A Report on the Center for African Development Policy Research (CADPR)

http://international.wmich.edu/content/section/15/116/

by

Sisay Asefa, Professor, Department of Economics & Director, CADPR

January 2011

The African Development Policy Research (CADPR) is the first international academic center in the human and social sciences established at Western Michigan University in 2001, with the approval by WMU Board of Trustees. The Center is a joint program of the Department of Economics, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE), aimed at engaging in academic research and education in collaboration with Faculty and Students in various WMU Colleges and Departments with interest in Africa. The Center was established by Founding Director Sisay Asefa and a few faculty from Social Sciences Departments of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) with interest and expertise on Africa. CADPR evolved from the former interdisciplinary African Studies Program supported by faculty in humanities and social sciences with expertise and interest in Africa.

2. CADPR Objectives

The specific objectives of the Center are to:

- Support academic activities and programs that contribute to understanding the human and socio-economic development and environmental problems of Africa in the form of seminars, workshops, conferences, and discussion or working paper series,
- Coordinate and facilitate short term research and training programs and seminars in collaboration with WMU academic departments and international institutions of higher education and research, in order to promote economic development and educational opportunities by engaging WMU students and faculty on international development research with a focus on Africa.
• Pursue collaborative external grants in order to implement the Center's activities and objectives,
• Facilitate academic linkages and exchanges of scholars between WMU and institutions of higher education and research in Africa for mutual benefit,
• Contribute to the WMU's mission of 'student centered university' with a global reach by serving as a clearing house of research, faculty, and visiting scholars, focused on international development in general and African development in particular,
• Collaborate with institutions of higher education and research in Africa in the study of key areas of development such as economic development, governance and business development management, education, health and sustainable development.

The Center plans to engage in collaborative training and capacity building and publication of books and research reports with African institutions such as International Leadership Institute, the Africa Union, UNDP and UNECA located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

• Continue the internationally recognized successful biennial international conferences on development studies that convened since 2001. Five successful international conferences have convened in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009. The 6th annual conference planned in summer 2011 on the theme of the "State of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities for Integration and Unity toward Peace and Sustainable Development. Please see website: http://international.wmich.edu/content/section/15/116/
• Launch an online International Journal of African Development Studies (IADS) that will publish peer reviewed papers both from its conferences and open submissions
• Develop an interdisciplinary Masters degree in African Development Studies (MADS) in collaboration with an African University.
• Launch and Organize the annual Distinguished Scholar on Africa Lecture Series beginning 2011 that involves WMU Community of Students, Faculty and the public
CADPR Activities: 2001-2011

Since CADPR’s activities begun in 2001, CADPR has organized five successful international conferences in development studies and hosted visiting international scholars include Fulbright Scholars. CADPR convened the first international conference on Development Studies in August 2001 that attracted numerous papers and scholars around the world to WMU Campus. The Key note speaker at first international conference in 2001 was delivered by distinguished African Agricultural Scientist native of Ethiopia, and who received the World Food Prize: Professor Gebissa Ejeta of Purdue University. The 2003 and 2005 conferences convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with collaboration with Addis Ababa University and the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research.

In 2007, the 4th International conference convened on WMU Campus in collaboration and support of selected WMU administrative and academic units that includes the Office of the WMU President and various colleges and departments, and the University of Michigan-International Center and Department of African and African-American Studies. The conference featured two Key notes along with 35 selected papers from 80 abstracts received from scholars across the world including PhD students from Europe, Japan and the United States as well as from WMU. The key note speakers were: A Distinguished Sociologist with expertise on Ethiopian culture and political economy: Professor Donald Levine of the University of Chicago and Dr. Engeda Asfaw, a distinguished cardiologist and professor of Medicine at Wayne state University Medical School.

