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The opening ceremony of the first General Assembly, GA, of Yeethiopia Yemeteorology Balemuyawoch Mahiber (Ethiopian Meteorological Society), by H.E. Ato Asfaw Dingamo, Minster of Water Resources.

Message from Ato Workneh Degefu, President and Chairman of the Board of Yeethiopia Yemeteorology Balemuyawoch Mahiber (Ethiopian Meteorological Society)

Yeethiopia Yemeteorology Balemuyawoch Mahiber (the Ethiopian Meteorological Society), EMIBAMA, was established at the beginning of this year. This is yet another milestone in the development and advancement of the sciences of meteorology, hydrology and the various atmospheric and hydrospheric sciences in general, within Ethiopia. It is to be remembered that a government body solely responsible to cater for Ethiopia's national and international meteorological needs was created in 1980. Since then the application of the science of meteorology in support of the activities of the various socio-economic sectors in the country has grown in both quality and quantity. The establishment of EMIBAMA will give added impetus to this fast growing scientific service in Ethiopia. The objective of EMIBAMA is articulated in Article 2 of the Statute of the Society. But I would like to place emphasis on one aspect of the aims of the Society; the opportunity the Society gives to meteorologists and other professionals in related fields in the Diaspora to interact with their colleagues at home.

This first issue of EMIBAMA Newsletter informs members on what has been accomplished since the Society has been in existence. It is appropriate to mention here what is foreseen for the Society in the coming weeks and months. Firstly we would like to embark on an aggressive resource mobilization effort to give the Society a sound financial base. Secondly, expanding the Society's membership base would also be a priority activity. And thirdly, planning and organizing the Second Regular Annual General Assembly and the first Scientific Conference will be a major challenge for the officers of the Society.

The last two years has been a trying moment for those who were involved in EMIBAMA's establishment process. And here I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those, in one way or another, contributed to this remarkable achievement.

Finally I would like to invite members to provide us with comments, suggestions and feedback on matters of concern to the Society. You are also encouraged to make contributions to the Newsletter by way of news and/or articles.

EMIBAMA NEWS

The First General Assembly, GA, of Yeethiopia Yemeteorology Balemuyawoch Mahiber (The Ethiopian Meteorological Society), EMIBAMA, took place on 23 July 2007 in the premises of the headquarters of the National Meteorological Agency, NMA. Over 166 members, invited

sister societies, invited organizations and guests attended the GA. H.E. Ato Asfaw Dingamo, Minster of Water Resources, officially opened the Assembly. The GA elected Ato Workneh Degefu and Ato Mesay Abebe as its chairman and secretary, respectively. It deliberated on

various Society matters and made important decisions. These include:

- Approval of the internal operating guidelines of the Society
- Election of Board Members and the Auditor
- Approval of the Budget and Programme for 2000 (2007/2008) fiscal year.

The Board of EMIBAMA held its first meeting on 3 August 2007 and elected the President and Vice President and Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of the Society. It also designated an Acting Manager of the Society and Secretary to the board as well as an Acting Chief Accountant.

MEMBERS AND OTHER PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The following society members were elected to serve on the Board:

Ato Workneh Degefu, President and Chairman of the Board,
Ato Mesay Abebe, Vice President, Vice Chairman of the Board, as well as focal point for members in the Administrative Regions,
Dr Abebe Yeshanew, Member,
Ato Wagaye Hagos, Member,
Ato Amanuel W/Selasse, Member,
Ato Taffese Regasa, Member and
Ato Endalkachew Bekele, Member.

Moreover, Ato kidanu Mihiretu was elected Auditor of the Society by the GA. Similarly, Ato Tsegaye Wodajo and Ato Zewde Teshome were appointed by the Board as Acting Manager and Acting Chief Accountant, respectively. Ato Tsegaye Wodajo became Secretary to the Board by virtue of his position as Acting Manager.

Dr Abebe Yeshanew, the board member of the Society, won the WMO Mumm Award for 2008, for his outstanding scientific paper. In recognition of this, the National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia awarded him a Certificate and monetary reward. Moreover, the National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia awarded certificates and monetary rewards for three of its employees (Ato Diriba Koricha, Ato Endalkachew Bekele and Ato Jemal Mohamed) on 21 August 2007 for their industrious effort in carrying out their duties and responsibilities, for being exemplary for the staff of the Agency. Similar award was also

given to eight acting heads of the Meteorological Branch and Sub-Branch Offices for their hard work.

