

Call for Abstracts

‘RE-THINKING DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA’

Background

The Forum for Social Studies (FSS), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the Centre for Development Research (CDR), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, issue a call for abstracts for a book on ‘RE-THINKING DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA’.

Context

In recent years, Ethiopia has made significant advances in expanding education, health and infrastructure services to its people. Official government statistics point to a reduction in poverty levels spurred by increasing pro-growth and pro-poor investment in critical social and economic areas. Despite the gains, however, formidable challenges remain, including pervasive poverty; increasing demographic pressure; a fragile natural resource base, particularly land; and chronic food insecurity that has put the Government in an unenviable position of having to provide food assistance and safety net support to between 13-14 million dependents every year.....the latter a cruel reality even during periods of relatively good agricultural production. It is against this backdrop that FSS and CDR are launching this project for a book on re-thinking development and a critical reflection of Ethiopia’s development experience, including successes and challenges, over the past 20 years or so.

The purpose of the book is to provide insight into ongoing debates among Ethiopian researchers, policy makers, NGOs and international organisations in Ethiopia regarding the country’s development experience over the past two decades. This book will move beyond conventional clichés evolving around food insecurity, environmental degradation, and governance issues that dominate foreign media coverage of the country. It will highlight the development path Ethiopia is taking, and how the country aims at moving beyond aid dependency and current levels of poverty.

The book will be structured as follows:

- 1) Theoretical discussion and critical analysis of the nature of development in Ethiopia (i.e. Think pieces): What has been the nature of development: How has the ‘developmental state’ model performed so far? Any other desirable model for Ethiopia? What has worked and what has not worked and why? What has been achieved so far and what should be the plans for the future etc”
- 2) Research papers on development in Ethiopia, viz. the environment, natural resources management and population changes; land and rural development; agricultural growth and food self-sufficiency; financing urban development; growth in the industrial and service sectors; regional development, etc.. These papers should analyse what changes have taken place, why some things work and others don’t, they should focus on opportunities rather than problem analysis. We are looking for innovative views and approaches, analysis of change processes and new and old ways of *doing development* that lead to change and transformation as well as a re-thinking of development in Ethiopia.
- 3) In addition to the above, contributions on the following are welcome:
 - 3.1. Sober and critical analysis of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP):Strengths and challenges
 - 3.2. Comparative debates on the nature of development in Ethiopia and the experience in the region and elsewhere in Africa.
 - 3.3. The nature and context of the ‘developmental state’ in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Africa.
 - 3.4. Any other pertinent issue on the nature of development in Ethiopia over the past 20 years or so.

Please, indicate which of those sections you are intending to address in your contribution when you submit your abstract.

Please, also note that for this book we are not simply interested in research papers. We wish to see this as an opportunity to reflect rather than an opportunity to publish a conventional research article. It would be helpful if you could substantiate your arguments and reflections with your research experiences. Yet, the book will not consider contributions with e.g. large sets of research data represented in esoteric graphs and tables. The book should be readable for an interdisciplinary audience, including development practitioners and policy makers, and should stimulate fresh thinking and perspectives for debate on development in Ethiopia.

Please, submit abstracts of 500 words maximum to: (1) Dr. Meheret Ayenew, e-mail: fss@ethionet.et or meheretay@yahoo.com; and (2) Ms. Birgit Habermann, Email: Birgit.Habermann@boku.ac.at until 15 June 2011. An editorial board will select paper contributions among the submitted abstracts.

FSS will pay a modest honorarium for accepted contributions.

For information on FSS and CDR, please, visit: www.fssethiopia.org.et; and www.cdr.boku.ac.at