



# FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER

October - December 2013

## Introduction

Many friendly greetings to all friends of Hope University College! Thank you for staying with us all the way through the year. In this fourth edition you will only be informed of things that took place during the last three months of 2013.

During the early parts of this quarter the President of HUC paid one week working visit to the headquarters of W&D in the Netherlands. As this visit was planned earlier during the third quarter by W&D office and preparations as to the entire duration of the visit was made, all went according to plans. Valuable discussions took place between the different management organs of W&D including the CEO, Mr. Jan Lok. Three-way conference meeting also took place between W&D, HUC and Ethiopaid/UK during this visit. Experience sharing discussions were made with our two partner Universities at Dronten and Ede particularly in relations to competency based education application.



## Academic Affairs

Though for logistic reasons registration for the new semester started rather late in October, one could witness remarkably increased number of student intake. The total number of students for both the regular and extension programs was over 700. Some changes in staff mixture and assignments were introduced. Since Kumneger, the former Dean of the faculty of Information Science has left HUC on her own accord Ato Melaku Dagne was assigned as the new Dean. W/ro Atsede Feleke, a licensed counselor and psychologist, has been hired to run the office the Dean of Students and Gender Affairs. W/ro Atsede is involved in teaching psychology classes as well. In her short time with HUC, she is already manifesting effective leadership of her own style. Good for her!



The new Dean of Student & Gender Affairs

Ato Walelign Mekonnen, an instructor in the Environmental Science department has been appointed as a coordinator for the extension program. The establishment of such a coordinating office improved the quality of services that students get from the University College as well as setting a better mechanism to supervise and follow up the extension program services.



The New Quality Assurance Director

Ato Tariku Gebremichael, the Quality Assurance Director has prepared a hand book designed to help instructions in the competency based education program. Such initiatives by the academic staff members will be highly valuable assets indeed and we are grateful to the Director for his contribution.

As a number of additional academic staff was recruited during the summer, the management of HUC took time to introduce the various work ethics as well as regulatory elements one needs to be acquainted with in order to be a successful member of the institution. Thus, an orientation program for the newly recruited academic personnel was conducted before the first semester classes began.

Environmental Science and Sustainable Development department opened its door this semester. The subject of environment though important as it is, needed more promotional work in order to attract students into the program a special launching program was held at HUC. To the delight of the organizing department, many environment-friendly personalities and guest speakers including from the Ethiopian Environment Protection



#### **Launching Environmental Science Department**

Authority and the Addis Abeba University were present to witness the launching.

Ethiopian Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency (HERQA) undertakes a periodical quality audits at the various higher educational institutions that are so accredited and registered to carry out college level education. As HUC has earlier submitted its self evaluation document to HERQA, the actual institutional audit by the agency took place during early part of November. As this was a comprehensive audit checking every



Academic Quality Audit Team from HERQA

bit of our academic as well as support units, the entire HUC community participated in the information provision and answering at times quite hard questions. Our students manifested rather mature and confident behavior during this audit encounter as often. We are so proud of them.

Hope University College's Girls Club was the leading power in the colorful celebration of the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day. Our students dressed and painted with many costumes and designs representing the various regional cultures and beautiful attractions, majestically decorated our big multi-purpose hall. City-wide famous artists presented special musicals and a business lady, chair of the board of the AIB (our partner) considered by the Girl's Club as a role model, made an inspiring speech to our youth, particularly motivating the female students to become such ones.



Our female students as colorful as the nationality day itself

### **Administrative Affairs**

Major activities of administrative and finance wing in this quarter included filling vacancies, supplying instructional materials, and following up the facility maintenance.

Budget for 2014 activities has been prepared and sent to the office of the General Secretary of Hope Enterprises so that the long approval process begins from there. The budget was prepared on the bases of new activities that will begin this year, the cost patterns of HUC as seen in the past two years and expected income from donation and tuition fees. The budget was reviewed and discussed internally before submission. As is also required by the General Secretary's office, the third term financial report has been forwarded in time.

The long-standing payment that was withheld from the China Jiangsu Construction Company has been paid and the final statement of settlement and mutual agreement reached with this company and HUC.

Six full time and two part time staff members were recruited in the quarter to fill vacant positions. A software engineer was employed as computer lab assistant. In addition, two circulation desk attendants were hired in the library to address the shortage of staff in providing efficient services for new students. Two cleaning service personnel also were hired to boost the clean-campus motto of HUC. Two Part-time instructors were also hired to fill the positions of instructors that left HUC after the start of the semester.

All the security guards of HUC were provided short training in how to detect security risks and searching techniques so that they can properly protect the HUC compound from theft and other unauthorized activities. To further strengthen the safety and security of all the visitors to our campus, a metal detector was purchased and put to use by our security personnel.

