



# CLOSING A YEAR OF IMPACT





## Major events in September

**Integrated Omics Network High Level International Conference**

September 1

**The Finance Breakfast - School of Commerce**

September 2

**Nigat Breast Cancer Support Association Anniversary**

September 6

**Conference On One Health And Water: Safeguarding Human, Animals, And The Environment**

September 15-16

**AAU 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Grand Opening Event - Ashenafi Kebede Performing Arts Centre**

September 20

## Message from the President

Dear Members of the Addis Ababa University Community,

As we bid farewell to the year behind us, I extend my deepest gratitude to every member of our community, our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners, for your unwavering commitment and remarkable contributions. Together, we have overcome challenges, embraced opportunities, and strengthened the role of Addis Ababa University as a beacon of knowledge, service, and innovation for Ethiopia and beyond. The accomplishments of this past year reflect not only our collective dedication but also the enduring spirit that defines AAU.

Now, with anticipation and renewed energy, we step into the 2025/26 academic year. This new beginning holds special meaning as it coincides with our 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee, a momentous celebration of our proud history, rich legacy, and countless contributions to national development. It is a time to honor the generations of scholars, leaders, and changemakers who came before us, while also looking ahead with courage and imagination to the future we are called to build.

As we prepare for this historic milestone, our resolve remains strong: to nurture academic excellence, to ensure the success of our students, to produce research that addresses both national priorities and global challenges, and to expand partnerships that amplify our impact. We will continue to provide high-quality health services through our leading medical institutions and embrace technology responsibly to enhance teaching, research, and service. Most importantly, we will strive to create a vibrant, inclusive, and transformative university community that inspires the next generation to dream boldly and achieve greatly. Let us walk together into the new year and the new academic journey with confidence, courage, and unity. May this be a year of peace, prosperity, and renewed purpose for all of us, and may our Diamond Jubilee inspire us to reach even greater heights.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Ethiopian New Year and a successful start to the 2025/26 academic year.



Samuel Kifle (PhD)  
Interim President  
Addis Ababa University (AAU)



## The Coming New Year at AAU

AAU Hosts University Information Week for Prospective Students and Parents

As Addis Ababa University prepares to welcome a new cohort of students in the new academic year, the University organized the first University Information Week at the Forum Building of the 6kilo campus from August 5 to 9, providing prospective students and their parents with an opportunity to explore the institution, its programs, and facilities.

Established as Ethiopia's first autonomous university, AAU has set its own admission standards and academic policies. In the upcoming 2018E.C academic year, the University is set to enroll students in 353 graduate programs and 66 undergraduate programs across its seven colleges and the School of Law. The Information Week aims to prepare these students for academic success by offering firsthand knowledge of what to expect in university life.

During the week, participants toured classrooms, laboratories, computer centers, dormitories, and dining halls, while also receiving detailed briefings on academic programs, student services, and administrative procedures. The event allowed students and parents to gain accurate and comprehensive information, addressing common questions about program selection, tuition fees, and campus life.



Prospective students expressed their appreciation for the initiative. Dagmawit Getachew shared that the information she received clarified discrepancies she had heard about courses and fees, and she intended to share her newfound knowledge with peers. Ruth Million, another student attendee, noted that the program gave her sufficient insight into the courses she was interested in, enhancing her confidence in choosing AAU as her academic home.

Parents also welcomed the initiative. Edom Merawi and Solomon Hailu encouraged both students and fellow parents to participate, emphasizing that the University's transparent approach ensures families can make informed decisions. Abel Getachew, a teacher accompanying his high school students, highlighted that the program helped them better understand AAU's offerings and academic environment.

By organizing the University Information Week, AAU demonstrates its commitment to preparing students and families for a smooth transition into higher education, ensuring that everyone starts the new academic year equipped with accurate knowledge and confidence.





