



Fall Newsletter

October, November and December 2010

From the Office of the President

This newsletter has a new component, the quarterly financial report under part II. The quarter marks various challenges and achievements as one might expect in such a big endeavor. But as the end is near, we appeal for your continued prayers and thoughts all the way to the end. On October 25, the whole staff moved to the campus from our temporary office on Churchill Road after trials on the hookups of electricity and water were successfully completed. What a change of scene with fresh



air, beautiful scenery and modern facilities giving everyone an uplift and the change being rather unbelievable for many who just few years ago saw the area as just a grazing land. On November 6, our Board had a taste of this new environment, when it visited the facilities and met in the Advisory Board's room. Then on December 16, another great milestone transpired when a project agreement with the Ministry of Education to govern the operations of Hope University College was signed. These steps marked an achievement that would not have been possible had we not had the financial and material support of our partners to raise up a beautiful campus.

Education and Training Quality Assurance Agency or ETQAA, the accrediting government agency, deployed its assessment team to our campus on October 27. The team met our staff, visited the facilities and had extensive discussion with the executive team. By and large, the team was impressed with the investments and indicated that we had overcome the major challenge of accreditation. The team also appreciated the employment of the staff. But, insisting that the data system, the furnishing, text books for each student and the equipping for the faculty of science and technology needed to be in place, it pended the accreditation.

The second container of books and computers from Books for Africa was shipped and delivered to us, with the cost for the shipping and the computers being covered by Ethiopiaid/UK. The books were donated by Books for Africa of the US. A third shipment is due next quarter. Dr. Minas Hiruy got the “Ethiopia Container Captain Recognition” of Books for Africa considering his successful effort in securing so many books for his country.

We had a lot of work on the construction end. Thanks to the efforts of Daniel de Witte, who had been supervising the work for six months since May. As the construction phase is nearing its end, we continued to explore funding possibilities for the operation of the university college. There were interests expressed in this regard and we plan formal fundraising right after accreditation. We were honored by the visit of Mr. Alec Reed, Chairperson of Ethiopiaid/UK, on October 6. He gave us valuable ideas like working with the Open University and multiple uses for the multi-purpose hall. Dr. Eyayu Lulseged, the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), is exploring the areas of partnership with Open University. The partnership that we have had with the Agricultural University of Dronten and Christian University of Ede took a more applicable turn when Mr. Wim Hartog was deployed and spearheaded the inception of the competency based training by working with our faculty for two months starting from October 1. We were happy by what was achieved.

The President visited two campuses with offerings of construction and industrial technologies in the Netherlands, Hoornbeek College and Windheim University, during his trip to the Netherlands for the Global Alliance meeting of Woord & Daad. He also contacted a number of donors and had a meeting with the Construction Consortium. An organization donated a large sized diesel generator that could electrify the whole campus following the request of our long time friend, Mr. Klaas de Wit on our behalf. At the same time, the President looked for a used bus to transport staff and students in the Rotterdam area with the help of two businessmen from the Business Platform of Woord & Daad. The search was productive with the find of a sturdy used Mercedes bus that has been popular in Ethiopia for a reasonable price.

Upon returning, he and the rest of the executive team visited the Addis Ababa Institute of Technology and Adama University given an indication from the accrediting agency that the equipping of our department of building technology had to be in line with the equipping the cited institutions. In both visits, noting the much expense in equipping, the executive team came up with a proposal to focus on disciplines with manageable investments. Accordingly, the suggestion of the accrediting agency in architecture and/or urban planning was entertained.

Academic Affairs

Much of the work in academic affairs during the quarter revolved around examining the comments of ETQAA, which were expressed in writing on November 20 and adjusting our curriculum and hardware according to the comments. Dr. Eyayu met with his faculties and together began work on the amendment of the curriculum.

The accreditation team did not have much to say about the two faculties of business management and entrepreneurship on one hand and information sciences on the other except pointing out missing courses and redundancies. These observations were adequately addressed in the subsequent review. The department of building technology in the Faculty of Science and Technology got the brunt of the comments. Building technology was regarded too narrow from the standpoint of the employability of graduates. In its place, the team recommended any one of construction technology and management or architecture or urban planning. There was also the comment about us not having either the equipping or the workshop of building technology. The executive team discussed the comments and examined the three choices given. It noted readily for no adequate preparation in having equipping and workshop for building or construction technology, the most likely choices were either architecture and/or urban planning. At the same time, even with the two choices, we realized that time was against us considering the long period of the affirmation process.

In the light of this lag, the executive team decided to propose to the advisory board to apply for the five disciplines of the two faculties of business management and entrepreneurship and information sciences while at the same time working on applying for the incorporation of either architecture and/or urban planning down the road. An agreement was reached with a consultant to come up with a draft proposal for architecture and similar work is planned for urban planning. In the light of such change, we let go the faculty members who were hired for the department of building technology and reduced the number of the custodial staff.



The other area that the VPAA has been working on was the choice of textbooks for the revised curriculum. In this regard, the textbooks donated to our library were examined for possible uses as text books and some were found with enough copies. A final list was drawn up for purchase possibly from India. The adaptation of the courses in the two faculties to the CBT framework, or what was later recoined as the CBE or competency based education, was completed by the end of November, thanks to the leadership of Wim Hartog, who was sponsored by Woord & Daad. To the degree CBE emphasizes application as opposed to just theory, a CBE commission was organized to ensure compliance and a handbook was written by an ad-hoc committee on its application.



