



March 17, 2007

Canadian Communities of Ethiopian origin forged a partnership to strive for the development of their native country of Ethiopia.



On March 17, 2007 Gursum and Harari natives Community Organizations living in Toronto Canada forged a partnership to assist in educational and environmental development to alleviate poverty of their native country South Eastern region of Ethiopia, Hararghe region and Gursum Weredas in particular.

Gursum community V.P Meftuh Shash during his presentation seeking to forge the partnership with the Harari Heritage Center said "Gursum Community calls upon HHC to share its vision that could help our nation where currently may need us to strive to fight poverty and marching towards the development effort of our native country collectively. Considering education as the basics for one society's productivity and the country's development, as a community we should join along side the government and its citizens in fighting poverty and pursue the development endeavors.

Our two organizations have been working together in various venues and these will not only strengthen our relations, but also help in achieving success to our goals for sustainable development in our native regions of Ethiopia".

Further more Meftuh Shahs addressed the committee how to help Canada's environment and said "currently as ordinary Canadian citizens we play a major role in protecting our environment, using the recycling programs in place, such as compost food, recycle plastic, bottles, cans, clothing, paper and so on to minimize disposals to the land field. Here we can play similar and a better role not only by reducing reusable ELECTRONICAL waste from the land field but also we will take them to a place where they can be reused and mostly needed for educational advancement and the country's development. Having said that, we will continue in our effort of awareness campaign in reforestation of the degraded environment of eastern region of Ethiopia"

Harari Heritage Center President Miss Amal Mohammed on her part said "This is a step in the right direction and our community would support such an important mission to help the needy schools in our native country since education is the base for development and forging the partnership is an ideal for strengthening our effort and achieving our goal."

Former HCO's President Mr. Surour Mohammed on his part said " Our children in Canada are very fortunate having access to up to date school systems, ample access to materials and the latest advancing computing technology to meet the expectations of today's society in one of the richest country in the world. Having said that my visit to back home and touring various schools and speaking to local authorities brought to my attention the dire need of basic necessities and a mission such as this, helping schools and libraries with materials such as books and computers will help students to become more productive and effective member of their community."

In conclusion both communities signed a partnership agreement and soon to form a taskforce to study the feasibility of the proposed project and to prepare the implementation process within the next three months. It is projected that by July 2008 this mission will be completed and several schools and libraries in Hararghe region and Gursum Wereda may benefit access to various books and computers.

The community leaders also applaud to the idea of carrying one book for every Ethiopian Diaspora traveling to Ethiopia and donate to a library or school. This is being said they urge all Ethiopians those who will participate in 2007 Millennium celebrations to carry one book with them. We encourage children traveling with their parents to carry each one children book.

END

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