## The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice comes to Addis Ababa

Addis Ababa University (AAU) launched the Fifth International Symposium of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) on 25 August 2025. Held under the theme “Aspiring for a Livable Future: Youth-Led Transformation in the Polycrisis Era,” the symposium ran until 4 September and brings together youth leaders, scholars, and policymakers to advance dialogue and action on climate justice.

For the first time, the NSSCJ is being held outside Kenya, marking a historic milestone for the program and expanding its reach across Africa. Participants include senior government officials, representatives from the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, NGOs, academia, and civil society organizations, highlighting the critical role of African youth leadership in climate action.

In his keynote address, Dr. Samuel Kifle, Interim President of AAU, emphasized the symposium’s significance amid interconnected global challenges, noting that the gathering embodies hope, resilience, and a promising outlook for the future.

H.E. Dr. Fitsum Assefa, Minister of Planning and Development, underscored the urgency of Africa’s warming climate, which costs economies 2–5% of GDP annually, and called for collective action to create sustainable, livable environments.

Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), highlighted the summer school’s role in uniting scholar-activists and emerging climate advocates to share experiences and explore inclusive pathways toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

By hosting NSSCJ for the first time outside Kenya, AAU provides a platform for youth to engage with climate policy, research, and advocacy. As the new academic year approaches, the symposium reinforces the University’s commitment to nurturing informed and empowered students who will shape a sustainable future for Africa.





“This is more than a celebration of a university’s history, it is a tribute to the countless achievements, ideas, and individuals that have emerged from AAU over the past 75 years,” says Semayawit Bahiru, Lead of the 75th Anniversary Project Office. The event also marks the official launch of the half year long Jubilee program, designed to showcase AAU’s history, engage its community, and inspire future generations.

**Save the Date: September 2025**  
**Venue: Ashenafi Kebede Performing Arts Center**  
**Attire: Black-Tie**

The Diamond Jubilee opening promises a night of music, celebration, and national pride, setting the tone for a year of renewed vision, collaboration, and impact.

### *Insights from Semayawit Bahiru, Lead of the 75th Anniversary Project Office*

This September, Addis Ababa University (AAU) will officially launch its 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee with a spectacular evening celebrating academic excellence, culture, and national pride. Coinciding with the beginning of the Ethiopian calendar year, the event symbolizes a new beginning while honoring AAU’s 75 years of transformative contributions to Ethiopia’s development.

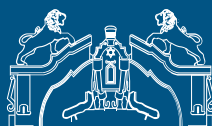
Hosted at the Ashenafi Kebede Performing Arts Center, the grand opening will bring together diplomats, government leaders, industry executives, and distinguished members of the AAU community. Highlights of the evening include a piano concert by world-renowned pianist Girma Yiflashewa and an elegant black-tie cocktail dinner, creating a unique blend of artistic expression and reflection on AAU’s enduring legacy.

### **AAU Senate Approves Framework for Short-Term Professional Certificate Programs**

Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ethiopia’s flagship institution of higher education, has approved a comprehensive framework for the design, development, and implementation of short-term professional certificate programs. The framework ensures that all programs are relevant, maintain high quality standards, and align with both national and international benchmarks.

The structured approach is designed to deliver tangible educational experiences that meet the evolving needs of professionals, industries, and communities. By standardizing the development of these short-term programs, AAU aims to strengthen the practical skills of participants, foster career growth, and support economic and social development across the country.

This initiative reflects AAU’s commitment to enhancing the relevance of higher education, promoting workforce-ready skills, and building strong partnerships with industry and community stakeholders. Through these professional certificate programs, the University continues to advance its mission of preparing graduates and professionals to contribute effectively to Ethiopia’s growth and global competitiveness.





