



# NEWSLETTER

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# The University Rebrand with Its New Logo

Addis Ababa Science and Technology University is evolving its brand and logo to capture its strengths as a modern, innovative and inclusive organization. Our new logo provides a clean and modern take on familiar elements such as the gear, circuit board, molecule symbol and shield symbol. As such, this new aesthetic symbolizes our progressive nature while honoring the past upon which our future success will be built.

The new logo reflects the original elements of our founding: the gear, circuit board, molecule symbol and shield symbol. This re-imagination of the design represents connection with our past even as we look boldly to the future. The foundation of the logo is the combination of all. 1. The Gear a toothed wheel that works with other alter the relation between the speed of a driving mechanism and the speed of the driven part showing a strong sense (symbolize strength). 2) Circuit board: it is a laminated sandwich structure of conductive and insulating layers. PCBS have two first is to affix electronic components in designated locations on the outer layers by means of soldering ( embody technology the combination of any techniques, creativity, ability, methods and processes used in the production of goods or services and their interrelation with life, society and the environment drawing upon such subjects as industrial arts, engineering, and applied science. 3. The molecule symbol which embraces altogether. 4. The shield symbol as protection, strength and safety and an open space on the top of the shield that indicate knowledge is freely shared resource.

When all elements and symbols harmonically come together, it leads to the vision of the university which is: to be internationally recognized Ethiopian Hub of Science and Technology with strong national commitment and significant continental impact by 2030.



**AASTU**

# The Second Quality Day Celebration of the University

Globally, the first week of November is celebrated as Quality Week by various institutions. Addis Ababa Science and Technology University started celebrating the first Quality Day in 2014 and is celebrating Quality Day every year to develop a sustainable quality system. In connection with this, the university has organized the second Quality Day of 2015 as "I strive to achieve the vision of the university by working with quality!" It was celebrated in the presence of the invited guests and the staff of the university for the second time.



Former and current presidents of AASTU with the guest of honors on the moment

In the program, the guest of honor of the day, Prof. Belay Woldeyes, representative of the Addis Ababa Science and Technology University Board, and Prof. Daniel Kitaw made their speeches on quality.

Professor Belay Woldeyes revealed in his speech that the quality of the work can be manifested when the employees of the institution can work together with the management members. As a result, he added, the quality that comes from the university is the result of the combination of the management and the employees.

In addition to this, on the day, the honorable Professor Daniel Kitaw gave a keynote speech regarding quality. In his speech, Prof. Daniel analyzed international and national experiences and explained that quality is not an accident but a long-term habit of an institutional system



## Software Engineering Students won a prize for Producing a User-Friendly Health Laboratory Application



Accordingly, when celebrating this day, he conveyed his message to the university community that they should carry out efficient, international standard teaching and research activities that can transform the vision of the university into action.

Finally, the administrative and academic staff who achieved the best performance in the fiscal year 2021/ 2022 were awarded by the guests of honor.

The software engineering students of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University became the winners for enriching and developing user-friendly Health Laboratory mobile applications. The competition was judged virtually by academicians and experts having extensive experience in the field at the international level. All the technological products presented at the competition were not prototypes but rather applied and creative products that can be used directly.

Among the project results submitted for the competition, the Health Laboratory Mobile Application presented by the software engineering students of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University won 2nd place, and the developers of the technology were awarded a prize of 4thousand dollars. It has been pointed out that the health laboratory application can be easily installed on the phone to exchange information and laboratory results between patients and doctors simply and effectively. Moreover, the application saves time, cost, and energy for parties involved in the health sector. “Atrons” a mobile application presented by students of Addis Ababa University, won first place, and the contestants were awarded a prize of 8,000 dollars.

The application allows users to access text, image, and audio information in an integrated manner by simply installing the application on the phone. In the competition held at Abrehot Library, Addis Ababa University President, Professor Tasew Woldehana, Head of Addis Ababa city Administration Communication Affairs Office, Dr. Yonas Zewde, senior officials of the two universities, teachers, students, and representatives from Africa to Silicon Valley attended the competition.

This huge empowering competition was prepared by AASTU, AAU, and Africa to Silicon Valley organization. It is noted that Africa to Silicon Valley (A2SV)up skills high-potential university students, connects them with opportunities at top tech companies around the world, and creates digital solutions to urgent problems in their home countries.

The program is free for students, making the opportunity available for youth who have talent but lack the means to use it. We encourage AASTU students to take time and explore the opportunities A2SV creates for university students.



