



Date: October 16, 2009

***International Conference on Enriching the Development of
Tourism in Ethiopia***

Call for Abstracts

The College of Development Studies of Addis Ababa University in collaboration with researchers from the Departments of History and Heritage Management, Biology and Earth Sciences of AAU and Mekelle University has been engaged in community based ecotourism development in Ethiopia over the last five years. The research team has carried out detailed studies on tourism resource mapping, linking research outputs to development, and proposed implementation packages of the research outputs at grassroots level. In its effort to realize the implementation of the research outputs, the team has identified serious gaps in trained manpower. To overcome these gaps the team has developed MA Curriculum in Tourism and Development and launched the program in the College of Development Studies as of October, 2009. Moreover, to disseminate the result of the research output to all stakeholders and to the community in general the research team is in the process of publishing a book entitled: "Community Based Ecotourism Development: from Resource Mapping to Implementation".

The results of the five years research work, the international conferences, and the efforts made to implement the research outputs have indicated the need for discussion and consultation at National level with all stakeholders on

“Enriching the Development of Tourism in Ethiopia” for the successful implementation of the proposed implementation packages. Cognizant of this the College of Development Studies of AAU is organizing an international conference, on comprehensive approach of linking tourism research outputs with implementation to utilize Ethiopia’s tourism resources for development, between February 28 to March 1, 2010 at Addis Ababa University.

The main themes of the conference are:

- **Mapping of natural and cultural tourism resources**
- **Linking research output to policy and development**
- **The challenges of implementing research outputs at grassroots level**
- **Tourism governance: the role of stakeholders**
- **Best practices in community based ecotourism development**
- **Actual and potential benefits of tourism in local economic development**

This international conference is expected to produce the following:

- **Governance modalities among all stakeholders**
- **Research output - policy linkages**
- **Identify additional researchable issues on tourism and development**

We call upon all interested individuals and organizations to submit an abstract not later than November 25, 2009 via e-mail:

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