## AAU, Ethiopian Customs Commission Partner to Train 3,229 New Customs Officers

On August 11, 2025, the Ethiopian Customs Commission, in partnership with Addis Ababa University (AAU), hosted a welcoming ceremony for 3,229 new trainees at Millennium Hall. The program brings together youth from across Ethiopia for specialized training aimed at preparing disciplined, skilled, and technologically proficient customs officers. Hon. Debele Abeta, Commissioner of the Ethiopian Customs Commission, emphasized the importance of nurturing young professionals capable of upholding public service with integrity. He noted that only those who complete the training and receive certification will be eligible to join the Commission, where they are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards.

Dr. Samuel Kifle, President of AAU, highlighted the role of education and skills development in shaping forward-thinking, responsible citizens. He encouraged trainees to embrace their role in safeguarding Ethiopia's national interests and contributing to the country's broader reforms and transformation.

Dr. Samuel Kifle also stressed that AAU aims to collaborate not only with the Customs Commission but with other institutions committed to building robust national institutions, equipping Ethiopia's youth to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving digital and global environment.





## Addis Ababa University College of Health Sciences Unveils Advanced Air Quality Monitoring System

On August 8th 2025, the Addis Ababa University College of Health Sciences, in collaboration with Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, officially re-launched the advanced BAM-1022 air quality monitoring system at Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital. The initiative is part of the Global Environmental and Occupational Health (GEOHealth) Research and Training for Eastern Africa program, a regional effort spanning Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda, supported by the Fogarty International Center of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Mr. Molla Mekashaw, Research Administrator of the GEOHealth Hub, noted that following a successful first phase (2015–2020), the project has entered its second funding cycle (2022–2027), with AAU leading research activities and Columbia University driving training and capacity building. The program focuses on air pollution and its impact on lung function, blood pressure, cognitive development, and occupational heat stress, with high-precision monitoring of both indoor and outdoor air quality.

Prof. Andualem Denake, Interim Chief Executive Director of the College of Health Sciences, emphasized that the re-launch signals a renewed commitment to combating air pollution and protecting public health. The event, held on the Orthopedic Building rooftop at Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, showcased AAU's leadership in leveraging advanced technologies to safeguard communities in Addis Ababa and across the region.

## AAU Law School and Council of Constitutional Inquiry Sign Landmark Agreement

In a historic move to advance legal education and constitutional governance in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa University's School of Law has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Constitutional Inquiry (CCI) on August 5, 2025. The agreement was formalized by Dr. Samuel Kifle, Interim President of AAU, and Hon. Chief Justice Tewodros Mihret, President of the Federal Supreme Court and Chairman of the CCI.

The partnership aims to strengthen teaching, research, and community engagement in constitutional law while supporting the CCI's work in delivering timely and effective recommendations on constitutional disputes. It will facilitate practical legal training, collaborative research, shared library access, and enhanced legal support for vulnerable communities.

Prof. Muradu Abdo, Interim Executive Dean of the Law School, highlighted that the collaboration aligns academic programs with real-world constitutional challenges, fostering both public service and democratic development. This landmark agreement marks a significant step toward bridging legal scholarship and constitutional practice in Ethiopia.





## AAU Hosts the 15th East African Communication Association Conference

Addis Ababa University (AAU) hosted the 15th East African Communication Association (EACA) Conference at the Adwa Victory Museum from August 27–29, 2025. Organized by the School of Media and Communication, the event brings together academics, policymakers, and media professionals from across East Africa and beyond to discuss pressing issues in media practice, research, and policy.

The conference theme, “Media and Communication in Africa’s Integration,” underscores the critical role that media plays in fostering regional and continental unity. In his keynote, Dr. Legesse Tulu, Minister of Government Communication Services, emphasized that media and communication are not only channels for information but also pillars for building a cohesive and prosperous Africa.

Dr. Samuel Kifle, Interim President of AAU, highlighted the challenges of rapid technological advancement, including the spread of misinformation, noting that innovative communication strategies are essential to promote understanding, solidarity, and integration across the continent.