President of AAU, Prof.Tasew W/Hana awarded the students

# Ethiopian Internet Development Validation Workshop

Research conducted by Addis Ababa Science and Technology University experts entitled "Assessment of Ethiopian Internet Development using UNESCO ROAM-X IUIs" was presented to stakeholders.

At the opening program, Dr. Abraham Debebe, vice president of research and technology transfer at AASTU, said that this study will contribute significantly to the country's journey towards a digital economy. Dr. Abraham added that this study will be used as a resource for similar studies to be conducted in various fields in Ethiopia, and he pointed out that great care should be taken when similar studies are conducted in the areas mentioned as it indicates national statuses. Moreover, it will also create a good opportunity to work with UNESCO and use the professionals and research results in the university in a wider range.

On his part, the UNESCO Program Officer in Ethiopia, Mr. Aderaw Genetu, said that the study will be published on the UNESCO website in the coming months, including the constructive ideas of the workshop participants.

After which the finalized report will be published and disseminated to the stakeholders to be used as input for future decision making and Internet development efforts

He pointed out that this study will play a significant role in serving as a reference for policymakers, researchers, and law enforcement entities.



Dr. Asrat Mulatu, AASTU's ICT Director and the Principal Investigator of the research work, explained that the study was done according to the UNESCO Standard (ROAM-X IUIs: Rights, Opportunity, Accessibility to All, Multistakeholder Participation, and Crosscutting Issues Based on Internet Universality Indicators) and focused on Internet usage rights, access to Internet services, Internet governance modalities, and other issues related to gender, children, and people with disabilities.

Dr. Asrat stressed that although the Internet is growing rapidly in terms of coverage and services, more needs to be done to deliver it to everyone and protect their rights. He explained that the number of users of the service at the national level is 23.3 million, and about 79 percent of people are not users of the sector due to lack of awareness and other reasons such as lack of proper and standard infrastructure.

On the other hand, Asrat (Ph.D.) explained that there is a gap in the implementation and monitoring of laws, directives, and proclamations related to the national Internet ecosystem. The participants also agreed that there is a legal basis for freedom of expression, privacy, and other international and regional agreements, and that it is important to promote good initiatives, attract national and international investors, and improve the sector's policies and directions.



Dr. Asrat Mulatu, ICT Director at AASTU

He stated that by expanding the infrastructure of the sector, academics and mass organizations should focus on awareness training, and the participation of the private sector in the competitive sector will be of great importance.

It is stated that this study, which was done with the financial support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Internet Society (ISOC), was done by Addis Ababa Science and Technology University scholars in the area.

In this workshop, participants from the Information Network Security Agency (INSA), Ethiopian Communications Authority (ECA), Ethiopian Disability Development Center (ECDD), Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT), Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (CEHRO), Ice Addis, Ambo University, and other stakeholders took part in the discussion.



UNESCO Program Officer in Ethiopia, Mr. Aderaw Genetu

# Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between Addis Ababa Science and Technology University and the University of South Africa (UNISA)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the research and academic collaboration between Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) was signed at Hilton Addis, Ethiopia. The documents were duly endorsed with the signatures of acting President Dr. Abreham Debebe from AASTU and Vice Chancellor Prof. Puleng Lenkabula of UNISA.

The two universities signed the memorandum of understanding to work together in the fields of science and technology to develop mutual interests in the continent. Along with this, the two universities have agreed to exchange staff in the faculties, work on joint research projects in multidisciplinary fields, conduct joint workshops including publications, and work on other educational activities.

During the commencement of the ceremony and in her welcoming speech, her Excellency Professor Pulanega Lenkabula mentioned that academic institutions have a great responsibility to build a knowledge-based economy as a continent and to solve the problems of the societies. She highlighted that Africa's 2063 development agenda can be achieved by creating favorable conditions that enable them to jointly use their knowledge resources.



# The Intellectuals forum on “The Role of Scholars’ In Ethiopia's Rise” organized by AASTU and KUoE

A number of scholars held extensive discussions on means of enhancing their role in the national efforts to uphold the country’s sovereignty and national interests under any circumstances. This was noted at a one-day forum that was organized yesterday by Kotebe University of Education (KUoE) in collaboration with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University under the theme "The Role of Scholars in Ethiopia's Rise," aiming to encourage the scholars to focus their efforts on the country’s development.

Speaking at the discussion forum, KUoE President Birhan Meskel Tena (PhD) said that the discussion would play a significant role in inspiring the scholars to contribute their share to the country’s overall development. So far, the roles that scholars have played in Ethiopia are modest compared with the country’s demand in various aspects.



