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CHICAGO CELEBRATES ETHIOPIA'S NEW MILLENNIUM

Ethiopian Embassy, Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA), Chicago's Ad-hoc Ethiopian Millennium Committee and Timothy Project/Ethiopia Sponsor a Symposium and a Town Hall Meeting

CHICAGO, September 6, 2007 — Chicago's Ad-hoc Ethiopian Millennium Committee, composed of members of the Ethiopian Diaspora and American friends of Ethiopia, will be holding two public forums—one in English, the other in Amharic—in celebration of the Third Ethiopian Millennium. The events will be held on Friday, September 28, 2007 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, September 29, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The events will take place at LUMA, 820 North Michigan Avenue, and Loyola University Chicago's Crown Center, just south of 1025 West Loyola Avenue, respectively.

The forum in English, on September 28, will feature His Excellency **Samuel Assefa, Ph.D.**, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the United States, and two other distinguished guests—**Dr. Ephraim Isaac**, Director of the Institute of Semitic Studies, Princeton University, and **Dr. Sandra Joireman**, Wheaton College, Illinois. On September 29, Ambassador Samuel Assefa and Dr. Ephraim Isaac will address members of the Ethiopian community in Amharic. Both events are free and open to public.

In addition, *Painting Ethiopia*—an exhibition of paintings by Qes Adamu Tesfaw on display at the Loyola University Museum of Art until November 4, 2007—and other events arranged to celebrate the millennium provide unique opportunities for all Chicagoans to learn more about Ethiopia's rich history and culture.

In Ethiopia and throughout the world, Ethiopians have been engaged in numerous festive and educational events arranged for the celebration of the Third Ethiopian Millennium, which began officially on "Enqutatash Day" (Ethiopian New Year's Day), September 12, 2007.

"We have the good fortune of witnessing this special moment in Ethiopia's history, even from a distant land. With that comes the responsibility of echoing the positive aspirations of the Ethiopian people for a bright future in the New Millennium," said Hayelom Ayele, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs for the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, who is a member of the Chicago Ad-hoc Ethiopian Millennium Committee.

"These events provide additional opportunities for Chicagoans and area wide Ethiopian Americans to gain a broad perspective on Ethiopia's past, present and future. It also enables Chicago to join the Ethiopian people from afar in celebrating this once in a thousand year joyous occasion," remarked Samuel Assefa, Director of Policy for the City of Chicago Department of Planning, also a member of the Chicago Ad-hoc Ethiopian Millennium Committee.

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Schedule of Events

Event: **Ethiopia: *Its Past, Present, and Prospects for the Future***
(Panel Discussion: in English)

Date/Time: Friday, September 28, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Loyola University Museum of Art
820 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Presenters: H.E. Samuel Assefa, Ph.D., Ethiopia's Ambassador to the United States
Dr. Ephraim Isaac, Director of the Institute of Semitic Studies, Princeton University
Dr. Sandra Joireman, Wheaton College, Illinois

Event: **Ethiopia: *Her Past, Present, and Prospects for the Future***
(A Town Hall meeting in Amharic)

Date/Time: Saturday, September 29, 9:00 – 11:30 A.M

Location: Loyola University Chicago, Crown Center, just south of 1025 West Loyola Avenue

Presenters: H.E. Samuel Assefa, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the US
Dr. Ephraim Isaac, Director of the Institute of Semitic Studies, Princeton University

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