



GRAD '26

MAJOR EVENTS IN JULY

Second African Medical Education Conference
(AfriMed 2026), Jul 6, 2026

Public Lecture: "The Future of Work & the Implications
for Business Schools", Jul 9, 2026



Message from the President



Dear Graduates, Members of the University Community, Alumni, Partners, and Friends of Addis Ababa University,

Welcome to the Grad '26 edition of AAU Connect, celebrating the graduates of Addis Ababa University's 76th Graduation Ceremony.

Graduation is a celebration of perseverance, excellence, and the transformative power of education. As Ethiopia's premier, flagship, and autonomous university, Addis Ababa University is proud to graduate individuals who are equipped to lead, innovate, and serve their communities with integrity and purpose.

This edition highlights the achievements of the Class of 2026 and reflects the collective efforts of our academic staff, professional staff, families, alumni, and partners whose support has made their success possible. It also reaffirms our commitment to the aspirations of our Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Reimagining Our Future, as we continue our journey toward becoming Africa's leading research university.

To our graduates, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. As you join our global community of alumni, carry forward the values of excellence, innovation, and service. We are confident that you will make meaningful contributions to Ethiopia, Africa, and the world.

Congratulations, Class of 2026!

Samuel Kifle (Ph.D)
President
Addis Ababa University



AAU Graduates Over 6,400 Students at 76th Commencement Ceremony

Addis Ababa University (AAU) celebrated its 76th graduation ceremony on June 27, 2026, awarding degrees and certificates to 6,417 graduates, including 277 PhD recipients and 30 sub-specialist certificate graduates.

Speaking at the ceremony, AAU President Dr. Samuel Kifle described the occasion as a celebration of resilience, perseverance, and academic excellence. He noted that the graduation coincides with the University's 75th anniversary, highlighting AAU's long-standing contribution to education, research, innovation, and national development. He also announced that AAU achieved a 91 percent pass rate in Ethiopia's National Exit Examination, reflecting the quality of its academic programs.

Minister of Education Prof. Berhanu Nega congratulated the graduates and reaffirmed the government's commitment to higher education reform. He announced that AAU has officially begun implementing an autonomous governance system and emphasized that merit-based leadership appointments are strengthening institutional performance.



Representing the graduating class, gold medalist Nebiat Isubalew of the School of Law encouraged fellow graduates to uphold integrity and use their knowledge to serve society and contribute to Ethiopia's development.



The ceremony brought together senior government officials, university leaders, faculty members, families, alumni, and invited guests to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 and their readiness to contribute to national and global development.

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY PRESS LAUNCHES 18TH ANNUAL BOOK FAIR



The Addis Ababa University Press officially launched its 18th Annual Book Fair at the University's Main Campus in Sidist Kilo, bringing together publishers, distributors, authors, and book lovers from across Ethiopia.

The week-long event, taking place from June 8-14, 2026 (Sene 1-7, 2018 E.C.), features more than 40 local publishing houses and book distributors. Visitors have the opportunity to explore and purchase a wide selection of newly released and classic titles from diverse fields of knowledge at discounted prices.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dr. Samuel Kifle, President of Addis Ababa University, underscored the University Press's longstanding contribution to publishing scholarly works and knowledge resources produced by the University's academic community. He noted that the Press is committed to expanding its services through digital transformation and the adoption of modern publishing technologies.

Dr. Samuel emphasized that the annual book fair reflects the University Press's dedication to sustaining book production and nurturing a culture of reading, particularly among younger generations. He described the event as an important platform for promoting knowledge, learning, and intellectual engagement.

Dr. Derib Ado, Director of Addis Ababa University Press, highlighted the institution's 17-year effort to promote and strengthen reading culture in Ethiopia through publishing initiatives and annual book fairs. He noted that the event provides readers with access to books at affordable prices while creating valuable opportunities for direct interaction between authors and their audiences.

According to Dr. Derib, this year's fair will feature a variety of complementary activities, including public discussion forums, children's reading programs, and the launch of nine new books.