Prime Minster Abiy Ahmed during the forum



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Lack of adequate discussion, the existence of suspicious aspects between scholars and government, and interference are the main serious factor that is hindering their contribution to the overall change of the country so far, he noted.

The president also called upon the scholars to contribute their full potential to nation-building efforts by conducting research, standing for a common goal, and prioritizing peace concerns.

The Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed, attended the forum and conveyed his key message. According to him, scholars and the government should work together for the common interest of the country to create a suitable Ethiopia for everyone.

According to the prime minister, the country has sufficient manpower, vast uncultivated virgin land, natural resources, and social capital. To ensure its prosperity, scholars should fulfill their responsibilities in providing policy resources and cross-cutting suggestions and developing a culture of dialogue to make a national ideal that is different from village mentality prevail.

Presenting a survey research entitled "Scholars' Contribution to Ethiopia's Sovereignty," Samuel Tefera (PhD) from Addis Ababa University said that the contribution of scholars to Ethiopia's development has been very small over the past many years. Citing a recent report, he said, for example, that over 64 percent of scholars' contribution to a country's sovereignty is low, 91 percent of them have not discussed national issues in their institutions, and 80 percent of them do not engage in thematic working (searching for resources and working in collaboration with external bodies).

Therefore, scholars should pay serious attention to conducting game-changing research, building nations, and the like. In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Press Agency about the research he presented, entitled "The Contribution of Scholars to Ethiopia's Peace and Stability," Dechasa Abebe (PhD) from Addis Ababa University said that due to the lack of scholars' contributions, Ethiopia has been facing a lot of internal and external challenges. He said, "Though the situation is difficult, scholars should take critical measures to ensure the country's national interest." Scholars need to showcase how they play an indispensable role like scholars in the developed nations do by taking practical measures." Over 300 scholars from the various universities across Ethiopia took part in the discussion and promised to contribute their respective shares to the comprehensive development of their country, it was learned.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the president of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Dr. Derje Engida, said that this kind of scholar forum was appropriate to increase the role of scholars' participation in Ethiopian sovereignty. Finally, he thanked all the participants for their participation and said that he intends to create a forum where scholars can contribute to their country without any restrictions.

# The 7th National Science Week at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University Was Held With Various Programs

The 7th national science week, hosted at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, was held from October 7 to November 10, 2022, under the theme "Science for Sustainable Development." During the science and innovation fair, participants from various educational institutions at the national level presented more than 195 projects. Among them were primary school teachers, secondary school students, and teachers, as well as higher education institutions. STEM centers were also involved and exhibited their innovative works in science and technology, artificial intelligence, robotics, and engineering fields.

The President of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Dr. Dereje Engida, attended the closing program and stated that one of the visions of the university was to produce innovative graduates in the fields of science, technology, and engineering. He explained that it is to encourage creative professionals and said that holding a science and technology innovation fair in the university will strengthen the university's work.

At the fair, panelists invited from various institutions held a panel discussion on the trend of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and entrepreneurship in Ethiopia.



