

ADI-KEIH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES 738 STUDENTS



Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Sciences

Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Sciences conferred first Degrees and Diplomas to 738 Graduates in its 16th Commencement on 1 July, of which 43% are females. The graduation ceremony was attended

Minister of Tourism, on her part, congratulated the graduates for their achievements and called on them to live up to expectations in the nation-building programs. She also handed out medals to the outstanding students.

Adi-Keih College of Business

the expectations of the Government and people.

SPORTS COMPETITIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

Sports competitions of the Ministry of Defense units concluded on 3 July at Asmara Stadium.

At the event, Gen. Flipos Woldeyohannes, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Defense Forces, and Col. Solomon Seium, Head of the Promotion and Information Office of the Ministry of Defense, and several officers took part.

Col. Solomon Gebreleul, Chairman of the Sports Committee of the Ministry, said that the sports competitions included football, volleyball, athletics, and target shooting competitions among six clubs, and 527 sportspeople, including 120 females, took part.

Col. Solomon went on to say that the objective of the sports program was to nurture a conscious and physically as well as mentally fit youth that could represent their country in various international competitions.

The Sports competitions of the Ministry of Defense units are being organized for the eighth time.

FESTIVAL OF ERITREANS IN ITALY

The Festival of Eritreans in Italy was colorfully conducted on 1 and 2 July in Milano under the theme "Heroic Feat Anchored on Cohesive Ranks."

The event was officially opened by Mr. Fesehaye Haile, Governor of the Central Region, and was graced by the presence of Governors of all six Regions in the homeland, and nationals from all Italian cities, as well as various European countries, took part.

Explaining the meaning and history of the festival during the armed struggle for Independence, Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea's Ambassador to Italy, said that the festival has a significant contribution in consolidating unity among nationals, attachment to their homeland, acquainting foreigners with the just struggle and the history and culture of the Eritrean people, as well as transferring noble societal values to the young generation.

At the seminars organized at

the event, the Governors of the six regions of the homeland gave extensive briefings on the objective situation in the homeland as well as the role and contribution of the Diaspora nationals in the national development programs and prospects.

The festival featured a variety of programs, including cultural and artistic performances, sports competitions, photo exhibitions, and children's programs.



Asmara Technical School

by Ministers, PFDJ officials, and Dr. Haile Mihtsun, the Executive Director of the National Commission of Higher Education and Research Institute.

Speaking on occasion, Dr. Estifanos Hailemariam, the Dean of the College, indicating that the graduation ceremonies of the last three batches were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, congratulated the graduates of this year for celebrating the event with their parents.

Dr. Estifanos also noted that the College of Business and Social Sciences graduated students in various fields of study, including Accounting, Business Management, Public Administration, Economics and Finance, Sociology and Archeology, Law, History, English, Geography, Law, Library Science and Information with degrees, as well as Accounting, Banking, Sociology, Tourism and Hotel Management with diplomas.

Ms. Askalu Menkerious,

and Sciences has, in the last 16 commencements, graduated 12 thousand students in different fields of study, according to reports.

In related news, Asmara Technical School has graduated 182 students, including 53 females, in certificate programs in the fields of Wood Works, Metal Works, Electronics as well as Electricity.

Mr. Semere Werde, director of the school, said that the students were provided theoretical and practical training for two years and are expected to play a due part in the nation-building process.

Mr. Tesfay Seium, Director General of Technical and Vocational Training at the Ministry of Education, on his part, pointed out that Asmara Technical School is equipped with modern teaching facilities and called on the graduates to upgrade their knowledge practically on the ground.

The graduates, on their part, expressed conviction in living up to

Development

Agricultural Research: Key to Modern Farming

Kesete Ghebrehiwet

Small-scale agricultural research carried out in the pre-independence period, especially in the 1980s, in the areas of soil fertility, plant and animal health, animal husbandry, and forestry were stepping stones for the now full-fledged Agricultural Research Institute, which has been carrying out research activities by deploying 172 skilled workers that have been mostly trained in the post-independence period. The research institute has reached its present level of achievement because of the hard work of its young members of staff who have been carrying out extensive research.

The Genetic Resources Division of NARI has been working on the preservation of all indigenous plant and animal resources. This division has preserved 6,182 accessions of 158 seed varieties; 4,557 of the total are indigenous, while the rest of the accessions have been obtained from partners abroad. Agro-morphological studies have been carried out in 1,664 preserved seeds, while molecular characterization experiments have been conducted on 200 sorghum, 48 soya bean, and eight barley varieties in a total of 256 accessions. Genetic

The primary motive for the establishment of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), which was established in 1993 as the Agricultural Research and Extension Department, was to transform subsistent farm practices into modern farm systems through field and laboratory experiments.

Ever since its establishment, the Institute has undergone numerous reforms. The research activities carried out have enabled farmers to increase their harvest with a small input of water and farm resources. Information on research activities included in this article has been obtained from the first edition of Fre-Tsari -- a magazine of the Ministry of Agriculture published in January 2023.

improvements and multiplication of seeds have also been carried out in a bid to boost the seed bank at the research institute for further use.

Phenotypic characterization studies have been carried out in Tesenai and Golij sub-zones on 158 indigenous Barka livestock species in a bid to preserve their genetic resources.

Mr. Tsegay Berhane, Director General of NARI, said in an interview with Fre-Tsari that since seed improvement is one of the strategic priorities, the Institute has consistently been engaged in experiments on a variety of sorghum, millet, barley, and maize seeds as well as on lentils, beans, and other strategic oil seeds.

According to Mr. Tsegay, since 1997, the research institute has improved a total of 45 varieties, including 16 wheat, six barley, 11 sorghum, six millet, three corn, and one sunflower in its research facilities at Halhale, Gahtelay, Sheib, Akordat, Shamboko, Hagaz, and Golij. Besides these activities, the institute has carried out a multiplication of 15,000 quintals of foundation seed in the period between 2000 and 2021. The select seeds given out to farmers through the Department of Agricultural Extension have been imperative in augmenting agricultural produce, and they have been found to be resilient to drought and infestations.

Studies on fruits and vegetables, including potatoes, onions, tomatoes, pepper, and garlic, have been given priority, and a total of 34 vegetable and 36 fruit varieties have been improved to boost production both in terms of quality and quantity. According to a report from the research institute, over 4,000 kilos of select seeds of vegetables, 7756 quintals of potato seeds, 3,300 seedlings of bananas, and around 4,000 citrus seedlings have been given

experiments on water, over 1,300 tests on plants, and over 80 tests on fertilizers. Two reference documents on the efficient usage of fertilizers on sorghum and wheat have been finalized; a soil survey has been conducted on over 50,000 hectares, while extensive groundwork is waiting to be done in the preparation of a comprehensive National Soil suitability Map.

The Wild Life and Forestry



out to farmers. Research has also been carried out to identify crops and vegetable diseases that pose threats to production.

Research on natural resources management has been conducted on soil, water, and fertilizers to ensure the efficiency of agricultural produce. The natural resources management division has made over 15,000 laboratory tests on soil, over 400

Research Division, on its part, has collected 1,819 kilograms of 39 types of tree seeds and distributed 811 kilograms of 29 types of tree seeds for multiplication. Moreover, 52 types of plant seeds and 59 provenances have been assessed and identified for proper management. A variety of seedlings have been planted in Merhano, Central region; Dubarwa, Southern region; Shamboko, Akordat, and Golij, Gash-Barka region; and some areas of Anseba and Northern Red Sea regions.

Research on the administration of water catchment areas has also been conducted in Golij and Shamboko sub-zones; around 6,000 hectares have been terraced, and various catchment treatment activities have been carried out, positively impacting soil and water conservation tasks and boosting agricultural production.



Mr. Tsegay Berhane, Director General of NARI

The Biotechnology Division of NARI, on its part, has been active in the development of tissue culture and molecular biology, which deals with the genetic elements of animals and plants. In the short number of years of its existence, this division has been able to produce virus-free seeds and seedlings of bananas and potatoes for farmers. The inputs of the laboratory experiments have been highly essential in supplying 150,000 quintals of select seeds of potatoes in the period spanning from 2016 to 2021, and they have played an important role in boosting potato produce to an average of 160 quintals per hectare. There have been individual farmers who have reaped 450 quintals of potato per hectare by sowing select seeds from the research institute. Over 2,000 banana seedlings that have been developed through tissue culture in the period covering 2018-2022 have also been given out to farmers.

Tissue culture on date seedlings has been given priority, and 7,800 seedlings have been given out to farmers and institutions in the Northern and Southern Red Sea regions. A remarkable achievement has been registered in the expansion of date trees through advancement in tissue-culture technology.

The Livestock Resources Research Division has been mainly focusing on the multiplication of quality species of livestock and boosting dairy and meat production through the introduction of green animal feed. It has carried out extensive research on 261 varieties of animal feed and identified 50 varieties of green feed for their resilience to saline areas, their contribution to the expansion of grazing lands, suitability to irrigation and river basins, and capacity to protect water

Continued on page 5

**ERITREA
PROFILE**

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REPORTAGE

Sixteenth Commencement of Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Sciences

Habtom Tesfamichael

The College of Business and Social Sciences (CBSS) graduated 738 students at its 16th graduation ceremony, which was held on July 1 at its premises in Adi-Keih. The event was attended by Government and PFDJ officials, zonal commanders, faculty, family members, and distinguished guests.

Three hundred-five graduates earned bachelor's degrees in the fields of Accounting, Business Management and Public Administration, Economics and Finance, English, Geography, History, Law, Library and Information Science, Sociology, and Anthropology, while 433 earned diplomas in the fields of Accounting, Banking, Tourism and Hotel Management, and Sociology and Social Works. Females made up 43 percent of the graduates.

In his opening address, Dr. Estifanos Hailemariam, dean of the College, congratulated the graduates for their perseverance and accomplishments. "Today, we gather to celebrate not only the completion of your academic journey at CBSS but also the beginning of a new chapter in your lives. You are now equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to the growth and development of our beloved Eritrea," he said.

Dr. Estifanos emphasized that education is a gateway to progress and that it is the single most essential investment we can make for our future, one that will undoubtedly provide rewarding results in the years ahead. In an era of globalization and technological innovation, higher education plays a crucial role in the acceleration of a nation's development. That is why the development of human resources has been the focal point of all Eritrean development strategies.

'Education for all' has been the motto during the struggle for independence and after Eritrea's Independence. It is not only a question of social justice but also a necessity for ensuring sustainable human development.

In 2004, the Government



**Dr. Estifanos Hailemariam,
Dean of CBSS**

restructured higher education to make educational opportunities more equitable and accessible and enhance the relevance, quality, and sustainability of tertiary education in the country. To that end, the Government opened colleges at different locations which had been housed in one university. Two of these autonomous colleges were the Adi-Keih College of Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Business and Economics at Halhale. In 2018, the College of Business and Economics was relocated to Adi-Keih, and in September of the same year, the two colleges merged and formed CBSS.

CBSS intends to be a center of excellence in various fields of



Representative of the Graduates

business and social sciences not only in Eritrea but also in our region. It also seeks to promote the socio-economic development of the nation, reduce poverty, and contribute to the rehabilitation and development of our country through teaching, research, training, and advocacy. "Our College's various programs aim to produce graduates with excellent knowledge and skills in business and social sciences, who can play a leading role in nation-building and poverty eradication. Our goal is to produce graduates who are job creators rather than job seekers," Dr. Estifanos added.

In the current academic year, CBSS has had approximately 2100 students in its nine degrees and four diploma programs. The

college, in collaboration with Eritrea Prison and Rehabilitation Services, also offers inmates at Tsetserat correctional facility in Asmara a diploma program in Accounting and a degree program in Business Management and Public Administration. And it is Eritrea's sole higher education institute that offers tertiary education to visually impaired students. In the past 15 years, it has conferred master's and bachelor's degrees and diplomas to over 12000 Business and Social Science graduates.

It is vital to have qualified teachers to provide quality education. In this regard, the College has 72 academic staff members on site (27 with Ph.D., 32 with M.A., and 13 with B.A. degrees); 78% of the academic staff are Eritrean. Dr. Estifanos said that to ease the College's serious shortage of staff, they have embarked on an aggressive staff development program. As a result, 17 faculty members are currently studying overseas, while five more will soon leave for their graduate studies. Furthermore, around 150 administrative staff members help in the smooth running of the teaching and learning process at the College.

In terms of curriculum, the College has designed nationally relevant and internationally

competitive, quality, and sustainable educational programs. The programs are created in collaboration with the College's stakeholders, and the College is constantly striving to improve what it has and develop new programs horizontally and vertically. During the current academic year, the College's staff members reviewed the curricula of all undergraduate and postgraduate programs, with a focus on consolidating the undergraduate programs. Work has also been done to improve quality by promoting the use of information technology, improving the teaching-learning environment, and enhancing staff professional development, among other things.

Dr. Estifanos reminded the graduates of 2023 that their achievement is the result of cumulative efforts and support they have received not only from their instructors at the college but also from their teachers, starting from primary school. He said, "The nurturing and support that you have received from your parents, guardians, friends, and loved ones is priceless. Moreover, it's to be noted that the support that the free education the State offers for free not only at the College but also throughout all

Continued on page 5



SpotLight

Barefoot Doctors: Serving Communities in Remote Locations

Sabrina Solomon

Delivering primary healthcare to all citizens through community-based healthcare services is a key strategic priority for the government of Eritrea. The government operates over 350 healthcare facilities, including health stations, health centers, and hospitals all over the country. Yet, several communities in hard-to-reach areas are unable to easily access healthcare facilities for regular health care services. Targeting such communities, the government has launched programs, including healthcare outreach services for all communities within a 10-kilometer radius of a healthcare facility, mobile clinics for communities outside the 10-kilometer radius and barefoot doctors.

Barefoot doctors are frontline health workers who are trained and equipped to provide essential healthcare services to communities that live in remote areas that can only be accessed on foot or on the backs of camels and donkeys.

The barefoot doctors' program is not new in Eritrea. During the armed struggle for independence, barefoot doctors provided basic healthcare services and lessons on healthcare such as basic hygiene and preventive methods to village communities in the liberated areas.

The barefoot doctors' program was revitalized in 2019. In order to give effective services, barefoot doctors, who are nominated by their respective communities, are required to have a minimum of eighth-grade education and must read and write the language of the community they serve. They are given a six-month-training that focuses on the delivery of first aid, methods of identification of certain diseases and their treatments and determination of cases that should

be sent to referral hospitals. In particular, they are taught how to provide antenatal care services and other forms of support for pregnant women; how to tend to mothers and newborn babies; how to counsel mothers on infant and young child feeding practices; how to mobilize their communities around personal hygiene, nutrition, and environmental campaigns; as well as how to support healthcare workers when administering vaccinations.

Barefoot doctors are often given a six-month residential training at regional referral hospitals and deployed in their respective regions. Once deployed in their regions, they are again given a two-month intensive theoretical training followed by a one-month practice under the supervision of the trainers. Following an assessment of their capacity, they are finally assigned to work in their respective communities. Pharmacists often engage in supervising and advising barefoot doctors on the uses of essential drugs.

The first batch of barefoot doctors graduated in July 2019, and the second batch in 2020. To date, a total of 87 barefoot doctors, including 12 women, have been deployed in all six regions of the country.



Every barefoot doctor is provided with a stock of essential medicines and medical supplies



that they're authorized to use for the treatment of common illnesses such as diarrhea. If a barefoot



doctor identifies a health problem that requires medical care beyond what he or she can provide, the barefoot doctor is authorized to

care and delivery. Barefoot doctors can provide mothers with micronutrients and nutritional

counseling, monitor pregnancies and refer complicated cases to appropriate healthcare facilities. This has been an essential aspect of the government's commitment to ensure healthier Eritrean mothers and babies.

Barefoot doctors are an essential pillar of the government's strategy to strengthen community-based platforms to provide basic healthcare services to all citizens, especially those living in remote and hard-to-reach areas. In addition to giving basic healthcare services, they collect critical health data for sub-regional healthcare offices, where they meet monthly and quarterly. They are often the first to identify the community's healthcare needs and call for assistance to meet the needs.

Mr. Said Edris Mohammed, a barefoot doctor in Arberebu'e sub-zone, said, "I travel on foot treading across inaccessible terrains and hills to provide healthcare services to the villagers around this place. There is no transport from this village to Asmara, and even if it is available, the road is inaccessible,

and the distance is long. Here, I engage in identifying certain diseases and giving appropriate treatment; taking care of those that demand special medical attention, such as pregnant women, children, and the elderly; and referring those with critical cases to my supervisors in Asmara. I am also trained to provide an array of basic healthcare services to our communities, such as conducting sanitation campaigns to secure mother and child health care. We should all join hands and work as one if we want to achieve our goal."

Barefoot doctors out on the front lines are going to great length to reach every Eritrean to ensure that no one is left behind. However, more needs to be done to ensure that their work complements the work of regional healthcare facilities in all parts of Eritrea.

Although the barefoot doctors' program is providing essential services, it is only an interim intervention until facilities are built targeting communities that live in remote parts of the country, realizing sustainable development goals and universal health coverage.



Mr. Said Edris Mohammed

LOCAL NEWS

WATER AND SOIL CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES



The residents of the Daero-Paulos administrative area in the Gala-Nefhi sub-zone and the Mai-Mine sub-zone are involved in extensive water and soil conservation activities.

According to Mr. Habtemariam Amenai, Head of the Agricultural Office in the Gala-Nefhi sub-zone, the program that began on 5 June includes redressing the environment, water, and soil conservation, as well as erosion control measures.

Mr. Simon Berhe, coordinator of the program, on his part, said that over 200 people

are daily participating in the program and that so far, over 2 thousand meters of water diversion scheme have been constructed.

Similarly, the popular campaign in the Mai-Mine sub-zone, led by agricultural experts, includes the construction of terraces and water diversion schemes as well as removing of silt from dams.

Mr. Yared Habtegergis, the coordinator of the popular campaign, stated that so far, over 140 hectares of terraces have been constructed, and over 2 km of dirt roads have been renovated.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR OROTTA COLLEGE STUDENTS

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students branch of the Higher Education Institutions organized three months of a vocational training program for 132 students at Orotta College of Medicine and Science.

The theoretical and practical training included electronics, film editing, graphics, as well as Arabic language.

After the training, Ms. Mensura Ismail, Head of the NUEYS branch, called on the trainees to form clubs and upgrade

what they have learned, and transfer their knowledge to fellow students.

Mr. Abrhalei Asefaw, Head of the union branch in the college, on his part, called for the sustainability of the program.

Commending the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students for organizing the training program, the Dean of the Orotta College of Medicine and Science, Dr. Yemane Seium, expressed the readiness of the college to cooperate in organizing similar training programs.



Sixteenth Commencement of Adi-Keih . . .

Agricultural Research . . .

Continued from page 3

your educational journey is invaluable. Therefore, I entrust you to compensate all those who have helped you reach this level and contribute to nation-building efforts.” he said.

Dr. Estifanos urged the graduates to use the opportunity as a stepping stone for further formal and informal learning in their workplaces and to embrace their future with enthusiasm and an open mind. Above all, he advised them to work hard and carry on the vision of our martyrs to build a developed and prosperous nation. In conclusion, he expressed his confidence that they will be an asset to the institutions they will join and wished them success in their future endeavors.

Following the conferral of degrees and diplomas, a representative of the graduates gave a speech on behalf of his fellow graduates. In his speech, he said, “As we receive our degrees and diplomas, we are filled with a sense of accomplishment and pride. We have worked hard to reach this moment and have overcome many challenges along the way. Our time at this institution has been filled with growth, learning, and friendship. We have been fortunate to have had the guidance and support of our professors, mentors, and families. Today, we celebrate not only our achievements but also the collective

accomplishments of our class. As we move forward into the next phase of our lives, let us carry with us the values and lessons we have learned here. Let us continue to strive for excellence, to be curious and open-minded, and to make a positive impact.”

Mrs. Askalu Menkerios, Minister of Tourism and guest of honor, congratulated the graduates on completing their studies. She said that the country has overcome severe challenges and obstacles in the past and expressed confidence that they would take responsibility and contribute to efforts in addressing all the challenges that may lie ahead. She urged them to reach higher levels and become stronger by employing

the knowledge that they have gained.

Abiel Tesfalem, who graduated with high honors in Sociology and Anthropology, said that he thinks his education would enable him to identify social issues and come up with solutions.

Danait Habte, who graduated with honors in Business Management and Public Administration and received a Medal of Honor, credits her achievement to her parents, instructors, and personal efforts. She said that graduation is a reward for their educational journey and a moment when they assume responsibility for themselves.



Continued from page 2

catchment areas. Moreover, four varieties of sweet potatoes have been identified as the best animal feed through field and laboratory experiments.

The Livestock Resources Research Division has identified four Feed Block Trails suitable for highland areas, three for Western lowlands and two for Eastern lowlands. The division has also produced silages of corn and alfalfa feeds, and a processing machine for animal feed has been developed.

Disease and climate-resistant indigenous sheep species have been identified, and a research center for “Begait” cattle species has been established in Golij, Gash-Barka Region.

Since 1997, the Agricultural Engineering Division of the institute has been giving services to all agricultural sub-sectors. It has taken the lead in the establishment of seed purification centers and metrological centers, installation of irrigation and solar systems, construction of water reservoir structures and drilling wells, and others of high importance to the agriculture sector. And since 1999, it has been playing an important role in the promotion of the best cold stores and animal shelters, as well as the identification of the best agricultural tools and machinery.

Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD. (ESMC) is inviting applicants for the following position for Asmara project sites.

Position: Quality officer
Department: Construction
Number Required: 01
Contract Type: Indefinite
Place of Work: Debarwa/ Emba Derho Sites

Major Duties and Responsibilities

- ❖ Quality management, including preparation of weekly quality reports, review of subcontract quality documents, organization of quality documents, site quality management according to Eritrea specifications.
- ❖ Technical management, including preparation and reviewing of construction scheme and site technical control according to the requirements of Eritrea technical specifications.
- ❖ Do the drawing deepening work according to the approved design drawings.
- ❖ According to the requirements and habits of the construction technology and quality management in Eritrea, put forward suggestions for the quality and technical management of the project.
- ❖ Participate in various quality and technical meetings and take the minutes of the meetings.
- ❖ Other work related to the quality and technology.

Qualification and Other Skills

❖ Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	❖ University graduate in Engineering Construction or related areas.
❖ Working Experience – Nature & Length	❖ More than five years work experience in Quality management.
❖ Other skills and abilities	<div>❖ Proficient in using the CAD drawing software and office software.</div> <div>❖ Good writing ability in engineering professional.</div> <div>❖ Good communication and coordination skills.</div> <div>❖ Responsible for the work, with a good teamwork ability.</div>

General Information and Other Requirement

- ❖ Place of Work: Asmara Project Sites (Debarwa/ Emba Derho)
- ❖ Salary: As per Company salary scale

Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- ❖ Having fulfilled his/ her National Service Obligation and Provide evidence of Release Paper from Ministry of Defense.
- ❖ Present Clearance from current/ last employer or Unemployment card from Labor office.
- ❖ Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credential, a copy of your National Identity card etc.)
- ❖ Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- ❖ Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- ❖ All application should be sent through the post office.
- ❖ Deadline for application; 05 days from the date of publication on the newspapers

Address: Please mail your application to;
Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD (ESMC)
P.O. Box. 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

Note to None Eritrean applicants:
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

Photographers Corner

Harena Island: Fetching Potable Water



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Alliance Française
Asmara - Eritrea

Wishing a Happy Summer Time, Alliance Française d'Asmara continues its regular French language lessons for children, adolescents and adults. Class begins on the 10th of July. Registration Has begun.

For more information: Tel no 122605 or 115270

Address: Beside Mai Tesfa Elementary School,
Near Arobana Restaurant.



Q and A

Samrawit Fitwi: Founder of Eritrean Model Academy

Mussie Efriem

Isn't it difficult to juggle different kinds of jobs?