From 2001-2009, about 180 research papers have been presented in the bi-annual international development studies series focused on Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa and some of these papers have appeared in refereed journals in social sciences, proceedings and published books edited by CADPR Director. The 2009 Proceedings will be published in collaboration with Adama University some time during 2011. Few selected papers for 2009 conference are being reviewed for publication in a special journal of *Journal of International Politics and Development*, published by the University of Indiana-Kokomo School of Public and Environmental Affairs.
The 5th International conference convened in Ethiopia with a co-sponsorship of Adama University in on November 12-13, 2009 in coordination with Director’s sabbatical leave combined with short Fulbright Grant of six weeks at the School of Business of Adama University.  [http://www.adama-university.net/](http://www.adama-university.net/) . This conference attracted 30 papers selected from 50 abstracts submitted since that visit, Adama University has began to pursue academic linkages with selected WMU colleges and departments such as Departments of Economics and Geography coordinated by CADPR Director.  CADPR hosted two PhD students from AU, from May 1-August 1 2010, in collaboration with HIGE and Department of Economics facilitated by Sisay Asefa who was served as external PhD Advisor to the students during his short visit at Adama University and later after returning to campus from his sabbatical. The students were financially supported by Adama University and benefitted developing their research. One of the students, Mr. Tolla Berrisso completed his Doctoral Dissertation in a topic of business reform in Ethiopia, which he will defend his dissertation on January 4, 2011. Professor Sisay Asefa was invited by Adama University School of Business to serve as Chair or “first reader” in a five person dissertation committee that includes Dean of Adama School of Business, Professor Frank Witt who is the second reader using “German Model” of Doctoral Degree by Research. Adama School of Business covered Sisay Asefa’s round trip travel and local expenses. The dissertation was successfully defended on January 4 on Adama University and attended by some 60 persons that included Faculty, PhD students, top administrators including the president and academic vice president invited members of the public. See story in Adama website: [http://www.adama-university.net/](http://www.adama-university.net/)

Earlier, during his first sabbatical combined with Fulbright, Sisay Asefa spent one academic year (1987-88) teaching at the Department of Economics of the University of Botswana, Southern Africa, [http://www.ub.bw/](http://www.ub.bw/). At that time department of University of Botswana had one Botswana national, the rest were from other African countries. At the end of that period, Sisay Asefa recruited Mr. Happy Siphambe, who was an advanced staff development fellow at UB at that time to come to WMU and join the Economics Department in 1988.

Happy Siphambe graduated with MA in Economics from WMU 1989. He later went on to the University of Manitoba, Canada and completed his PhD in Economics with specialization in
Development and Labor Economics from the University of Manitoba Canada. After completing his PhD, Happy Siphambe returned to Botswana and became the chair and led the UB Department of Economics and developed it to where currently there are 15 PhD economists who are all Botswana nationals. No African country has made that such progress in such a short time. The WMU Economics Department recognized Siphambe’s achievement by awarding him the Outstanding Alumni award for 2008-09 year.


Due to its good governance and democratic institutions, Botswana today is beneficiary of “brain drain” flow from other African states such as Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria of academics, scientists including and health professionals such as Doctors and Nurses.

**CADPR Funding:**

CADPR activities are partially supported by a permanent endowment attracted by Professor Sisay Asefa established in 1995 from a private donor who is a major International private investor and philanthropist in African and the Middle East. The proceeds of that permanent endowment fund, named “Ethiopian Development Fund” is administered by HIGE have pays for CADPR activities such as conference expenses, including support of occasional half time WMU graduate assistants.

**CADPR Future Activities (2010/11 and beyond)**

**EAL Academy Request for Training in Leadership Development:** CADPR received a request by Ethiopian Airline Academy for short term training in Aviation Leadership in specific areas of Aviation. Sisay Asefa recruited Faculty interested from WMU College of Aviation that may engage in short term training of maximum of one week with agreement with individual faculty. The Ethiopian Airline (EAL) is the leading African Airline that connects 53 African states to the rest of the World including direct daily flight from Washington to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

http://www.ethiopianairlines.com/
Travel to Horn of Africa: Ethiopia and Djibouti (December 17, 2009-January 11, 2011):

Sisay Asefa Traveled to Ethiopia and Djibouti on December 17, 2010 to pursue the following objectives. 1. To serve as Chair and first reader of a Doctoral Dissertation by PhD student in Business Administration, invited by Adama School of Business. 2. To explore support for funding, collaborative and grant sources for 2011 international conference that will convene for the 10th anniversary of international development studies conference series and establishment of CADPR in 2001. Preliminary Call for papers is posted on CADPR website.

Sisay Asefa participated in the UNESCO Greater Horn Scholars Forum supported by UNESCO Paris on December 21-22 on topic of Regional Integration and Youth conference on December 21-22 and deliver an invited lecture on the Challenges of Regional Integration and Peace in the Horn of Africa at Faculty of Law, Management and Economics invited by Dean and President of University of Djibouti. At GHHF-UNESCO Forum, he presented a paper on youth in the Horn of Africa on behalf of another author who was absent, per request of the Forum. In January 2011, CADPR formed an International Advisory Board for CADPR invited by the Director.