The annual exhibition is expected to attract thousands of visitors and serve as a significant gathering for Ethiopia's literary and academic communities, further reinforcing the role of books, reading, and knowledge dissemination in education and national development.



AAU Launches AI Ethics and Data Intelligence Workshop to Advance Digital Transformation

Addis Ababa University (AAU), through its Directorate of E-Learning and Distance Education, in collaboration with Next Generation Technologies PLC and Catalyst Marketing and Event Management, launched a two-day workshop on Artificial Intelligence Ethics, Responsibility, and Data Intelligence on June 11, 2026, at the University's Main Campus.

The workshop brought together nearly 100 participants from across the University, primarily faculty members, researchers, and academic leaders, to strengthen their understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), data intelligence, and the ethical considerations surrounding emerging technologies.

Opening the event, Dr. Jeilu Oumer, Academic Vice President of Addis Ababa University, emphasized the workshop's significance as the University advances its digital transformation agenda and pursues comprehensive curriculum innovation.



"AAU is navigating a new era of digitalization and has embarked on a transformative journey of curriculum reform," Dr. Jeilu stated. "The successful digitalization of our curricula for online and blended learning, combined with a workforce that is digitally competent and AI-literate, will unlock the full potential of the University's digital initiatives."

He noted that the training is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to lead the University into a future defined by innovation, relevance, and global competitiveness. He further stressed that AAU aims not only to adapt to technological change but also to play a leading role in shaping the future of higher education in Ethiopia and beyond.

Dr. Temtem Assefa, E-Learning Coordinator at Addis Ababa University, highlighted the growing impact of artificial intelligence on everyday life and underscored the importance of building institutional capacity in emerging technologies.

According to Dr. Temtem, the workshop is intended to enhance the AI competencies of university educators and researchers, enabling them to effectively integrate AI tools into teaching, research, and academic service. He added that strengthening educators' AI literacy will also help prepare students to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world.

The workshop focuses on promoting the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence while providing participants with practical knowledge and skills in data intelligence. Organizers believe that the responsible integration of AI into teaching and learning processes will improve educational quality, foster innovation, and support the University's broader digital transformation efforts.

The initiative reflects Addis Ababa University's continued commitment to leveraging emerging technologies to enhance academic excellence, research capacity, and institutional effectiveness.

Dr. Aynalem Adugna's Memoir Unveiled at AAU, Inspiring the Next Generation of the Ethiopian Diaspora

Addis Ababa University hosted the unveiling of Dr. Aynalem Adugna's latest memoir, *Walking Between Worlds: Letters to the Next Generation of the Ethiopian Diaspora*, on June 8, 2026, as part of the 18th Annual Book Fair held at the University's Main Campus. The event took place at Mekonnen Hall and brought together distinguished scholars, professors, students, and members of the wider academic community.

In his keynote address, Addis Ababa University President, Dr. Samuel Kifle, underscored the significance of the memoir in reflecting the experiences of Ethiopians living abroad who navigate multiple cultural identities while maintaining strong ties to their heritage and homeland.

"What makes this work meaningful is its focus on the next generation," Dr. Samuel said. "It is not simply a memoir; it is an invitation to younger Ethiopians across the world to transform inheritance into action, build bridges between communities, and use knowledge, opportunity, and experience in service of others."



Dr. Aynalem Adugna, author of the memoir and a research scientist at the California Department of Public Health, explained that the book emphasizes the critical role of both Ethiopians at home and those living abroad in shaping the nation's future. He noted that while young people raised in Ethiopia contribute through their education, skills, and commitment to national development, members of the Ethiopian diaspora also possess valuable experiences, knowledge, and global perspectives that can positively influence the country's progress.

According to Dr. Aynalem, the memoir encourages Ethiopians living overseas to remain engaged with their homeland and contribute to its development despite the challenges associated with living abroad. The book highlights the diaspora's potential to play a meaningful role in advancing peace, prosperity, and sustainable development in Ethiopia.

Guest of honor Ambassador Fitsum Arega, Director General of the Ethiopian Diaspora Service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also addressed participants during the event. He remarked that the title *Walking Between Worlds* captures the lived experiences of many Ethiopians residing outside the country while also reflecting Ethiopia's growing interconnectedness with the global community.

