“Rethinking Academic Freedom in East African Universities”
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21st-23rd October 2008
Venue: The Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Participants’ Bios

John Akker
John Akker is Executive Secretary of the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics, a UK-based organisation that aims to help university teachers and investigators of any country who, on the grounds of religion, political opinion, or race are unable to carry out their work in their home country. He was General Secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education from 1994-1997 and Deputy General Secretary of the Association of University Teachers from 1976-1994. In addition to his role as CARA Executive Secretary, he is Director of the Network for Education and Academic Rights (NEAR) and sits as a Board-member on both the Refugee Council and the Immigration & Advisory Service.

Bashiru Ally
Bashiru Ally is a lecturer in the department of Political Science at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua
Dr. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua, is a senior lecturer at the faculty of law, University of Ghana, Legon. Dr. Appiagyei-Atua obtained his Doctor of Civil Law degree in International Human Rights Law from McGill University and did a postdoctoral fellowship with the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway. He worked with the National Judicial Institute of Canada as Senior Advisor, International programs. His areas of interest and specialization are in human rights (particularly in relation to development, constitutional law, minority rights and gender); and post-conflict, transitional justice, peace-building and reconciliation. Dr. Appiagyei-Atua has done consultancy work in the above areas with organizations such as the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Institute for Democratic Governance as Lead Researcher on behalf of the Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP) in the area of Justice Sector and the Rule of Law, and numerous NGOs in Africa, Canada and Ireland.

Nizam Assaf
Dr Nizam Assaf holds a Ph.D in political science from The Academy of Social Sciences in Bulgaria. He is Founder and Director of the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) as well as President of the Arab Society for Academic Freedom (ASAF) and the Election Network in the Arab World (ENAR), both of which were established by the initiative of ACHRS. The ACHRS seeks to promote human rights in Jordan and the Arab region by bringing together university students, lawyers, public officials, journalists and civil society representatives for training, conferences and other activities focused on human rights education and civil society.

Taye Assefa
Dr Taye Assefa joined FSS as Program and Publications Director in mid December 2005. He has a wide range of experience, coming with a background of working in different capacities for national and regional, academic and research institutions as well as development NGOs. He was an Associate Professor at Addis Ababa University, where he taught Language and Literature for about fourteen years. He also worked as the Publications and Documentation Officer of the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), where he was heavily involved in editing the Organization’s scholarly publications. After his brief stay with the Development Policy
Management Forum (DPMF), a regional civil society organization which he served as the Research and Publications Coordinator, Dr Taye joined the Association of African Universities, a continental body based in Accra, Ghana, as Head of the Communications and Services Department. Apart from these academic and research organizations, Dr Taye has also worked as a consultant for a number of NGOs and regional policy-making bodies such as the African Union. Dr Taye has several publications to his credit.

Patience Awopegba
Dr. Patience Awopegba is the Education Specialist Program Officer at the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA). Before joining IICBA in 2007 she worked as a teacher in secondary schools in Nigeria and later on acquiring a PhD, as a trainer in the National Centre for Economic Management and Administration, which was subsequently merged with the Centre for Management Development based on the public sector reforms of the Federal Government of Nigeria. She conducted research and training on topical issues in education/training, human resource development and management as well as issues in national economic management. Her experience in the area of developing the management skills of public and private sector administrators/managers goes beyond a decade. During this period, she had developed in-service training materials through participative workshops, trained teachers and trainers to write and use appropriate teaching/learning materials, mainstreamed gender and population issues into training modules and conducted training on various aspects of national economic management.

Elizabeth Ayalew
Elizabeth is an Assistant Professor at College of Education, Addis Ababa University. She has an MEd. in Information Communication Technology in Education (University of Pretoria and Addis Ababa University -joint), an MA in English Language Teaching (University of Warwick, U.K), Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching International English for Business (London Metropolitan University, U.K) and a BA in Foreign Languages and Literature (Addis Ababa University). Her research interest includes higher education, teacher education, gender and language education, and materials development for language teaching. She was admitted to the IT-PhD program at Addis Ababa University.