SIGNIFICANT METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL EVENTS

Significant Meteorological Events of the Year 2007 (source: NMA, Weather Forecast and Early Warning Team)

A La Nina event, which is literally defined as cooling of sea surface temperature (SST) across the eastern tropical equatorial Pacific Ocean below its long-term mean and which lasts at least for three months, has impact on the weather/climate of different regions of the world.

Various researchers confirmed that the emergence of this global phenomenon positively modulates the performance of the main rainy season (Kiremt) of Ethiopia. The current global and regional circulation systems reveal that weak La Nina event has established for the last couple of months. As a result the current Kiremt season has become wetter than normal and widely distributed over West, Central, Northeast and Northwest Ethiopia.

The impact of the current Kiremt season is that the prevalence of good spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall augmented the performance of water reservoirs. Clearly, most of these dams accumulated (contained) optimum amount of water. Besides, it is believed that the performance of current season will contribute positively to the agricultural development activities.

El Nino/La Nina update (source: The International Research Institute for Climate and Society, updated on 19 September 2007)

As of mid-September 2007 SSTs in the eastern equatorial Pacific are below average, and their longitudinal extent has tended to increase since their initial appearance in February and March, despite some month-to-month fluctuations. The western flank of the region of below average anomalies has expanded westward to the dateline. Easterly wind anomalies have increased dramatically during September. The easterly anomalies have a large fetch, and their placement relative to the SST anomalies suggests active air-sea coupling. The wind anomalies produced the westward expansion of the SST anomalies and are reinforcing the shallow thermocline anomalies in the east-central Pacific. All these elements taken together indicate the continuing evolution toward a La Niña in the equatorial Pacific. For August 2007, the SSTs in the NINO3.4 region were below average (-0.5 degrees C anomaly), and for the Jun-Jul-Aug season were -0.24 degrees C from average. Currently the IRI's definition of El Niño conditions rests on an index of SST anomalies, averaged over the NINO3.4 region (5S-5N; 170W-120W), exceeding the warmest 25%-ile of the historical distribution, and similarly for La Niña relative to the 25%-ile coldest conditions in the historical distribution. The magnitudes of NINO3.4 anomaly necessary to qualify as La Niña or El Niño conditions for the Sep-Oct-Nov and Oct-Nov-Dec seasons are approximately 0.75C.

The most recent weekly SST anomaly in the NINO3.4 region, at -0.9 C, qualifies as La Niña conditions. The issue at this point is whether persistence, or further amplification, of this condition is likely. Factors of relevance are the enhanced easterly winds, the increasingly

shallow thermocline anomalies extending across much of the equatorial Pacific over the last several months, and the negative SST anomalies in the eastern and now central equatorial Pacific.

Many of the features in the tropical Pacific air-sea system are consistent with the development of La Niña conditions -- the enhanced easterly winds along the equator have contributed greatly to shoaling of the thermocline, and since they are still strong, particularly between about 160E-160W, they will continue to bring the thermocline up. The negative anomalies in the subsurface ocean should be efficiently communicated to the surface at this time of year, when equatorial upwelling is strong. Thus, SST anomalies in the eastern and east-central Pacific will likely get even colder. Some uncertainty nonetheless remains concerning the duration and magnitude of these La Niña conditions. Continuation of enhanced easterly Trade Winds will be required to increase/maintain coupled air-sea growth.

ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NEWS

The Assistant Secretary General of WMO, Mr J Lengosa, honored the Society by visiting the Office on 25 August 2007 and NMA also. He exchanged views with the President of the Society on ways and means of strengthening relations between WMO and the Society and with the Director General of NMA. He also expressed the need to establish relations with the African Meteorological Society. He was given the Society's Statute upon his departure.

The four academic publications of the Royal Meteorological Society (Quarterly Journal of The Royal Meteorological Society,

Meteorological Applications, International Journal of Climatology and Atmospheric Science Letters) are now accessible to a large number of developing countries free of charge or for a nominal fee through the international programmes, Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) and Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA). All researchers, students and policy makers at registered institutions in 108 countries can take the opportunity to view the full content of the four publications. Ethiopia is listed as one eligible for free access. (Source: Meteoworld, WMO)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- WMO Coordination and Capacity Building workshop for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa will be held from 10 in 12 September 2008 in Entebbe, Uganda.
- WMO Regional Workshop on Public Weather Service will be held from 5-9 October 2007, in Pretoria, South Africa
- WMO Regional Association, RAI (Africa) regional Training Seminar on use of GDPFS products especially for severe weather forecasting and public weather service in support of national disaster reduction will be held from 21 October – 9 November 2007, in Pretoria, South Africa.
- The 88th American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting will be held from 20-24 January 2008, in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

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***We welcome your
comments about EMIBAMA
Newsletter and look
forward to hearing from
you.***