Ambassador Fitsum noted that the achievements, expertise, and contributions of Ethiopians around the world continue to strengthen the nation's engagement with the international community and create new opportunities for national development.

The memoir unveiling formed part of the 18th Annual Addis Ababa University Book Fair, which continues to serve as a platform for promoting scholarship, literature, and intellectual exchange.

International Conference on Migration and Forced Displacement Opens in Addis Ababa

The Second International Conference on Migration and Forced Displacement Research for Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development in the East and Horn of Africa officially commenced on June 17, 2026, at Inter Luxury Hotel in Addis Ababa. The conference is jointly organized by Addis Ababa University (AAU), the Ministry of Education, the National Planning Commission on Migration, and the Ministry of Justice.

Representing AAU President Dr. Samuel Kifle, Professor Fekadu Gashaw delivered the President's message during the opening ceremony. In his address, he reaffirmed the university's commitment to serving as a regional hub for evidence-based solutions to migration and displacement challenges.

"Addis Ababa University is exerting every effort to serve as a center for evidence-based solutions in the East and Horn of Africa through cutting-edge research and by facilitating meaningful platforms for dialogue such as this conference," the message stated. "We hope these efforts will contribute to a shift from merely researching displacement to building durable solutions that advance peace and sustainable development."



Speaking at the opening session, Dr. Abebaw Minaye, Research Chair for Forced Displacement and Migration Studies at AAU, highlighted the mission of the Research Chair. He explained that the initiative focuses on conducting innovative research on forced displacement in the East and Horn of Africa, while leveraging local knowledge and practices to inform policy processes at national, regional, and global levels. The Research Chair also seeks to promote policy dialogue and public debate that amplify the perspectives of Global South communities, including forcibly displaced populations.

His Excellency Kora Tushune, State Minister for Higher Education Sector Development at the Ministry of Education, underscored the government's commitment to supporting research that addresses pressing national and regional challenges. He noted that the Ministry is investing in thematic research areas, including migration, displacement, peacebuilding, and sustainable development, to generate evidence-based solutions and policy recommendations.

In his remarks, His Excellency Belayhun Yirga, State Minister for the Law and Justice Sector at the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, stressed the importance of effective migration governance. "When properly governed, migration serves as a powerful driver of economic prosperity and social progress," he stated. "Our collective responsibility is not to prevent migration, but to ensure that it is safe, orderly, regular, and dignified."

Dr. Ibrahima Amadou Dia, Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration at the African Union Commission, emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing forced displacement. He noted that strategies integrating development, peacebuilding, security, and humanitarian interventions are essential to tackling the root causes of displacement and facilitating the safe and sustainable return of displaced populations.

The conference is expected to serve as an important platform for advancing research, fostering policy dialogue, and strengthening regional cooperation on migration and forced displacement issues in the East and Horn of Africa.

AAU SIGNS MOU WITH CHINESE ACADEMY TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION RESEARCH



Addis Ababa University (AAU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Yellow River Delta Intelligent Agricultural Machinery Equipment Industry Academy of China, marking a new push to strengthen agricultural mechanization research and technology cooperation.

The agreement was signed on July 1, 2026, bringing together the Chinese academy and two AAU units: the College of Technology and Built Environment (CTBE) and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture (CVMA). The collaboration is expected to advance academic research, facilitate technology transfer, and support broader industry engagement in Ethiopia's agricultural sector.