Dr. Dereje Engida, President of the University

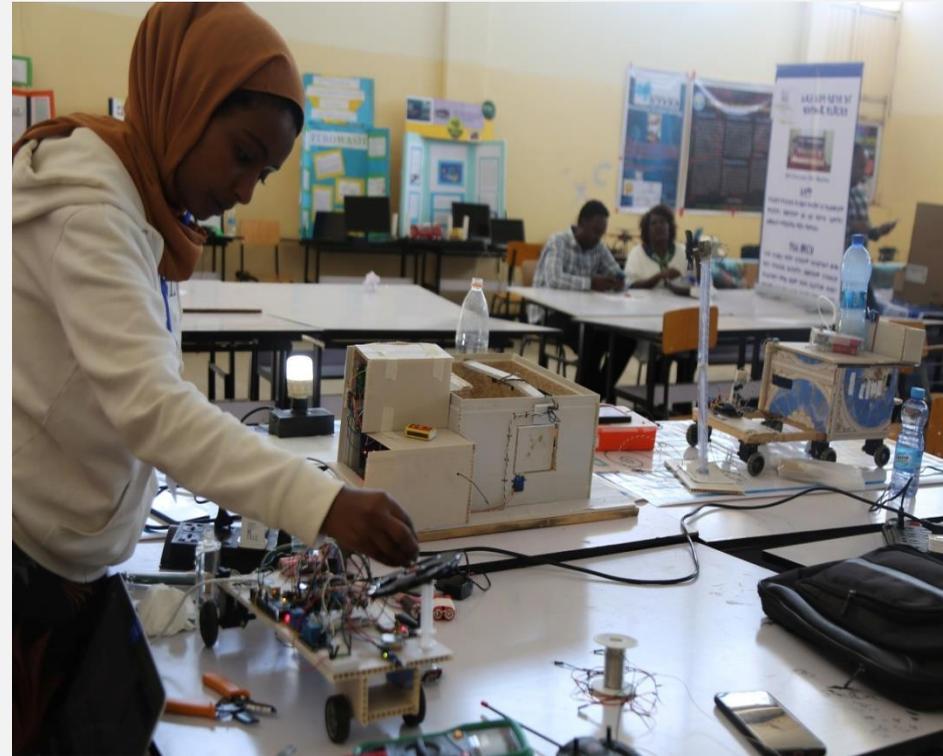




*Panelist from various sectors*

In the panel discussion, the panelists stressed that innovators and entrepreneurs should solve the problems of society by doing innovative work and establishing connections to solve financial, marketing, and related problems. At this national fair, the Minister of State for General Education, Fanta Mandefro (Dr.), the Chief Executive Officer of Research and Community Development of the Ministry of Education, Solomon Binor (Dr.), invited guests, and senior leaders of the university were present.

Finally, the end of the program was concluded by awarding and recognizing the winners who presented the best innovation at the fair. Finally, the end of the program was concluded by awarding and recognizing the winners who presented the best creative work.



*Participants*

# The Bio-Block Technology Research Product Which Save the Cost of Construction materials

Addis Ababa Science and Technology University has been working to produce impactful research at the national level. Thus, the centers of excellence have selected thematic areas aligned with their missions and study areas. One of the products that is suitable for the biological environment in the construction sector is produced by bringing microorganisms to the laboratory, identifying them, and adapting them to strengthen the soil, producing calcite and biocement, and mixing them with soil and water for cost-effective construction. It was possible to manufacture bricks.



*Dr. Abraham Debebe Research & Technology transfer  
V/president*

It is said that the results of the study will save on the cost of construction, be environmentally friendly, and solve the problem of housing for many citizens. It is pointed out that the benefits of bringing the technology down to the community will be significant in terms of creating job opportunities and market linkages.

Addis Ababa Science and Technology University Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, Dr. Abraham Debebe, said at the opening ceremony of the research project's launching moment that the research result will be a foundation for the institutional level to solve community problems. Research and research transfer to the community and make it applicable to the problems expected from the institutions



*Bio block Model house*

He pointed out that the university is ready to support its internal capacity and external partners in order to widely produce and use the research results. Dr. Abraham added that the study was done with the support of the Construction Management Institute in collaboration with the university and the project is moving to the next phase.

The leading researcher of the research project and the head of the Bioprocess and Biotechnology Center of Excellence, Dr. Mesfin Tafesse, said that the motivation of the project is a natural observation, based on the actual condition of the termites based on the microbial enzyme that enables the termites to build their cells, enzymes are produced in the laboratory and mixed with clay soil and water to form a bio block. He said it was possible to create.

He pointed out that a demonstration building has been built based on the results of the research and preliminary work is being completed to produce it on a large scale and bring it to the community.

Mr. Elias G/Michael, who is participating in the design of the hydraulic and biological construction brick production machine and mold, confirmed that at the beginning of the study, human-powered brick production was tried.

He said that a hydraulic and electric brick manufacturing plant has been imported from South Africa and is being used. Based on this machine, the size and shape of bricks have been changed and the production capacity has been doubled, and it has been designed in such a way that it can be easily disassembled and installed. The improved machine will be put into use in the next few days and it is said that it will be able to produce 3 thousand bricks in 8 hours. He mentioned that the bricks produced in this process have been tested and confirmed to meet the highest construction standards.

He pointed out that a demonstration building has been built based on the results of the research and preliminary work is being completed to produce it on a large scale and bring it to the community.

On the other hand, Mr. Tsgaye Diriba, who participated in the feasibility study, said that it has been proven that the cost of bricks can be reduced by 46% compared to blocks of the same size. It is said that clay, water, and enzyme are used as inputs for the brick, which is preferred and cost-effective compared to other options.



According to Dr. Mesfin the university's academics from construction technology, geotechnical, mechanical, and other fields have participated in cooperation to reach the current level.

# Collaboration and Partnership

Currently, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University has been working with more than 100 national and international partners and collaborators to exchange staff in the faculties, work on joint research projects in multidisciplinary fields, conduct joint workshops including publications, and work on other educational activities, training, and human capital development.

