

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Your Excellency
Honoured Guests
Members of the Association

It is my duty and pleasure to thank H.E. Lij Endalkatchew Makonnen for the fine address with which he has opened this First National Conference of the EAEA. He has pointedly reminded us that though Engineers and Architects play a key role, development is an inter-disciplinary and multi-professional task. This is a historic occasion.

WHY A NATIONAL CONFERENCE? and WHY AN ETHIOPIAN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS?

Let me try to answer the second question first. The hard-working first secretary of the Association, Dr. Makonnen Wolde Amlak, now Associate Dean of the Faculty of Technology, reported in the first issue of the Association Journal ZEDE as follows and I quote:

"Realizing full well that professional societies in the developed countries had had a beneficial effect on the quality and rate of progress of their countries, the few Ethiopian engineers and architects decided to form an Ethiopian Association of Engineers and Architects.

"Towards the early part of October 1962, Prof. Y. Peter, Dean of the College of Engineering, Haile Selassie I University inquired of this writer about any professional societies in Ethiopia. He was told that a number of attempts had been made but that due to various reasons no engineering society had, as yet, been formed. The Dean then decided to encourage and help the formation of such a professional organization. On October 26, 1962 a first meeting of engineers and architects in Addis Ababa was held in the College of Engineering. Prof. Peter and this writer made some remarks about the desirability of setting up an engineering association and the advantages of such to the nation and to the individual member. Then constructive discussions followed after which it was unanimously agreed to create the Association. An Organizing Committee was formed consisting of:

1. Ato Assefa Mengasha
2. Prof. Pierre Gouin
3. Ato Kebede Akalewold
4. Ato Makonnen Wolde Amlak
5. Mr. Robert D. Scott
6. Ato Terrefe Ras-Work
7. Ato Tilahun Wubneh



*Ato Haile Lul Tebicke
President of EAEA.*

"Ato Makonnen W. Amlak was asked to act as Secretary to the Organizing Committee. The constitution of the Association prepared by the committee declared that the objective of the Association shall be the advancement of the professions of Engineering and Architecture and their effective application to the development of Ethiopia. Elections were held at the Fourth General Meeting which took place on July 12, 1963. The following persons were elected:

President	Ato Michael Tedros
Vice President	Ato Kebede Akalewold
Secretary	Ato Makonnen W. Amlak
Treasurer	Ato Tilahun Wubneh

"In accordance with the constitution of the Association the following were elected to the Board of Management:

Ato Assefa Mengasha
Ato Assefa Tilahun
Prof. Yehuda Peter
Mr. Robert D. Scott
Ato Sebhat Hable-Selassie

"At its meeting the Board of Management appointed the members of a Committee on Publications and another on Ethics. Ato Terrefe Ras Work was appointed Assistant Secretary and Ato Abraham Workneh Assistant Treasurer.

Registration formalities with the Ministry of Interior were completed and the EAEA became a legally recognized body on February 17, 1964." The Association is therefore 7 years old.

The first President Ato Michael Tedros, significantly, is an architect. His abiding interest in the Association is attested by the fact that he was the Vice Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee until its Chairman, Ato Abate Menkir, resigned due to extreme pressure of work, when Ato Michael stepped into the Chairmanship. I can say without fear of contradiction that were it not for Ato Michael's unflappability, persistence and to his considerable financial generosity, this Conference would not have taken place here now! In short Ato Michael was the person to whom everyone left the work of organizing the Conference. He is also the chairman of the Exhibition in the Faculty of Technology during the working sessions of the conference tomorrow, Friday and Saturday.

The Second President of the Association Ato Assefa Tilahun is with us today. He was also the third President of the EAEA. Ato Assefa was the President of the EAEA to whom everyone left the Association's business during most of his second term of office which ended in December 1970.

WHY A NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The idea of organizing a National Conference was born early in 1970.

The preamble to the Conference prepared way back at the beginning when it was scheduled for November 1970 reads:

"Economic and social development rests on a sound foundation of scientific and technological knowledge and skills for the exploitation of natural resources. Industrialization, for any developing country as a whole, and for Ethiopia in particular, means a reliable strategy for achieving accelerated economic development. The role of Engineers and Architects, therefore, is great as it is their task and responsibility to provide for the basic necessities as well as for comfort, safety, and general well-being of man in a complex society.

"One of the main objectives of the forth-coming First National Conference of the Ethiopian Association of Engineers and Architects is to discuss and bring out some salient points and problems in the technological fields pertaining to present Ethiopia so that an endeavour will be made towards overcoming these difficulties.

"National development is the raison d'etre of engineers and architects which make it in turn a subject dear to their hearts. It is appropriate therefore that the theme of this First National Conference should be;

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— BLACK STEEL SHEETS

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— IRON & STEEL AXLES



Ato Abdella Presenting Prizes to winners of Addis Ababa Bus Terminal Design Competition.

ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETHIOPIA

"It is now more than ever before recognized that development does not solely depend on capital investment. Well trained and properly deployed human resources is, significantly, of paramount importance. In this respect professional manpower takes the lead.

"Engineering and Architecture touch on practically all areas of economic advancement and endeavours of national development planning and programming, agriculture, transportation, forestry, livestock and meat production, mining, power generation and distribution, rural electrification, industrial enterprises, commerce, communications, low-cost housing, education, public health, defence projects..... The detailed list is rather endless.

"Now-a-days it is difficult to come across anything with which Engineers or Architects did not have something to do at some stage or the other. It is high time therefore that Ethiopian Engineers and Architects got together to review the situation as a whole, to familiarise each other of their activities, to assess their contributions, to exchange professional experience, to discuss their problems, to chart a concerted effort for the advancement of their professions and for a more effective participation of this important professional cadre in the various development projects.

"The involvement of their professional activities cover a broad spectrum including, in part: planning and programming, design and construction, manufacturing and fabrication, installation and erection, maintenance and operation, management and administration etc.

"The topics to be discussed are broad, and range from standards and standardization to professional man-power training and utilization. Technical papers shall be presented on construction on heaving soils, reinforced concrete design, construction materials and methods, etc. New concepts in agricultural engineering construction and maintenance will be discussed. Problems on training, employment and professional advancement shall be reviewed."

With the opening of this Conference Your Association has now come of age.

Like all human endeavour, the practice of Engineering and Architecture thrives on competition.

To underscore this and to mark the occasion of the First National Conference, it has been arranged that the prizes of the competition for the design of the New Addis Ababa Bus Terminal commissioned by the Municipality shall be awarded here. Ato Beyene Wolde Gabriel, Chief Engineer of the Municipality of Addis Ababa, will now say a few words about the subject.