

## IN THE NEWS:

### ETHIOPIA TRIPLE HELIX CONFERENCE, ADDIS ABABA, 29TH – 31ST MAY 2006

The conference, hosted by the Ethiopian Triple Helix Association (ETHA) and its President, Dr. Mohammed Duri, in the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, was opened by H.E. Mr. Girma Welde Giogis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the presence of the Ambassador of Sweden to Ethiopia, H.E. Staffan Tillander, the Ethiopian Minister of Education, H.E. Dr. Sintayehu Woldemichael, numerous dignitaries, international and local presenters and participants representing the country's government, academic and industry sectors.

ETHA co-organised the event with substantial input from IKED (the International Organization for Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development, based in Malmö, Sweden) and significant support from organizations such as Sida (the Swedish International Development Agency), GTZ (the German Technical Cooperation organisation), ECA (the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa), World Bank and Midroc Ethiopia, to name a few.

The two-and-a-half day event was a platform for many presentations and ensuing discussion-sessions on the theme of effective development of cooperation between government, universities and industry to further economic development in the country.

IKED's President, Thomas Andersson, presented IKED's background paper on the Ethiopian economy and provided food for thought about the country's future development needs.

Henry Etzkowitz, Business School, Newcastle University, who is largely responsible for having inspired and launched the Triple Helix concept, was on hand throughout to intermediate in the discussions with international colleagues presenting cases from such diverse origins as Brazil, Cameroon, Israel, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, United Kingdom, Zambia, to provide examples of how cooperation had worked in these environments.

Representatives from Ethiopian universities and private sector were active in displaying their work, presenting a wide range of examples of cooperation between Academia and industry (including agriculture) to improve effectiveness of knowledge transfer to the economy.

The enthusiastic closing session, recognizing that the country stands to benefit greatly from accrued effective Triple Helix interaction supported the motion of holding a workshop within the coming six months in order to further explore and define how the concept should be implemented in Ethiopia.



Source: IKED