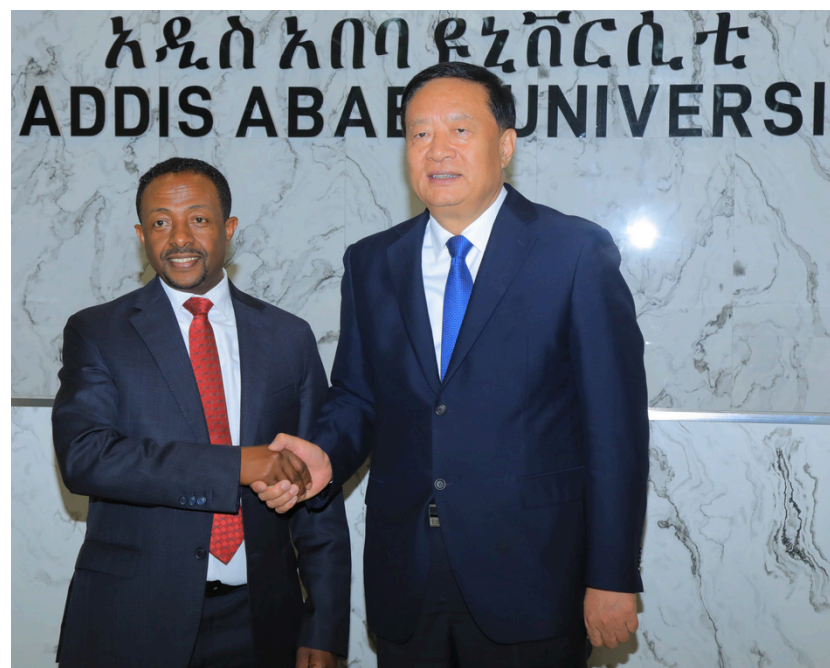
Speaking at the signing, Dr. Samuel Kifle, President of AAU, said the partnership would build on AAU's existing academic ties with Chinese institutions while focusing specifically on agriculture and agricultural mechanization. He noted that the MoU is designed to support not only joint academic activities, but also the exchange of students and staff, cooperative research, and co-authored publications creating opportunities to contribute to value addition and value creation in agriculture and the wider economy.

Professor Shang Shuqi, President of the Yellow River Delta Intelligent Agricultural Machinery Equipment Research Academy, emphasized that the cooperation aims to promote food security and talent development. He said the academy's work aligns with Ethiopia's transition toward modern agricultural systems that integrate energy generation, intelligent utilization, and green production, alongside innovations in agricultural standards and technology creation through mechanization.

For AAU, the partnership will be implemented through practical research activities. Dr. Zerihun Getaneh, Executive Dean of CTBE, said the Chinese academy has extensive experience in mechanization, product development and research. He added that AAU plans to establish a joint agricultural laboratory to accelerate scientific work and prototype development following the MoU signing.

He further explained that the laboratory will serve as a foundation for research conducted by students and staff, with AAU expecting the emergence of multiple prototypes. The initiative is also intended to support worldwide intelligent mechanization training, positioning the collaboration as both research-driven and capacity-building.

With the MoU now in place, AAU and its Chinese counterpart are set to move quickly toward implementation, including the immediate construction of the joint laboratory to formalize the mechanization-focused research agenda.



AAU ROLLS OUT ONLINE SUBMISSION PLATFORM FOR SINET: ETHIOPIAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE

Addis Ababa University's College of Natural and Computational Sciences (CNCS) has launched a new web-based journal management system to support the submission and editorial workflow of SINET: Ethiopian Journal of Science. The system was formally introduced on June 23, 2026, aiming to strengthen the journal's efficiency, reach, and international visibility. The launch ceremony was officially opened by Professor Worash Getaneh, Vice President for Research and Innovation at Addis Ababa University, who emphasized the importance of digital transformation for academic publishing. He noted that SINET is among the oldest locally based journal titles in its category, but has faced limitations in global outreach due to the absence of a modern online management platform.

"As we are in the age of digitalization and hard printing is almost to be left, designing online systems for subscription is vital nowadays," Prof. Worash said. He further added that continuous assessment and updating will be necessary going forward and affirmed that the university's office of research and innovation will provide ongoing support.

During an interview at the event, Bikila Workneh (PhD), Dean of the College of Natural and Computational Sciences (CNCS), highlighted the operational challenge that has long affected the journal's submission process. He said that while SINET has published journals for 49 years, receiving and coordinating correspondence, whether from domestic or international contributors, had largely depended on email communications.

To address this, the college has developed an online submission management system through the work of its computer science professionals. The initiative, he explained, is expected to increase the journal's global visibility by improving how manuscripts are submitted, tracked, and processed.