Aynalem Asheber
Aynalem is the Program and Administration Director at the Forum for Social Studies.

Mustafa Babiker
Mustafa Babiker is a social anthropologist working with the Development Studies and Research Institute, University of Khartoum, Sudan. Recently, he was seconded to the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman. He has also worked with the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. His research interest is in the field of pastoralism in the Sudan and East Africa. He is also interested in the area of university governance and the relationship between academia and society.

Nidal Mohamed Bakheit
Nidal Mohamed Bakheit is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, University of Juba, Sudan.

Bol Deng Chol
Dr Bol Deng Chol is currently Director of the Centre for Languages and Translation at the University of Juba, Sudan. He holds a Ph.D in Arabic from the same university. He has published numerous papers on higher education issues in the Sudan.
Frederick Gravenir
Professor Frederick Gravenir studied planning and economics of education at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic where he obtained his masters and Ph.D degrees. He has taught in one university in Nigeria as well as in several of the public universities in Kenya. He has been Head of Department, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Head of the Institute of Open Learning where e-learning is being extensively used, Director of the Institute for Research and Development and now Director, University Advancement, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya. Professor Gravenir has accumulated an international reputation as a researcher having participated in several international and local conferences. He has won a number of research and workshop grants and served as consultant to a number of projects funded by international NGO’s. Professor Gravenir is an active participant in the e-learning collaboration project between the University of Arkansas and Kenyatta University. He has published several scholarly papers and contributed chapters to books.

Suleiman Gulaid
Professor Suleiman Gulaid is President of Amoud University, Borama, Somaliland. He was previously Dean at Lafoole College of Education, Somali National University and Commissioner at the National Refugee Commission of Somalia. He has served as a consultant to ECA, UNHCR and the Ethiopian Somali Region on development issues.

Sharon Haba
Sharon Haba has a social science background with orientation in development studies, particularly in rural development innovation. Some of her previous work includes pro-poor ICT studies, governance, community participation mechanisms, gender differences in technology adoption and poverty studies. Sharon holds degrees in Public Administration and Agricultural Development. She also has certificates in International Agriculture and Resource Management, Poverty Diagnostics, Measurement and Analysis, Community-Based Monitoring System and Gender and Poverty, and Academic Quality Assurance. She is currently the Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Social, Political and Administrative Sciences at the National University of Rwanda where she is responsible for academic programs and research coordination. She is also the Deputy Liaison Officer for the Rwandan Chapter of the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA).

Hamed Hawi
Hamed Omer Hawi (Ph.D.) obtained his B. Sc. (Honour), M.Sc. and his Ph.D in Political Science. He was head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Juba, Sudan from 2004 to 2007. He has participated in several international conferences and workshops, and published in the following areas: Politics in the Sudan, Islamic movements in the Middle East and the Sudan, Problems of Development in Africa, problems of Higher Education in Africa and Academic Freedom. His study on Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge(s) in the University Curricular was selected and funded by OSSREA as part of the 20th Social Science Research grant competition for young Scholars. He coordinates The Conference on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy in Post-conflict Sudan 2007 which resulted in the Juba Declaration on: Academic Freedom and University Autonomy. Currently he is working as Assistant professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Juba.