They may keep you busy, but I enjoy them all. These are all interrelated professions. What inspires me to engage in all of these professions is that when I am preparing for a 'modeling competition,' I want to put what I envisaged in its entirety on a model -- from her outfit to her makeup. If I let someone else do it, it might not match what I have in mind. That's why I prefer to do it all myself to achieve what I have in my heart. Since I was a child, I have always been fascinated by my mothers' skills, and I was eager to try them all. For instance, I took lessons in hairdressing in regular classes. But I believe the art of design is some sort of a talent that has grown along with me. Since I was a child, I have always wondered how God designed His creatures, and that is where my inspiration comes from. Because I believe everything was designed before it was made. And although I am new to acting, it has always been my dream. To do them all, I try to manage my time as much as I can.

Your main profession now is instructing models. Tell us more about that.

The modeling class is open to all Eritrean designers and models and is run under the auspices of the Eritrean Designers Association. As a designer and model, I am a member of the association. Its goal is to serve as a platform for all Eritrean designers and models who would like to promote the profession nationwide by organizing events, contests, courses, and discussion forums. I've started the modeling class this year.

Considering that there was nothing like it in the country, how did the idea come about?

Traditionally, beauty pageants have focused on judging and ranking the candidates' physical attractiveness. However, competitions have evolved to include criteria for judging personality, intelligence, talent, character, and philanthropic activities, as well as on-stage responses to questions. In the assessment, weight is given to the impact the models can have on society. What matters most today is the quality of the models

Our guest today, Samrawit Fitwi, is a costume designer, hair stylist, makeup artist, model, and actress. She has founded a modeling academy in Eritrea and is currently teaching young models under the auspices of the Eritrean Designers Association.

as a whole rather than their external appearance because external beauty fades away after a few years, while internal beauty will not be taken away from you and will remain as long as you are alive. The qualities that are sought in a model include what she knows about her culture and how she represents it, her general knowledge, her academic excellence, and other talents, such as speaking multiple languages. A skill that has the potential to

and developing skills, such as public speaking. In addition to this, I teach choreography of Eritrean ethnic groups in collaboration with experts, and invite psychologists to the class to guide the models, and they are now learning sketching designs. Most importantly, they also learn how to handle themselves as public figures because it is difficult to do that when you suddenly become a celebrity. By the way, I would like to commend the trainees



influence society is often favored.

I've often thought about producing models that could represent our country at international beauty contests. This was the driving force behind my decision to start the modeling academy. I learned an essential lesson after a certain model was sent to an international competition under my supervision, and I realized that we still have a lot of work to do. She won in one category, but there were three more prestigious categories she needed to win. That prompted me to do some more research on international modeling. I believe the models gave more importance to their external looks, and talent was overlooked.

As a coordinator, you must always come up with new ways to present rather than sticking to the old ones. On top of that, culture is something that I pay special attention to because when you send a model to an international competition, you have to realize that she will represent the entire country's image. As an instructor, I constantly encourage and assist my trainees to focus on their academic performance, learning about their culture, learning new languages,

for being extremely attentive and quick learners. They genuinely enjoy it and are all studying culture in their unique ways. The goal is to cultivate great women and models that can serve as role models. In this regard, the National Union of Eritrean Women always supports me.

Why are you inclined more toward the traditional?



Sure, my focus now is on the traditional because it is a characteristic that makes a group of people recognizable in a crowd. People's history and lifestyle are stored within the culture; that is who they are. Each of Eritrea's nine ethnic groups has customs and ways of dressing that reveal our gender, age, status, and situation. For instance, a person in mourning may be identified by the way he or she dresses, and any stranger may treat them according to their particular circumstance.

In general, culture is now taking the most credit for beauty pageants. If you bring to the competition what the audience and judges already know, you contribute nothing. Hosts of international beauty pageant events prefer women who truly represent their society and cultural

heritage. Therefore, we must seize this opportunity to share our culture with the rest of the world. My ultimate goal is to develop disciplined and influential models that will familiarize our gorgeous and decent traditional garments on a global scale.

Any final thoughts?

All I can say is that since a woman is the cornerstone of her family and the country, she should have a clear vision. Women have a significant impact on society, and when the impact is constructive and transformative, the result is tremendous. To make this a reality, women must constantly educate themselves through reading and by doing research rather than focusing just on their appearance.

