were taken during the quarter. According to the agreed arrangements with W&D, an expert mission was fielded at HUC.

The early mission consisting of two experts *Lieske Hulscher* and *Dr. Peter Blokhuis* prepared the road map for the actual training by conducting various interviews, analysing various policy-related documents so that the framework is made more explicit for CBE implementation. Subsequently, the training expert came and conducted the training to



Dr. Peter Blokhuis and Lieske Hulscher

the staff members of the business faculty and the members of the CBE Commission. It was done to the business faculty staff because the CBE will start at this department. The training will be continued to other departments at later dates.

A two-member delegation from our academic staff participated in a special quality audit training program organized by Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency for one week at Nazareth. This training is expected to promote not only the staff members' understanding of the subject matter, but also HUC's participatory role in the affairs of higher education in the country.



Student's receiving academic award certificate from the Dean of Student and Registrar.

A total of 124 students were recognized for their best academic achievements according to the results of first semester. Sixty two fe-

males and equal number of male students were involved in this honor role category. Our student population is not only a gender balanced, but also achievement balanced as well. While congratulating all those who worked for excellence during the past semester, we expect more of the rest of our student population to be vigilant to their academic achievements.

We are proud of our girl's club members who have been active again in many fruitful engagements to date. And now, they are running the Girls Copy Center, which became operational this quarter, voluntarily.

As we write this newsletter, the second semester classes are ending and preparations for the first graduation are underway.



Girls club and their copy center

Administration and Finance

Major activities of administrative and finance in this quarter included hosting trainings, purchasing and supplying instruction materials, and facility maintenance tasks.

Human Resources

A reference librarian, W/ro Bayoush Nigatu, was hired on full time basis in order to fill a vacant position that was created as a result of an internal transfer of staff from the library to ICT office. The vacant position was advertised on local news paper and potential candidates were interviewed. Similarly, W/ro Yeshe Kelkile, was hired as financial adviser on short term contract basis in order to help the back log of work accumulated in the finance office.

A detailed supervision procedure to monitor work ethics of employees was developed and became operational. This is a useful tool to supervise both the support and academic staffs' adherence to the working rules and regulations. The management of HUC developed this procedural manual after consulting similar private higher education institutions in Addis Abeba. The procedures became operational after thoroughly discussing with the concerned heads of units.

Material supply

As part of supporting the academic field visits and other related activities, four canvas tents and 25 mattresses were purchased. Some laboratory equipment such as water quality measurement was also procured. As part of preparation for graduation, a sound system and graduation gowns as well were purchased.

Facility Maintenance

Ato Woldegebriel, one of the facility maintenance staff completed his training on servicing and repairing office machines and equipment. He has already started servicing our printers and photo copiers including refilling. HUC used to outsource such services in the past with higher costs. This way will help us to build the capacity of our staff to maintain our facilities and equipment in good working order.

One of the two water pumps was damaged due to overload of power. This happened when overpower was released from the grid after power outage. As a result, the campus had major water supply disruption for a while. In order to fix this problem, contactors and phase-

control were purchased and installed outsourcing the work to external technician. To avoid similar power surge damage to the water pump in the future, phase-control has been set.

Ato Teshome carried out all regular repair and maintenance works on walk ways, the roof of the library, guest house apartments etc.,



Teshome, the fixer

ICT and IP telephony



IP telephony ready for distribution

GCS has started installing the IP telephony and WIFI to HUC according to earlier contract agreement. Seven WIFI spots were installed in the classrooms, the library and cafeteria improving the internet connectivity of HUC. IP telephony internal lines were also set up and

the service will soon be operational as soon as the four direct lines requested from Ethio-telecom are made available.



Cisco WiFi installed

Financial

HUC for the first time is in possession of cash receipts printed in its own name, thanks to the rigorous efforts by the General Secretary of Hope Enterprises. Thus, issuing receipts for back payments are underway and the finance office is working to clear backlogs soon.