A major break down occurred on the water pump during this quarter. A connector was replaced and a major repair was done on the water pump with the help of external technician. After the repair, every body was relieved as the regular water supplies resumed eventually.

Similar problem also encountered with the air conditioner in the ICT Unit. Gas leakage was detected causing the depletion of gas level in the equipment. The conditioner holes were then welded and gas was refilled to the air conditioner resuming the cooling services so badly needed to protect the entire server room.

In connection to the outstanding construction related issues in some buildings, recently Woord en Daad and Ethiopiaid agreed to pay for the remaining repair work and close the chapter for good. To this effect ideas were exchanged and work plans developed in consultation with the former construction project site engineer for ABBA Architects. Based on this plan, Performa-invoices were collected from three known water-proofing companies and one of them was selected based on the information secured for providing better quality proposal and price for the services. The multipurpose hall, the guest house, the library and other buildings were repaired using the recommended water-proofing material.

More office partitions were done to provide more office spaces available for the growing number of staff. Two offices added in this manner in the administration and finance building. Some repair works were done on the walk ways and on the roof of the library. Ground levelling is also carried out within the compound of HUC to make some space available for sport activities.

Control-manager for IP telephony and WIFI system and UPS were purchased by Woord en Daad and air-freighted to HUC. The goods have arrived and at the moment are at the Ethiopian Airlines Cargo store. The customs clearing process has started and we believe this part to be expedited soon as permit letters from various government offices are already received.

## **Partnership**

It has been about a year since International Leadership Academy of Ethiopia (ILAE) started a collaborative partnership with HUC. ILAE has already started its program at HUC. Since the present arrangement is only on temporary basis, ILAE would like to enter into a long term relationship with HUC. In order to reach at such levels, a strategic discussion took place between ILAE's management and HUC's side in November. The General Secretary of Hope Enterprises and the President of HUC attended the meeting which was requested by ILAE. Such collaborative discussions are to continue.

Greater Horn Africa Regional Alliance (GHARA) meeting was held from 2-6 December, 2013. For the first time as a member to this Alliance, HUC attended the meeting which focused on developing a five year plan from 2015-2020 for the Alliance members. An extended meeting was also held with Mrs. Ellen Van den Hil (our Regional Coordinator) with the emphasis on CBE and other activities of HUC and agreement was reached to strengthen CBE program. Action points were also developed to support related activities of HUC. Agreement was reached to allocate a separate budget for implementing CBE, starting from the new year.

Future collaborative strategic discussions which started during the last quarter with Ethiopiaid/UK continued all the way in this quarter as well. With close, back and forth, consultations with Ethiopiaids' consultant, valuable working document has been produced and forwarded. Ethiopiaid/UK has shown sincere interest in HUC's future success and clearly indicated their commitment to the cause of educating the needy youth of Ethiopia. We are grateful for such a solid stand.

A group fifteen partners came from Woord en Daad led by Mr. Haselman. The group had brief discussions with the management and made a visit to the facility of HUC. The group also had some discussions with some of our students. Their overall remarks were those of appreciation for the local effort to keep the facility of HUC in good orders. They also raised the point that they wanted to have more discussion in developing adequately funded

facility maintenance plan for the buildings of HUC.

Mrs. Kim Edwards had paid a visit to HUC towards the end of the year before she went to visit the women project of Hope Enterprises that she supports in Wello province. Annually, she spends the New Year with women supported in the Ladders of Hope project and she came for 13<sup>th</sup> times this year we were told. HUC appreciates the support and dedication that Mrs. Kim extends to Ladders of Hope as well as to HUC.

Mr. Klaas de Wit from the Netherlands was on campus spending half a day with his five sponsored students. He interviewed them and exchanged email addresses with them for ease of future communications in order to follow their progress. He also visited the campus and observed the facilities and their maintenance conditions. Mr. Klaas often raised the importance of proper maintenance. We sincerely appreciate his concern and commitment for our facility maintenance.

## Sponsorship Needs

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Our vision to educate the needy youth of the country remains strong and alive as ever. This is because education is the tool that creates an enabling environment for gender equality, good governance, better and quality life by way of ending poverty. To provide good education, we need to have good pool of adequately trained and prepared staff. Our major catch is right here, and that is where we are soliciting your support to sponsor a student to further maintain a good teacher. All the donated funds in our college go to avail good teaching materials as well as covering staff salary.

As I finalize this newsletter, I haven't yet heard from some of our friends regarding the new year commitments. I do yearn to learn this. May the Lord be with you and bless you as you start the brand new year!!