Dr. Abdulaziz Dino, Head of the School of Media and Communication, stressed that the conference aims to generate actionable recommendations, share research findings, and strengthen connections among scholars, practitioners, and policymakers. Sessions will explore topics such as digital media transformation, climate change communication, cultural diplomacy, and the role of media in sustainable development.

The EACA conference, which is held annually in a different East African country, gathers media and communication scholars, educators, trainers, researchers, and practitioners to discuss pressing issues in media practice and scholarship.

The annual EACA conference provides a platform for networking, capacity building, and collaboration. This year’s edition reinforces AAU’s commitment to equipping media professionals and academics to address contemporary challenges while advancing the shared vision of an integrated, informed, and resilient Africa.





## AAU, Patriots Association Agree to Launch Encyclopedia Project to Chronicle Ethiopia's Anti-Colonial Resistance

On 14 August 2025, Addis Ababa University (AAU) entered into a collaborative agreement with the Ethiopian Patriots Association (AEPA) to develop a comprehensive Encyclopedia of Ethiopia's Resistance Movement against colonial occupation. The project aims to honor the veterans who fought courageously during the five-year Italian occupation and preserve their legacy for future generations.

The agreement was signed by AAU Interim President Dr. Samuel Kifle and Lij Daniel Jote Mesfin, President of AEPA, highlighting the importance of documenting historical struggles while fostering patriotism among Ethiopia's youth. Dr. Samuel Kifle emphasized that the contributions of these veterans have often been overlooked, and rigorous research is needed to counter misinformation and preserve their stories.

Yohannes Adigeh (PhD), Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, noted that the Encyclopedia will be prepared in a non-partisan manner, serving as a critical educational resource and shaping a vision for Ethiopia's future. Lij Daniel Jote Mesfin stressed that uncovering the stories of forgotten veterans is essential for understanding Ethiopia's national identity and historical resilience.

This initiative reflects AAU's commitment to research, heritage preservation, and fostering a sense of national pride, ensuring that the courage and sacrifices of Ethiopia's patriots remain a guiding legacy for generations to come.



## AAU Hosts Annual National Policy Dialogue on Human Rights

The Centre for Human Rights at Addis Ababa University organized a two-day national policy dialogue from August 26-27, 2025, addressing human rights challenges in Ethiopia's conflict-affected regions. The event brought together government officials, scholars, and practitioners to examine pressing issues faced by vulnerable communities.

In his keynote, Dr. Fasil Mulatu, Head of the Centre, highlighted that these dialogues, held annually since 2018, have played a key role in advancing discussions on women's rights, transitional justice, and socio-economic obligations. This year's forum focused on the rights of marginalized populations living amid conflict.

Dr. Ezana Amdework, the Interim Executive Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities, emphasized the urgency of protecting the rights of those most affected, noting that an estimated 4.5 million Ethiopians were internally displaced as of mid-2024. He also stressed that digital platforms can exacerbate challenges through hate speech and misinformation.

The dialogue featured six research presentations, covering diverse topics including the rights of ethnic minorities, challenges faced by the Awi community, the impact of hate speech on violence, the experiences of persons with disabilities, and the protection of children in conflict zones. Presenters proposed actionable solutions, highlighting the importance of inclusive transitional justice and community-centered reforms.

The annual dialogue reinforces AAU's commitment to promoting human rights, social cohesion, and evidence-based policy, ensuring that the voices of affected communities guide national discourse and action.



## AAU's Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital Launches Summer Medical Outreach

Addis Ababa University's Black Lion Specialized Hospital launched a three-day summer medical outreach on August 18, 2025, at the Mekedonia Home for the Elderly and Mentally Disabled as part of its ongoing community engagement efforts.

The initiative aims to provide urgent medical care to nearly three thousand patients over the course of three days. Dr. Abdurazzak Ahmed, CEO of Black Lion Hospital, noted that this marks the hospital's fifth charitable outreach, which targets various sub-cities to offer free treatment, diagnostic services, and essential healthcare support.