The library began to look like one when many of the shelves that were assembled were moved in and many of our books that were donated were shelved following their coding and entry into our electronic cataloging system. The VPAA conducted a number of staff meetings to help in awareness about Hope University College. He, with the librarian, also attended the grand opening of the Information Resource Center of the US Embassy.

Construction, Equipping and Furnishing

Though the work of the construction was not up to speed as expected, certain milestones were achieved with the persistence of Daniel de Witte. The stone slates for the roofing of the multi-purpose hall were finally imported from China by the contractor, China Jiangsu, and work in putting them on began early in December. Being the first undertaking in the country, we hope that the practice of stone roofing will catch on in Ethiopia as has cobble stoning since three years ago. And the multi-purpose hall looked great.

By the end of October, the transformer house was completed and the performance on the external restrooms reached 60%. Both facilities were undertaken by our own staff. Daniel left for Holland by mid October with arrangements for him or Niek Hoffius, the previous project manager, to come at certain milestones and supervise the work. China Jiangsu has been given the design for the sidewalks and is expected to submit its quotation. In the meantime, orders for 2,500 square meters of tiles for the sidewalks were made and delivery began to be made in November. Similarly, the design



for the road from the entrance of the college to the highway was done by ABBA Architects Plc and advertizing for bid was posted in the local newspaper. Once the sidewalks are completed, a bid will be out for the landscaping. Some of these works did not have enough funding.

In line with the decision of our Board to have the soil of the foundation of the technical services building examined by an independent company, a competitive bid was out for such work and two companies submitted their bid at the appointed time on December 22. The documents were turned over to ABBA for analysis and subsequent award. The university college's request for the purchase of a transformer was referred to the regional office of the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation.

Global Computing Solutions, our contractor for the supply, installation and testing of the digital infrastructure, continued to put the digital lines and managed to air freight many of the items of data systems. However, it got stuck when the government did not allow the clearance of the IP telephone. Owing to this snag, we withheld the final payment due to the company. Then negotiations followed and we have drawn a proposal for the company to bear the cost of the IP telephone by way of us deducting the commercial value of the same from what is due to it and to install a PBX system instead. The PBX system is permitted. The company has also agreed to submit an insurance bond for the remaining items. Furthermore, a penalty protocol is suggested to avoid further delay. In view of these problems, an amendment to the initial contract is being worked on.

Ethio-Dutch Furniture has so far delivered 256 book shelves, 15 black boards, 189 student tables, 56 open cabinets. It had installed cupboards and sinks in the expatriate staff apartments. Considering the need to furnish all facilities of phase one within the time line for the second opportunity for accreditation, the company had been instructed to move fast with its deliverables.

Administration and Finance

Dr. Behailu Abebe, the Vice President for Administration and Finance (VPAFA), was engaged in staff recruitment for the vacant slots in the departments of accounting, information science, ICT center and the library. Mr. Adamu Assefa was appointed as Decisions Support Officer with responsibilities to manage the facilities and engage in repair works. The new safety and security arrangement worked out very well.

Woord & Daad assisted us with technical help to figure out where the university college is financially and what the university college needs to complete the construction, equipping and furnishing. The Office of Finance prepared for this study with it tallying the expenses against the donations. The university college faced a financial gap in its overhead owing to the requirement of the accrediting agency to hire staff before accreditation. Woord & Daad planned to cover about half of the cost while fund raising continues for the other half.

Our volunteers, Dr. Doug Holland, Mrs. Betty Holland, Dr. Jennifer Stevenson, Ms. Jessica Risco, Mr. Brian Elwell, Mr. Mark Carlson and Ms. Judith Lechanteur helped in various aspects of the university college's development and we realized how much their contributions have meant in planting the seed of excellence right from the start. However, with the pending of the accreditation, they left for home. Some of the volunteers had indicated an interest to come back after accreditation. While we are sorry for the inconvenience caused, we thank them very much for their goodwill and inputs.

The Office of the VPAFA oversaw the clearance of a number of items duty free. The clearance included raised floor for the servers, a container full of college books, 220 desk tops and 20 laptops from Books for Africa, 29 boxes of CISCO equipment for the data systems from Global Computing Solutions.

Part II: Financial Report

Income

Balance forwarded	5,607,998.90	
Donation during the quarter	<u>6,118,246.07</u>	
Total		11,726,244.97

Less Expenses

Construction, equipping and furnishing	3,745,310.57	
Overheads	<u>487,057.40</u>	
Total		<u>4,232,367.97</u>
Balance		<u>7,493,877.00</u>

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How you can help

The vision of HUC is to provide quality education that produces graduates who combine knowledge, skills and values to contribute to the renewal and transformation of Ethiopia. HUC believes all students should be in a setting where they develop a love of learning driven by creativity and curiosity, and also a desire to make their communities a place of hope, justice, peace and progress.

We value each student and desire to involve them in an educational process that develops them to their full potential. In this initiative, we believe that no student who has the thirst for learning should be left behind. For students of financial need, we are currently looking for student sponsorships for the 2011-2012 academic year.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website or contact us in our office. Thank you for your support!