Although the transition to a digital system was implemented relatively late, Dr. Bikila stressed that the journal's editorial operations have remained standardized and academically supported, guided by an independent editorial policy and academic freedom. He also linked the new platform to the journal's future indexing prospects, stating that the online management system will help SINET move toward international indexing, including potential visibility in Scopus.

Professor Emana Getu, Editor-in-Chief of SINET, described the launch as a milestone in the journal's ongoing development. He said the SINET journal has experienced periods of challenge, but has now reached the capacity to publish three times per year. In addition, he noted that the journal has progressed to implementing a digital web-based submission and management system.

With the new online submission and editorial workflow system now in place, the SINET journal is positioned to modernize its publication operations and expand its international profile. University leadership described the platform launch as an important step toward broader global engagement, improved submission management, and stronger prospects for future academic indexing and visibility.



AAU and Ministry of Health Launch Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program to Strengthen Health Leadership

Addis Ababa University (AAU), in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), officially launched the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program during a national workshop held today at the University's Sefere Selam Campus. The event marked the beginning of the implementation phase of a pioneering professional doctoral program aimed at developing high-level public health leaders capable of addressing Ethiopia's complex health challenges. Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Rahel Argaw, Chief Executive Director with the rank of Vice President, described the launch as a significant milestone in the University's commitment to advancing public health education, leadership, and service.



"Today marks not only the introduction of a new academic program but also a major step forward in our commitment to strengthening leadership and promoting the public good," Dr. Rahel said. "As Ethiopia and the world face increasingly complex public health challenges—from infectious disease outbreaks and health inequities to climate-related risks and non-communicable diseases—the demand for highly skilled, practice-oriented leaders has never been greater. The DrPH program is designed to prepare such leaders by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to translate evidence into action and policy into impact."

Dr. Rahel noted that the Sefere Selam Campus, which comprises five specialized schools and a teaching hospital, currently offers 116 academic programs that contribute to strengthening Ethiopia's health system. She also announced plans to introduce micro-certificate programs through hybrid and online learning modalities to help address critical health workforce needs across the country.

Dr. Mulugeta Tamire, Vice Executive Dean of the Sefere Selam Campus and Dean of the School of Public Health, highlighted the distinctive nature of the new program. He explained that while the University has offered a research-oriented PhD in Public Health for more than two decades, the newly launched DrPH program is designed to meet the needs of health practitioners and system leaders.

"For the past 20 years, we have run a highly academic and research-focused PhD program intended primarily for researchers and academics," Dr. Mulugeta said. "The DrPH program is fundamentally different. It is an advanced professional degree tailored for health service providers, policymakers, and leaders working within the health system. One of its unique features is the active involvement of the Ministry of Health from the program's inception, ensuring that its design and implementation remain closely aligned with national priorities."

Unlike traditional doctoral programs that primarily emphasize academic research, the DrPH program focuses on leadership development, policy implementation, systems thinking, and practical problem-solving. Participants at the workshop emphasized that the program will play a vital role in strengthening national health security, enhancing public health leadership, and building a more resilient healthcare system in Ethiopia.

AAU HOSTS REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



Addis Ababa, June 18, 2026 – The School of Law at Addis Ababa University (AAU), in collaboration with the Artificial Intelligence Institute at the University of Oxford, hosted a high-level regional workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights at the Interlaken Hotel. The event brought together experts and stakeholders from East African countries to discuss legal and policy frameworks needed to ensure that the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) respects and protects fundamental human rights. The half-day workshop examined the potential human rights risks associated with AI technologies, the legal challenges posed by the absence of comprehensive AI regulations, and the measures required to prevent abuse while promoting responsible innovation. Participants also explored the legal and ethical frameworks necessary to guide the development, deployment, and governance of AI systems.

In his opening remarks, Professor Muradu Abdo, Executive Dean of the AAU School of Law, emphasized that artificial intelligence offers significant opportunities to drive economic growth, improve efficiency across sectors, and expand access to information. At the same time, he cautioned that the rapid evolution of AI presents serious challenges, particularly in protecting fundamental human rights, privacy, and human dignity.

Professor Muradu noted that the workshop forms part of a broader international initiative to develop a globally accepted framework for addressing the human rights implications of artificial intelligence. He explained that the discussions were designed to gather evidence, promote dialogue, and build consensus on effective approaches for maximizing the benefits of AI while mitigating its potential harms.



He further stated that the regional consultation seeks to capture the perspectives and recommendations of East African countries on the proposed framework. The feedback collected from participating nations will contribute to the development of an international agreement aimed at strengthening global cooperation and establishing safeguards against AI-related human rights violations. The workshop reaffirmed Addis Ababa University's commitment to advancing research, policy dialogue, and international collaboration on emerging technologies, while promoting the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence for sustainable development and the protection of human rights.

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES AI AND DATA INTELLIGENCE TRAINING PROGRAM TO ENHANCE HEALTHCARE RESEARCH



The eLearning Unit of Addis Ababa University, in partnership with Next Generation Technologies Private Limited Company and Catalyst Marketing and Event Management, has launched a comprehensive full-day training program focused on Artificial Intelligence and Responsibility, along with Data Intelligence, aimed at medical researchers, educators, and professionals in Addis Ababa.

Dr. Temtim Assefa, who serves as the coordinator of the e-Learning Unit and is also an Assistant Professor in Information Systems and Knowledge Management at Addis Ababa University, stated that the training aims to equip medical educators and researchers with a solid understanding of Artificial Intelligence in the context of Higher Education and its application in Research.

The collaboration between Addis Ababa University and these organizations marks a significant step towards enhancing the knowledge and skills of professionals in the medical field regarding the integration of Artificial Intelligence.

Dr. Temtim informed the staff reporter that although artificial intelligence offers several benefits, it also presents drawbacks if users do not engage with the applications responsibly. He emphasized that the training aims to equip medical professionals involved with the knowledge to understand and ethically utilize AI applications.

He mentioned that any research findings produced autonomously by artificial intelligence must undergo thorough human review and modifications before publication.

Furthermore, he noted that the training provided to researchers as ethical practitioners can significantly enhance their ability to contribute meaningfully to their research endeavors.

Fraol Atmaw, the Founder and CEO of Next Generation Technology, stated that organizations such as Next Generation Technology are raising awareness about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) among different stakeholders, including academics and educators, to guarantee the successful implementation of digital technology in Ethiopia.



MAY'S ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - PROF. AZEB AMHA

Advancing African Linguistics Through Research and Publishing

Azeb Amha is a distinguished Ethiopian linguist and an alumna of Addis Ababa University whose academic career has made significant contributions to the study of African languages. After completing her undergraduate education at Addis Ababa University, she pursued advanced studies abroad, earning her PhD in Linguistics from Leiden University in the Netherlands. She has built an internationally recognized career as a researcher and professor, specializing in language documentation, linguistic diversity, semantics, and the languages of Ethiopia, particularly Omotic languages. Her research has played a vital role in preserving endangered languages and expanding knowledge of Africa's rich linguistic heritage.



Professor Amha has authored numerous scholarly publications, supervised graduate researchers, and actively contributed to international collaborations in linguistics. Through her teaching, research, and academic leadership, she has strengthened the global visibility of Ethiopian linguistic scholarship while inspiring a new generation of researchers.

As a proud alumna of Addis Ababa University, Azeb Amha exemplifies the University's enduring legacy of producing scholars whose work advances knowledge, preserves cultural heritage, and contributes to academic excellence on the global stage.





Resonance AI4D Lab: Building Artificial Intelligence from Ethiopia's Realities



At the Resonance AI4D Lab, artificial intelligence does not begin with algorithms or datasets. It begins with a question: what challenges matter most to Ethiopia, and how can research help solve them?

The question may emerge from a farmer in Bishoftu seeking earlier detection of crop disease, a rural health facility facing limited diagnostic capacity, a court system holding thousands of valuable legal decisions that remain difficult to access, or an energy planner working to expand reliable electricity in a rapidly changing economy. These are not simply technical challenges—they are national development questions.

