

Short biography of Prof. Yalemtehay

Professor Yalemtehay Mekonnen was born from her father Colonel Mekonnen Tadesse and her mother Wro Sefefyelesh Kidane in Asela on May 30, 1955. She began her elementary school in Dessie, and completed her high school education in Menelik II Secondary School in Addis Ababa. She was honored with a prize from Emperor Haileselassie for high achievement in Ethiopian School Leaving Certificate Examination. She joined the Addis Ababa University (AAU) in 1971 obtained her B.Sc degree in Biology in 1978. She was then employed as a graduate assistant in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and joined the first graduate programme launched in the Department and obtained her M.Sc degree in Biology in 1980, being the first batch of graduates and the first woman in AAU. She received her PhD degree in Human Physiology from the University of Heidelberg in Germany in 1992. She served as the Head of the Department of Biology and Director of the Aklilu Lemma Institute of Biology in AAU. In addition she has served in leadership positions in many professional societies. Her keen interest to encourage female students of the University is exemplified in her role in taking part in project development for soliciting funds for the establishment of a resource centre with computer facilities for female students of the Faculty of Science that was launched at the beginning of 2005.

She was awarded several research grants and fellowships nationally and internationally. She had a number of short research stays in German universities and in the United Kingdom. She has presented her research results in national, regional and international scientific and professional meetings and conferences. Currently she is engaged in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and in advising graduate students and continuing her research activities in the Department of Biology, and also serving as the Head of the Women's Affair Office of the Faculty of Science.