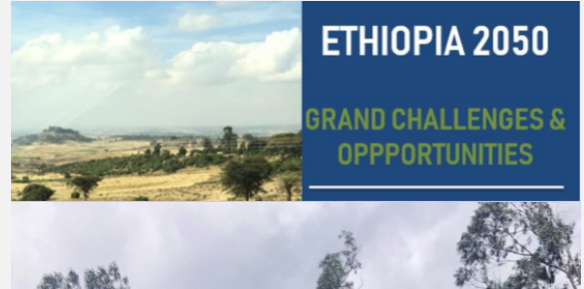


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**ETHIOPIA 2050: Grand  
Challenges & Opportunities  
International Conference  
December 19-20, 2019  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
[Update 4 – November 20, 2019]**



**D**ear ETHIOPIA 2050 Conference Speakers and Discussion Panel Members:

The much-anticipated Conference is only 4 weeks away. As you prepare for your trip to Addis Ababa this December, we wanted to update you on a couple of key developments in the areas of program schedule, conference materials, abstract submissions, and planned events. We apologize that we missed the self-imposed deadline of this update that was scheduled for November 10, 2019. We had some logistics problem that posed a little bit of challenge. However, we are happy to report that it was addressed by the collective effort of many dedicated people who have been working on this initiative for almost a whole year.

**1. Conference Preliminary Schedule is Now Ready**

The preliminary schedule for the conference is now ready. This will get modified as we go, since some of the papers that were reviewed will come back with changes. We also expect the remaining few abstracts to be received and reviewed soon. Therefore, please use this preliminary version just as a guidance for the next two weeks or so.

A copy of the schedule is attached to this email. It is also available on our website:

<http://www.ethiopia2050.com/schedule/>

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**2. Abstracts, Brief-Bio, and Pictures Needed for Conference Brochure**

Our dynamic publications and communication group (Architects Ms. Mahder Tadesse and Ms. Yasmin Abdu) has now hired the services of a printing firm to print ETHIOPIA2050 Brochures that will contain brief biography and picture of the speakers and the abstracts of each talk. As the lead time is quite long, we need to collect these documents from each and every one of you latest by **Monday, November 25, 2019 at 5PM (Addis Ababa Time)**.

**Please – at your earliest - upload (a) 0.5 pages long bio, (b) high-resolution picture, and (c) 1-page abstract through the following Google form:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxfwF0e1tjgBdzaXEmlTx2VgQgT76rK83jqeVVLfSVVa-Y1Q/viewform>

**Please kindly recognize that submission of these documents is mandatory for all speakers.** We are certain that you will respond to this call and help us deliver a very comprehensive brochure.

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### 3. Last-Call for Review of Abstracts by Technical Committee

We now have received the majority of abstracts and papers of our speakers. These abstracts and papers were reviewed and sent back to the speakers with constructive comments. As you know, the reviews are essential part of our effort in making this Conference as productive and useful as possible. **All papers are reviewed under the following strict criteria, whose consideration we highly recommend to those of you who are still working on your abstracts and power point slides.**

**Criteria 1:** Does the paper address **one or more of the Grand Challenge areas** as a central theme? Is the paper broad enough to address these issues?

**Criteria 2:** Does the paper offer **grand ideas, visions, arguments, and calls for action** towards addressing these Grand Challenge areas?

**Criteria 3:** Are the ideas proposed **evidence-supported and data-driven**? Are they proposed following **logical line of argument**?

Those of you who have not submitted abstracts of your talks, please do so before **this coming Monday, November 29, 2019**. That will give us enough time for the Technical Committee to review your abstracts and offer constructive feedback to meet the needs of the Conference.

### 4. Collaboration with ESAN (Ethiopian Scientific & Academic Network) – Joint Session on Workforce Development & Lecture Opportunities at Universities in Ethiopia

We are happy to announce that ESAN has joined ETHIOPIA 2050 Initiative in co-organizing a joint session and discussion panel on workforce development. The session is tentatively scheduled for the morning of Day 2 of the Conference under a cross-cutting theme of “**Developing Globally Competitive Workforce**”. ESAN has been involved in outreach programs in Ethiopia for a very long time and they bring their years of experience in connecting Diaspora academics with Ethiopian universities. Those of you planning to give a talk to universities, please contact the group’s point-person, Professor Abebe Kebede. His email address is: [abkebede@gmail.com](mailto:abkebede@gmail.com)

### 5. Hotel, Venue, Local Transportation Information

We are still working hard on finalizing these details, particularly local transportation and lodging information. We understand that this will cause inconvenience to some and we sincerely apologize for that. We will fix this by sending an update on local hotel and transportation information as early as we can.

**We wish you all safe travels and look forward to the bold and novel ideas and calls for action that you will present in this Conference in beautiful Addis Ababa in December 2019.**

Best Regards,

ETHIOPIA 2050 International Steering Committee

Website: <http://www.ethiopia2050.com>

Email: [ChallengeEthiopia2050@Gmail.com](mailto:ChallengeEthiopia2050@Gmail.com)