Visiting International Scholar in Residence at CADPR since August 2010:

Dr. Fesseha Habtemariam is a visiting scholar hosted by CADPR in collaboration with Economics Department and CHHS. He is a Medical Doctor with MD and MPH Degrees with successful entrepreneurial experience in higher education and President of first private University in Ethiopia known as the Unity University. http://www.uuc.edu.et/unitynewsview.php Dr. Fesseha is a partner working on a joint proposal with CADPR that involves training and conferences and publications including the 2011 conference by attracting funds both for development of CADPR and 2011 International Conference on international Development Studies: CADPR will develop a critical group of international advisory faculty listed below with expertise and interest in Africa to guide its future activities, and will begin lecture series distinguishes scholars on African Development Studies and a International Journal on African Development Studies if resources become available.
The 6th or 2011 Conference on International Development Studies, June 2-4, 2011

The Call for Papers for 6th International Conference on the State of Africa under the general theme of “Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development through Regional Integration and Unity within Diversity of Africa: "The Challenges and Opportunities for 21st Century", is released in January 2011. A potential partner for the 2011 conference is the African Union and the International Leadership Institute located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Union (AU) that comprises of 54 African states members first established in Ethiopia in 1963 with the name of Organization of African Unity (OAU) and later renamed African Union in 2001. AU is the most important organization that drives the vision of unity, regional integration and sustainable development under some challenges. http://www.africa-union.org/. CADPR Director and Advisory Board Member and Visiting Scholar partner are developing a joint proposal that involves publications of State of Africa series that will begin with the of 2011 Conferences papers and selected papers from past CADPR proceedings including other invited papers.
International Advisory Board Established: January 2011

CADPR formed an International Advisory Board in January 2011. The members of the Advisory Board represent WMU Colleges and from other US and African universities with interest and contribution to African development in knowledge and ideas to further strengthening of Center as an internationally recognized Center on African Development Research. The following is a list of the International Advisory Board by invitation of the Director.

- Sisay Asefa, PhD, Professor of Economics & Director, Center for African Development Policy Research (CADPR), Western Michigan University (WMU)
- Johnson Asumadu, Associate professor of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, WMU
- Joseph Bangura, PhD, Director, African Studies Program, Kalamazoo College.
- Badege Bekele, Professor and President, International Leadership Institute (ILI)
- Endashaw Bekele, Professor of Genetics, Department of Biology, Addis Ababa University
- Paul Clements, PhD Associate Professor of Political Science & Director, MA Program in International Development, WMU
- BT Costantinos, PhD, Professor and Chair, African Union Convention to Prevent and Combat Corruption, School of Post Graduate Studies, AAU, Ethiopia
- Dr. Linwood Cousins, Director, School of Social Work, WMU
- Sushi Datta-Sandhu, PhD. Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
- Robert Debie, Dean of School of Public and Environmental Studies, University of Indiana Kokomo
- Mariam Deme, PhD, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, WMU
- Betty Dennis, PhD, Associate Dean, Extended Programs
- Zarina El-Amin, Coordinator of Programs, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, WMU
- William Ganz, Professor, College of Aviation, WMU
- Fisseha Habtemariam, MD, Visiting Scholar, CADPR/HIGE, Department of Economics & CHHS.
- Bruce Haight, Professor, Department of History, WMU
- Wei-Chiao Huang, PhD. Professor, Department of Economics & Director of Chinese Studies
- Ahmed Hussen, PhD Professor, Department of Economics, Kalamazoo College
- William Kern, Professor and Chair, Department of Economics
- Adugna Lemi, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts-Boston
- Assefa Mehretu, PhD Professor, Department of Geography, MSU
- Berhanu Mengistu, PhD Professor of Public Administration, Old Dominion University, VA, USA
- Ben Ofori-Amoah, PhD. professor and Chair, Department of Geography,
- Onaiwu Ogbomo, PhD. Professor of History and Africana Studies, WMU
- Susan Pozo, PhD. Professor, Department of Economics
- Cynthia Running-Johnson. Professor & Chair, Department of Foreign Languages
- Aberra Senbeta, Assistant Professor of Economics, Blomberg State University, PA
- Blen Solomon, PhD, Assistant Professor of Economics, Defiance College, Ohio
- Bilinda Straight, PhD. Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
- Wongel Tefera, MA, Senior scientist, Pfizer Corporation, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- Asrat Tessema, Professor of Finance, Eastern Michigan University
- Lewis Walker, Professor Emeritus, Walker Institute for Ethnic and Racial Relations, WMU
- Susan Weinger, Professor, School of Social Work, WMU
- Lisa Whitaker, Associate Professor, College of Aviation
- Frank Witt, PhD Professor & Dean, School of Business, Adama University, Ethiopia
- Hirut Woldemariam, PhD, VP for External Relations, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia