

## IER Holds National Workshop on Educational Research

The Institute of Educational Research (IER) of Addis Ababa University conducted a national workshop from June 23-25, 1995 on the theme of "Strengthening Educational Research," at the Ethiopian Management Training Center, Debreziet. The workshop objectives included assessment of current

educational research activities, seeking ways and means of strengthening research in the area of education, identifying priorities for future research and mapping out future strategies for educational research on institutional basis.



Opening Sessions

The workshop was opened by Ato Nigussie Yibas, Vice Minister of Education. In his opening speech, the Vice Minister said " Strengthening Educational Research in Ethiopia is not only topical but also one of the benchmarks of activities which the Institute of Educational Research of Addis Ababa University is morally and academically trusted with". He assured that the Ministry of Education shall be committed to support all efforts of the Institute in so far as resources permit.

A keynote address was also made by Ato Daniel Gamechu, Academic Vice President of Addis Ababa University. The Vice President stressed the fact that educational research in Ethiopia had not been a guiding force in the formulation of policy, in the designing of strategy in development plans and programs, in management and organization, in staff development and in transforming and improving operational practices. This type of forum is likely to address to such issues by developing interest in educational research among educators and by devising strategies of implementation.

Furthermore, the AVP noted that the Institute was established to promote and encourage such motivations. As a research unit, it coordinates all educational

research undertakings within and outside the University. In light of its expanded activities, its staff and institutional capacity will have to be strengthened, and to this end, the University will strive to provide support to make its services more effective and sustainable.

Dr. Tirussew Teferra, Director of the Institute, stated that over 60 participants from various institutions including Addis Ababa University, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Regional Educational Bureaus, SIDA, GTZ, FINNIDA and USAID participated in the workshop. A total of 24 technical papers on topics related to traditional and non-formal education, teacher education, special education, early childhood and family education, guidance and educational testing, female education and environmental education were presented. Moreover, Dr. Tirussew briefly disclosed the perspectives of the Institute focusing on current undertakings which, among others, include initiatives in international net-working and cooperations, identification of research priorities in the field of education and in the future directions of the Institute itself.

After two days of deliberations, the participants recommended the following:



### Discussion

1. Research wings or units appropriate to and relevant for the promotion of different sub-components of education should be created within IER. These include : non-formal education, early child-hood and family education, primary education, secondary education, tertiary education, and many others.

2. All areas of teacher education should be represented under IER research wings.
3. IER should cater for the preservation and development of traditional education, as a heritage of the country.
4. IER should play active role in identifying research priorities monitoring their quality, dissemination, creating institutional linkages with educational organizations, providing professional assistance to existing research committees in TTI's.

5. IER be strengthened to increase its research capabilities and to help researchers in getting the necessary documents.

The workshop was jointly sponsored by the Institute of Educational Research and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Dr. Michael Stahl, Counsellor and representative of SIDA, congratulated IER and thanked the participants in his closing speech. Dr. Stahl also noted that SIDA would explore possibilities for further collaborations with the Institute.