Hosted within the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Addis Ababa University, the Resonance AI4D Lab brings together researchers from engineering, agriculture, health sciences, law, energy, social sciences, and industry to design AI systems grounded in Ethiopian realities. Its work focuses on four interconnected areas: resilient agriculture and food systems, health, governance and justice, and energy and climate.

The Lab's approach is built on a simple principle: Ethiopia does not need imported AI solutions designed for different contexts. It needs AI that understands local languages, infrastructure limitations, institutional realities, and the lived experiences of communities.

In agriculture, researchers are developing AI-driven tools that combine satellite imagery, field observations, climate data, and soil information to support farmers in predicting crop yields, managing inputs, and detecting diseases such as wheat rust. Beyond crops, initiatives such as CowsVille explore how digital technologies can improve livestock management and dairy productivity.

In health, the Lab is developing lightweight and explainable AI systems that support early screening and clinical decision-making, while protecting sensitive patient information. Researchers are also creating multilingual health technologies in Amharic, Afaan Oromoo, and Tigrinya to make reliable maternal and child health information more accessible.

In governance and justice, the Lab is exploring how AI can help unlock Ethiopia's legal knowledge by improving access to Amharic judicial decisions, strengthening precedent retrieval, and supporting legal research without replacing judicial authority.

In energy and climate, researchers are developing AI-powered solutions for renewable energy planning, rural mini-grids, and managing the growing demands of electric mobility in Addis Ababa.

Beyond individual technologies, Resonance represents a new model of research collaboration. It connects universities with courts, health institutions, farmers, communities, government agencies, and industry partners to ensure that research moves beyond laboratories into real-world impact.

The Lab's greatest contribution is not only the AI systems it develops, but the research community it is building, one capable of defining Ethiopia's own questions, generating local knowledge, and creating responsible technologies for the future.

Resonance demonstrates that artificial intelligence can be ambitious and innovative while remaining deeply rooted in people, institutions, and national priorities. Its mission is not simply to help Ethiopia adopt AI, but to strengthen Ethiopia's ability to shape the future of AI on its own terms.



PARTNER OF THE MONTH



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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

In partnership with



Creating impact together.

Addis Ababa University's partnership with the Mastercard Foundation reflects a shared commitment to transforming higher education, strengthening health systems, and empowering Africa's next generation of leaders. Built on a vision of creating lasting impact through education, research, and innovation, the partnership has grown into one of AAU's most strategic international collaborations.

At the heart of this collaboration is the Africa Health Collaborative (AHC), a flagship Mastercard Foundation initiative that brings together leading African universities and the University of Toronto to transform primary healthcare through higher education. As one of the Collaborative's founding African university partners, Addis Ababa University is helping shape a continent-wide effort to prepare diverse young people for dignified and fulfilling work opportunities while strengthening resilient and equitable health systems.

Within Ethiopia, the Africa Health Collaborative-Addis Ababa University (AHC-AAU) serves as the national hub for this transformation. The initiative advances three strategic pillars—Health Employment, Health Entrepreneurship, and Health Ecosystems—through interdisciplinary education, research, innovation, and partnerships. It also works closely with Ethiopian universities and health institutions to strengthen primary healthcare and develop the skilled workforce needed for the country's future.

The partnership has already created tangible opportunities for students, researchers, and academic staff. Through Mastercard Foundation-supported scholarships, graduate training, faculty development, entrepreneurship programs, and innovation competitions, AAU is nurturing a new generation of health professionals and innovators. Recent initiatives include scholarships for postgraduate studies in primary healthcare and the Health Business Idea Competition, which provides mentorship, incubation support, and seed funding for student-led health innovations.

The collaboration also complements AAU's commitment to digital transformation. By strengthening digital learning platforms, promoting innovative teaching approaches, and expanding access to technology-enabled education, the partnership contributes to the University's efforts to build a modern, inclusive, and resilient learning environment in line with its broader transformation agenda.

As Addis Ababa University advances its Strategic Plan 2024–2028, Reimagining Our Future, the Mastercard Foundation remains a valued strategic partner whose collaboration is helping shape a stronger university, a healthier society, and a more prosperous Africa.



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