Finance officer at work

Partner visits and meetings

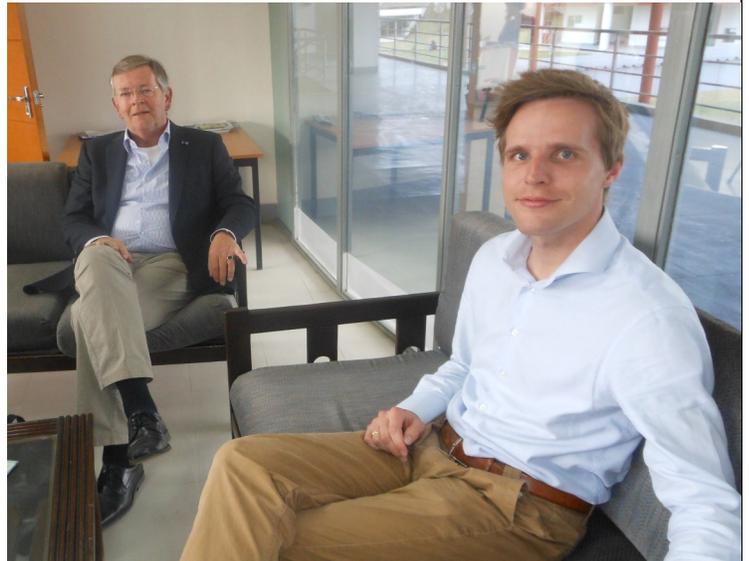
Members' of GHARA Alliance meeting was held in May to prepare the draft strategic document for the next five years (2016-2020). The meeting was attended by all members including HUC from May 5-9 and both the general direction of GHARA and also the future donor policy were presented and discussed. The participants drafted a policy document that was presented in the general conference held in the Netherlands from June 19-26. The GHARA Alliance is becoming more focused and HUC is benefiting from its membership by way of getting funds for its CBE training and facilitation.

Along side of the Ghara alliance meeting, Ms. Ellen van den Hil (Regional co-ordinator, Ghara) and Ms Agnes Kroese from Red een Kind visited HUC and had useful discussions on strategies and sustainability of HUC and the way forward.

Mr. Arnold Willigen, director of finance at Woord en Daad, made a visit to HUC in May to conduct OSA. The assessment was made and a draft report has been produced.

Mr. Hans Treurniet, a member of the treurniet empathic architecture company which designed the buildings of HUC, made a visit to HUC. During his stay in our guest apartment, gave a lecture to the architecture students as reported in academic section. The board chairman of Wood & Daad also visited as during this quarter.

Similarly, Mr. Niek Hoffius and Hans van Rhijn, seconded by W&D came from the Netherlands for one week to make an assessment on the maintenance need and its financial implications. They carried out the assessment on the buildings and the entire campus premises. Their report is expected to come out soon.



The Board Chairman in President's office

Mr. Jack El Well of Venture Church made his regular visit to HUC this time again. As part of supporting our activities, he brought security cameras, lamps for flat screen projectors and remotes. The lamps will be used to replace used lamps of NEC projectors that HUC is using. HUC is very grateful to Mr. Jack for his commitment and support for our work.

A partnership agreement is renewed with International Leadership Academy of Ethiopia (ILEA) for the coming one year. As part of expanding our links with foreign academic institutions, a partnership proposal is sent to the Cascadia Community College of Seattle in USA. The partnership proposal focuses in the area of faculty exchange in the academic programs that the two institutions are working on. If this proposal is successful, it will greatly reduce the shortage of academic staff in HUC while giving more chance to share experiences of our staff with those of foreign institution.

As part of engaging with community activities, HUC avails its halls for the Nifas-Silk Lafto Sub-city community meetings. In one of such meetings called by the management of the Sub-city in our multi-purpose hall, more than 1000 people participated during the quarter. We believe this kind of service to the community helps link HUC to the wider local community as well as the administrative structures.

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