

Press Release

Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) initiatives make use of an integrated approach to improve access to health services, especially family planning and reproductive health, while encouraging communities to manage natural resources and conserve the critical ecosystems on which they depend.

PHE Ethiopia Consortium's (PHE-EC) 8th General Assembly meeting was held in Addis Ababa on March 13 & 14, 2014, at the Harmony Hotel. The meeting brought together about 60 participants from PHE-EC member and partner organizations. The aim of the meeting was to 1) allow for experiencing sharing among a variety of PHE implementers and 2) to discuss the PHE-EC 2013 fiscal year financial and activity performance reports and the 2014 financial and activity plans.

Following a key note address of Mr. Dawud Mume, Director General of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) , His Excellency Mr. Kare Chawicha, State Minister of Ministry of Environment and Forest, gave an opening speech to the audience and opened the meeting officially.

After the opening ceremony, three scientific papers, two masters papers (carbon sequestration potential of the Yere mountain forest and environmental factors and survey tool development for PHE intervention) and one PhD paper (smallholder farmers' vulnerability and perceiving coping and adaptation successfulness), were presented. Wildlife for Sustainable Development (WSD) and Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) then successively presented about their SCIP project implementation being carried out in Awash and Simien Mountains National Parks. In the afternoon, the floor was opened for program presentations about PHE approach. MELCA Ethiopia shared its wonderful experience of SEGNI Environmental Education Club in Dinsho woreda, Bale Zone of Oromia Regional State; a representative of REST gave highlights on PHE programs implementation being carried out in Tigray Regional State; and finally, CCRDA shared its experience on its one year PHE program implementation.

On March 14, the General Assembly business meeting was held. Dr. Yetnayyet Asfaw, country representative for Engender health and PHE Ethiopia board chair, presented the board's report. Activity and financial reports of the year 2013 and PHE-EC 2014 year plan were presented by Mr. Negash Teklu, executive director of PHE-EC. The audit report was presented and endorsed by the General Assembly unanimously. Finally, the meeting was concluded by electing three new board members (Mr. Afework Hailu, executive director of Ethiwet lands and natural resource association, Dr. Agonafer Tekaleng, country coordinator of malaria consortium and Dr. Milion Belay, executive director of Melka Ethiopia) and three General Assembly leaders (Dr. Yetenayyet Asfaw, country representative of Engender Health, Mr. Getalem Kassa, executive director of Hiwot Ethiopai and Dr. Tesfansh Belay, Executive director of passionate for ever association).