

ETHIOPIA 2050: Grand Challenges & Opportunities Post-Conference Follow-Up Update

[Update 1 – January 6, 2020]



Dear ETHIOPIA 2050 Conference Speakers, Discussion Panel Members, and Attendees:

Happy 2020!

We want to thank each and every one of you for your contribution in making the recently concluded Conference a tremendous success. Yes - in hindsight - there were several things we could have done a bit different; however, by any measure, we thought that the Conference was very successful and far exceeded our expectations. In fact, the Conference had raised a huge expectation in the community. Just in two sunny and action-packed days in Addis, several forward-looking big ideas were proposed, young men and women were inspired by the power of ideas, medical doctors, architects, urban planners, economists, IT techies, and engineers shared a common platform to address common grand challenges, and several side talks produced agreements for collaborations. Going forward, therefore, a concerted follow-up effort in realizing the potentials raised is required to build on the momentum and continue to build a tradition of collaborative problem solving in Ethiopia. Along these lines, this update newsletter has two sets of core messages: (i) uploading all the presentations to the website and making them available for wider dissemination and (ii) sets of plans for follow-up activities.



1. Further Dissemination – Please Email us your PPT Presentations

To make as much societal impact as possible, it is important that the presentations are disseminated to a wider segment of our society. Out of the 26 keynote talks and 30 presentations, we were able to get a hold of only 30 PowerPoint presentations that are already uploaded on our website. The list of the 30 archived presentations is given in the link.

<https://ethiopia2050.com/presented-papers/>

We also have started uploading videos of all talks to YouTube. Links to these videos will continue to be posted on our website and Facebook and Twitter accounts. **In the meantime, please make sure you send us your PPTs as early as you can.** The presentations will also be very useful for the **Blue-Ribbon Panel** that will refer to them as they write the final report. You mail email them to: kassegne@sdsu.edu or ChallengeEthiopia2050@gmail.com.

"I look forward to an impact through feasible and actionable grand ideas that'll address our country's social, economic and environmental challenges." H.E. W/O Dagmawit Moges (Minister of Transport).

"100 million new souls (will join us) in 30 years, while we know that the rural landscape and rural economy are getting saturated. Cities of Ethiopia will have to absorb all!" Dr. Zegeye Chernet (Speaker).

"Centre-periphery pattern of development is one way in which inequality between place are often manifested." Dr. Ayele Gelan (Speaker).

"The conference was packed with enthusiastic, dedicated and experienced Ethiopians from all over the globe with a unified motive and amazing passion to be of service to our mother land." Dr. Matias Teye (Speaker).

2. Executive Summary and Blue-Ribbon Panel (BRP) Report

Our immediate follow-up plans are:

1. **Write Executive Summary Report** to be distributed to key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance, which partially funded this Conference. This will be delivered by **January 15, 2020**. The Executive Summary Report will also be available at our website and social media outlets for wider dissemination.
2. **Establish Blue-Ribbon Panel (BRP)**. By **January 15, 2020**, the International Steering Committee will form the **7-member Blue-Ribbon Panel** from among participants of the ETHIOPIA 2050 Conference who had demonstrated an exemplary inter-disciplinary approach to solving grand challenges. A number of names have been suggested as potential BRP members. We also encourage you to send us your nomination through email (ChallengeEthiopia2050@gmail.com).
 - **By February 28, 2020, the BRP will prepare a preliminary report** that will be disseminated to policymakers, as they prepare for drafting national 5/10-year plans ahead of the elections.
 - **The BRP will also prepare the final and complete report** that will be released in **June 2020** and distributed to policymakers, the public, and Ethiopia-based development partners. The final report, as outlined in the original launch document, will contain a consensus report that reflects the shared vision of the panel based on the contents of the research papers and conference papers submitted. The BRP Report is intended to serve as a starting point for national conversation amongst policymakers, political and economic leaders, professionals and various stakeholders towards formulation of concrete and actionable sets of policies that could turn these challenges into opportunities. Specifically, through sets of grand visions that were presented at the Conference, the report will offer bold, feasible, and actionable grand ideas for addressing the top 10 grand challenges of the country.
3. In addition, the Technical Committee of ETHIOPIA 2050 International Steering Committee will work with international publishers in releasing an archived open-access **Conference Proceedings** that will contain selected and updated peer-reviewed papers. The Technical Committee will oversee the compilation, review, and editing of the Conference Proceedings. We will contact the authors once we have completed an agreement with publishers.



SURVEY: Please fill out a survey on Grand Ideas proposed at the Conference and your nominations for BRP Membership.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BH63K3Y>

3. Second ETHIOPIA 2050 Conference – January 2022

To assess the outcome of the 1st ETHIOPIA 2050 Conference and its impact on policy making, we are already planning for the 2nd Conference that is tentatively set for January 2022. Stay-tuned.

4. Institutionalizing ETHIOPIA 2050 Initiative

We believe that the ETHIOPIA 2050 Initiative will have a strong opportunity to succeed if it is turned into an institution in the form of independent think-tank. Such discussions have already started, and we encourage our stakeholders to share their thoughts as we deliberate on this.

5. Media Coverage

Here are some highlights of the media coverage of the Conference.

Capital Ethiopia

[Ethiopia in 30 Years](#)

[Creativity, conscientiousness needed for Ethiopia to prosper by 2050](#)

NewBusiness Ethiopia

[International Conference to Address Ethiopia's Pressing Challenges](#)

Aand Aafta

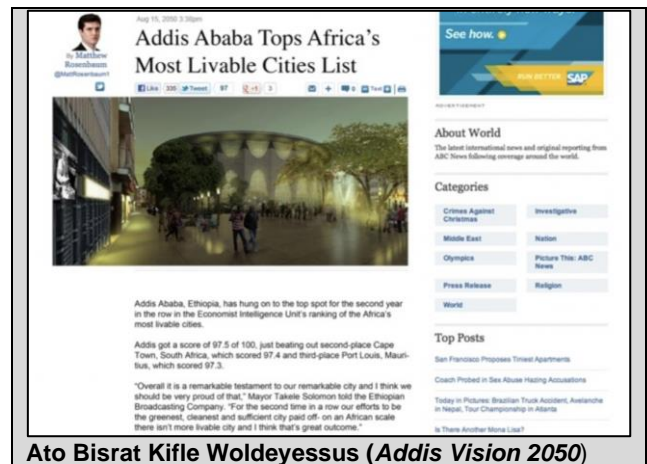
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xen8EBPIDF4>

Awlo Media

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHtm_5WaUNY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3HWGHWnumc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjJU7FBsSps>



Ato Bisrat Kifle Woldeyessus (*Addis Vision 2050*)

6. Survey on your thoughts about the grand ideas proposed at the Conference and your nominations for BRP Membership.

Please help us maximize the impact of the Conference by filling out the following short survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BH63K3Y>

We wish you all Happy Ethiopian Holiday Season (Genna and Timqet).

Best Regards,

ETHIOPIA 2050 International Steering Committee

Website: <http://www.ethiopia2050.com>; Email: ChallengeEthiopia2050@Gmail.com



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