Johnson Ishengoma
Johnson Muchunguzi Ishengoma holds a PhD in Social Foundations of Education with concentrations in Comparative and Global Studies in Education and Higher Education Finance from the State University of New York at Buffalo (USA) and an MA (Ed) and BA (Ed) degrees from the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). Dr. Ishengoma was also a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at Boston University, School of Education in the Department of Administration and Policy (1998-1999) and is also a member of the Boston University Working Group for UNESCO on the Right to Education in Africa. He is currently a Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam in the Faculty of Education,
Department of Educational Planning and Administration where he teaches Human Resource Development in Educational Organizations; Management of Education and School Administration; Policy, Planning and Administration; Quality Assurance and Control in Education and Approaches to Educational Planning at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Roisin Joyce
Roisin Joyce is Development Manager at the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics, a charity that provides support to persecuted academics in the UK and abroad. She previously worked as Programme Officer at the same organisation, managing their domestic grant programme. Prior to that, she held posts at the Rory Peck Trust and in the Human Rights department of People in Need, Czech Republic, with specific focus on post-Soviet states.

Consolata Kabonesa
Consolata Kabonesa is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University. Dr. Kabonesa teaches a wide range of courses that focus on human rights, peace and conflict transformation from a gender perspective; gender focused research methodology, theoretical perspectives on women and gender, and gender and social representation. She has over ten years of experience as a gender analyst and researcher, gender trainer, and facilitator in areas of gender, land, health, employment and human rights. Areas of research interest include women and human rights and employment rights for women, gender and health particularly HIV/AIDS, gender and land tenure systems in Uganda and their effects on women’s productivity. She attained a Ph.D. in Human and Community Development with a minor in Gender Roles in International Development (multidisciplinary studies in Social Sciences), and MS in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA; MA in English and American Literature and Higher Diploma in Education from University College Dublin, Ireland; and BA in Liberal Arts from Stonehill College, Massachusetts, USA.

Ng’wanza Kamata
Ng’wanza Kamata is Lecturer at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

A.B.K. Kasozi
A.B.K. Kasozi is Executive Director of Uganda’s National Council for Higher Education. He holds a BA in History and PGD from Makerere University, Uganda, and a PhD from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He has taught at Makerere University, the Islamic University in Uganda, the University of Khartoum and a number of universities in Canada. In 2007/8, he got a Fulbright New Century award and was, from September to December a visiting scholar/professor at Columbia University’s Teachers College, New York. He is the author of University Education in Uganda: Opportunities and Challenges for Reform of Higher Education (Fountain Publishers, Kampala, 2003); The Social Origins of Violence in Uganda, 1964-85 (Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queens University Press, 1994), The Crisis of Secondary School Education in Uganda, 1960-70, (Kampala: Longman, 1979); The Spread of Islam in Uganda; (Kampala: Oxford University Press, 1979), The Life of Prince Badru Kakungulu (Progressive Publishers, Kampala, 1996) and several articles.

Gueorgui Kassianov
Gueorgui Kassianov graduated from Kyiv State Pedagogical University (1978) with a Doctor of Sciences (History) in 1993. He is Head of Department of Contemporary History and Politics at the Institute of Ukrainian History, National Academy of Sciences since 2003; Professor of History at the National University 'Kyiv Mohyla Academy' since 2002; Head of the National Expert Commission on textbooks on History since 2006. He is author and co-author of 14 monographs on modern Ukrainian history, theories of nationalism, comparative history of Central-Eastern Europe. Since 2000, he has
held the position of Education Programs Director at the International Renaissance Foundation where he leads a project on higher education, projects on the Bologna process and university autonomy.

Muga K’Olale
Muga K’Olale has been a Political and Social Philosophy Lecturer at Egerton University, Kenya, since 1992. He is also the Presidential appointee to the Economic and Social Council of Kenya (an Economic and Social Policy Advisory Body to the Kenya Government). He serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of The Productivity Centre of Kenya and is National Secretary General and Chief Executive of the Universities’ Academic Staff Union (UASU). Vice Chairman of the Philosophical Association of Kenya (PAK). He has worked for the Ministry of Higher Education, Kenya, and was a Political Prisoner from 1982 – 1987. He was named the Best African Journalist of the Year in 1995. He is also National Secretary General and Chief Executive of the Universities’ Academic Staff Union (UASU), 2005 – 2008.