Dr. Tesfaye Gudissa, Director of the Outpatient Department and Summer Volunteer Coordinator, explained that the Family Medicine Specialization Department provides year-round care to residents at the Mekedonia Home. For the outreach, thirteen hospital departments are conducting preliminary examinations, screenings, and treatment, with patients requiring advanced care admitted to Black Lion Specialized Hospital for further management.

This initiative exemplifies AAU's commitment to community-centered healthcare, combining volunteer efforts with professional medical expertise to improve the health and well-being of some of the city's most vulnerable populations.



## AAU Leading the Conversation on Forced Displacement and Migration

### RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



*“ADDRESSING FORCED DISPLACEMENT REQUIRES STRONG INSTITUTIONS THAT CAN GENERATE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND PREPARE FUTURE SCHOLARS TO GUIDE POLICY AND SOLUTIONS.”*

### **Dr. Abebaw Minaye**

*Forced Displacement and Migration Studies Research Chair*

Forced displacement is one of the defining issues of our time, and Addis Ababa University (AAU) is at the forefront of generating knowledge and shaping policy on this critical challenge. At the heart of this effort is the Forced Displacement and Migration Studies Research Chair, led by Dr. Abebaw Minaye, Associate Professor of Social Psychology, whose scholarship and advocacy have positioned AAU as a regional hub for migration research and governance.

Dr. Abebaw's work began more than a decade ago, during Ethiopia's 2013 deportation crisis, when over 163,000 Ethiopians were expelled from Saudi Arabia. While migration was often viewed only as a problem to be stopped, his research and policy engagement argued for managing it through law, policy, and institutions. His proposals for an independent anti-trafficking law, a national migration policy, and the creation of a migration governance agency, were initially controversial but later became integral parts of Ethiopia's migration framework.

Building on this impact, AAU secured a major grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in 2022, establishing the Forced Displacement and Migration Studies Research Chair. The Chair operates on four interconnected pillars: research, capacity building, policy dialogue, and outreach. In just three years, it has produced eight studies on issues such as education in emergencies, the mental health of displaced populations, and durable solutions for internally displaced persons.

A defining feature of the Chair is its investment in the next generation. Fourteen early-career Ethiopian scholars, at master's, PhD, and postdoctoral levels, are actively mentored through its programs, conducting fieldwork and contributing to publications. This ensures that AAU is not only advancing research today but also building long-term capacity for the country and region.

The Chair's influence now extends globally. It serves as the secretariat of a new regional research network on forced displacement in the East, Horn, and Great Lakes Region, collaborates with research chairs in Mexico, Tanzania, and Asia, and is laying the groundwork for a joint master's program with European partners.

With more than 24 million forcibly displaced people in the region, 20% of the global total, AAU's leadership in migration research is both urgent and transformative. Through the vision of Dr. Abebaw and the work of the Chair, the University is shaping policies, training future leaders, and amplifying Africa's voice in global debates on displacement.



# AUGUST'S ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## In Memoriam: AAU Former President Prof. Eshetu Woncheko

On August 12th, Addis Ababa University (AAU) hosted a special farewell ceremony for its former president, Professor Eshetu Woncheko, at the historic Mekonnen Assembly Hall. The event brought together colleagues, former students, friends, and family members to celebrate the life, achievements, and lasting legacy of one of Ethiopia's most distinguished academics.

Dr. Samuel Kifle, Interim President of AAU, described Professor Eshetu as a gifted scholar, researcher, and visionary leader whose contributions significantly shaped the University and the broader academic landscape in Ethiopia. His leadership, Dr. Samuel Kifle noted, combined academic rigor with dedication to service, leaving an indelible mark on generations of students and faculty alike.



Dr. Bikila Workneh, Interim Executive Dean of the College of Natural and Computational Sciences, recalled Professor Eshetu's nearly 50 years of service at AAU, emphasizing his dual role as an exceptional educator and administrator. Among Ethiopia's pioneering scholars in statistics, Professor Eshetu achieved full professorship at a time when few had attained such distinction, underscoring his dedication to research and teaching excellence.

