

LONDON INTERNATIONAL OROMO CULTURE & HISTORY WORKSHOP

City University London

7th July 2007

Oromo is one of the oldest nations and the second most populous in Africa. It is estimated that over 30 million Oromos are living in the Horn of Africa today. They inhabit mainly Oromia and some parts of Kenya. The Oromo people have distinctive national identity. They enjoy a rich cultural heritage with common descent, language, history, territory, and also have their own religion, calendar, and a legacy of one of the world's oldest and well-developed democratic forms of governance known as the Gada system.

Due to the Abyssinian colonial system, the Oromo history, language and culture have not only been neglected but also actively discriminated against. Despite the adverse situations the Oromo faced for over a century, there has been a significant progress made by Oromo and other scholars to revitalise the rich and diverse culture of Oromo. As a result, our knowledge about the Oromo people has expanded, notwithstanding that a great deal is yet to be done. Therefore, we feel that it is timely to hold a one-day workshop on Oromo Culture and History in order to stimulate debate and further scholarly studies of the remarkable history and achievements of this ancient people.

The purpose of the workshop is, thus, to illuminate the History of the Oromo Nation and more importantly bring together scholars in Oromo Culture and History and researchers to share their knowledge and expertise with the audience to enhance the knowledge of the Oromos about their cultural heritage and history.

We also believe that the workshop will inspire scholarship in which the nature of Oromo national struggle could be conceptualized in the light of the long history of the nation and, consequently, more successfully tackled than it had been hitherto.

There will also be a poster session that will focus on the history of the Oromo national struggle for independence spanning over the past four decades.

Open Panel Discussion on the prevailing situation of Oromia and around will be held at the end.

The workshop will be of interest to the Oromo Youth, academics and the Oromo Community in particular and those interested in studying the Culture and History of the Oromo nation in general.

Workshop Programme:

9.30am	Registration and Coffee	12.30pm	Lunch
			Chair: Abdulwasi Ahmed
10.00am	Welcome & Introduction Tesema Taye, MD, School of Clinical Medicine, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK	2.00pm	Throwing what is in your hand: The potential of the diaspora communities to 'brain claim' Elfineh Bariso, PhD, Lifelong Learning & E-Learning, AHED, London, UK
10.05am	Keynote Speech Tarfa Dibaba, Oromo Relief Association, Berlin, Germany	2.25pm	Globalization: Does it hinder or support the Oromo national struggle? Bahiru Dhuguma, PhD, Senior Advisor in the International Programmes, University of Maryland, USA
	Chair: Gosaye Fida	2.50pm	Poster Presentation Tewodrose Etafa Sarka, Berlin, Germany
10.20am	The Oromo Theory of History: Some Basic Concepts Aneesa Kassam, PhD, Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, Durham University, UK	3.00pm	Afternoon Refreshments
10.45am	The Nagaa Booranaa: Contemporary Discussions on Ritual & Political Diversity Mario I Aguilar, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, St Andrew's University, Scotland, UK		Chair: Teferi Degneh
11.05am	Morning Refreshments	3.15pm	Effect of flower-farming on environment and health, with special emphasis on Oromia. Girma Gebersenbet, PhD, Professor of Agricultural Engineering, Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Ultuna, Sweden
	Chair: Addise Dheressa	3.50pm	Oromia: Status Quo Temsgen Mul'ata, PhD, Research Associate, Department of Economics, Thames Valley University, London, UK
11.45am	Waaqeffannaa: Reflections on the Socio- Cultural and Historical Roots of Cushitic Monotheism Mekuria Bulcha, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology, Malardalen University, Sweden	4.15pm	Panel Session Mulugeta Mosissa & Tesema Taye
11.15am	The Oromo Population & Its Statistical Estimates: clarity amid distortion? Fayissa Damie, PhD, Consultant in Economics & Statistics, London, UK	4.45pm	Close of Workshop
12.10pm	Oromo Social Movements Bichaka Fayissa, PhD, Professor of Economics, Middle Tennessee State University, USA		You are cordially invited
			Venue: Room U214, City University London, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB
			Bus: 15, 4 & 56 Underground: Angel Station on Northern Line