Representing the family, Professor Eshetu's eldest daughter conveyed heartfelt gratitude for the memorial service organized by the University, highlighting how it honored his life and lifelong commitment to education and scholarship.

The ceremony not only commemorated a remarkable career but also reinforced the enduring impact of Professor Eshetu Woncheko's work, inspiring future generations of AAU students, faculty, and alumni to uphold the values of scholarship, service, and leadership that he exemplified throughout his life.



The Toronto Addis Ababa  
Academic Collaboration

**PARTNER**  
OF THE MONTH

## AAU & University of Toronto – Building Capacity, Advancing Health

Addis Ababa University (AAU) continues to strengthen its role as a regional leader in higher education through strategic global partnerships. Among its most impactful is the Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC), established in 2003 with the University of Toronto (U of T). Over the past two decades, this collaboration has transformed Ethiopia’s healthcare landscape by addressing the critical shortage of medical specialists and equipping AAU to build lasting local capacity.

Through TAAAC, AAU has trained more than 250 medical professionals, with over 90% remaining in Ethiopia to serve as faculty members at AAU and across the country’s expanding network of universities and hospitals. These professionals now lead programs in internal medicine, psychiatry, emergency medicine, radiology, and other key fields, demonstrating the sustainability of the partnership and its ability to create self-replicating centers of excellence.

The collaboration is distinguished by its bidirectional learning model. U of T faculty travel to Addis Ababa for month-long teaching engagements, while Ethiopian residents and fellows gain short-term international exposure in Toronto. This exchange enriches both sides: AAU learners gain insight into different systems and approaches, while Canadian colleagues learn from Ethiopia’s unique cases and resourceful medical practices.

For AAU, TAAAC reflects the university’s deep commitment to strategic partnerships that combine academic rigor with national relevance. As Ethiopia confronts the “triple threat” of infectious diseases, rising non-communicable diseases, and emerging pandemics, this partnership helps ensure a well-trained healthcare workforce capable of meeting present and future challenges.

AAU values its international collaborations as more than academic exchanges; they are shared commitments to knowledge, capacity, and sustainable development. Through TAAAC, AAU demonstrates how global partnerships, rooted in mutual respect and co-creation, can deliver long-term impact for Ethiopia and Africa.

For more information, go to <https://taaac.ca>





# AAU CONNECT

## Editorial Team

- **Rahel Argaw Kebede (M.D)**

Vice President for Partnership and Communication  
vppc@aau.edu.et

- **Lea Mehari Redae**

Director for External Relations and Partnerships  
Editor-in-Chief - AAU Connect  
external.relations@aau.edu.et

- **Amanuel Gebru (Ph.D)**

Editor  
amanuel.gebru@aau.edu.et

- **Tewdros Shewangizaw**

Reporter

- **Abraham Girmay**

Reporter

- **Anteneh Walelegne**

Reporter

- **Fikremariam Beyene**

Senior Cameraman

- **Filimon Hailekiros**

Cameraman

- **Kaleab Yetayew**

Cameraman

- **Alazar Demissie**

Cameraman

- **Kaleab Yeteyew**

- **Kidist Hayalu**

- **Alazar Demissie**

Graphics Design





### Special thanks to

Yohannes Gettu and Spotlight Communications

### Follow us on:

 [aau.edu.et](http://aau.edu.et)

 [addis-ababa-university](https://www.facebook.com/addis-ababa-university)

 [Addis-Ababa-University](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Addis-Ababa-University)

 [aau\\_official\\_](https://www.instagram.com/aau_official_)

 [@aauniversity](https://www.tiktok.com/@aauniversity)

 [AAU\\_Official](https://twitter.com/AAU_Official)



Tune into AAU Community Radio 99.4 FM