Jose Mathai
Jose Mathai is a Professor in the Department of Economics at the National University of Rwanda.

Paschal Mihyo
Paschal Mihyo is Executive Director of OSSREA.

Jim Miller
Jim Miller is the Executive Director of the Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF), a program administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). Based in New York City, with offices in Washington D.C., Jordan, and Cairo, the SRF provides fellowship support and safe haven to persecuted scholars and fosters academic freedom around the world. For 8 years before the start of his work with SRF in 2007, Jim held the position of Executive Director at the IIE sponsored graduate school/undergraduate study abroad institution in Florence, Italy –Studio Art Centers International (SACI). Prior to his association with international education, Jim was the President/CEO of two major global textile design and manufacturing businesses. In 1997, as a private project, he helped to establish the Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program of the Medhen Social Center located in Addis Ababa, and continues to engage with this program as its primary funder and fundraiser. Today the center serves 596 children through family centered and community based support and services. In addition to founding the Orphan and Vulnerable Children program, Jim has independently established a U.S. non-profit 501(c) 3 named the Medhen Orphan Relief Effort (M.O.R.E.) that raises awareness and funds for the OVC program. He is the President of the Board of Directors.

Akim Mturi
Akim Mturi is Deputy Executive Director of OSSREA.

Elijah Dickens Mushemeza
Dr. Elijah Dickens Mushemeza is an Associate Professor of Development Studies and Dean Faculty of Business and Development Studies at Bishop Stuart University, Mbarara, Uganda. He is also a Consultant on conflict, security and development issues in the Great Lakes region of Africa. He has also done research and consultancy on financing Education in Uganda. He was previously a Coordinator of M.A in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University. He has taught at Mbarara University of Science and Technology and is an External Examiner at Kampala International University. Associate Professor Mushemeza is a past alternate Executive Committee member of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

Deborah Naatujuna
Deborah Naatujuna is currently a Program Coordinator of the CCNA (Cisco certified Network Associate) course at faculty of Computing and Information Technology, Makerere University. Cisco Networking Academy Program is a comprehensive E-learning and internationally recognized program that provides students with the Internet technology skills essential in a global economy. She holds a Master’s degree (Master of Science in Computer Science-Distinction) from Makerere University, has covered several computational courses at a masters’ level and while doing professional training including Project Management. In 2003 she received her Bachelor of Science with education in Mathematics and Physics from Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda. In 2005, presented a research paper on business process modelling entitled; An E-commerce Framework for improving business processes in Corporate organizations’, in Makerere University, Uganda.

Sinead O’Gorman
Sinead O’Gorman is the Deputy Director of Scholars at Risk, heading up SAR's international training and partnerships. Prior to joining SAR, Ms. O’Gorman served as Program Officer at the Institute of International Education (IIE) and held program and research positions at the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) in London and at the Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) in Dublin. She holds an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics, an MA in French from the Université de Montréal and a BA in English and French from Trinity College Dublin.

Oludare Ogunlana
Oludare Ogunlana is Secretary-General of the All-Africa Students Union, (AASU) which is the representative coordinating body of students unions on the African continent. He studied Science Laboratory Technology at University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 1996, and is currently pursuing another degree program in Homeland Security/Criminal Justice at University of Maryland, United States of America. Oludare Ogunlana is a long time student activist from Nigeria with strong commitment to the rights of students and human rights. Currently he is a member of the UNESCO panel of senior expert on HIV/AIDS and sits on the follow-up committee of the UNESCO world Conference on Higher Education. As a member of the United Nations International youth Experts group in New York, he has chaired many international meetings and has given presentations on academic freedom, migration issues, democracy and autonomy of higher education across the globe.

Saida Othman
Saïda Yahya-Othman teaches English linguistics at the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics at the University of Dar es Salaam. Her research is primarily in the areas of Kiswahili pragmatics, critical discourse analysis and language politics. Her most recent publications are Women Writing Africa, published by the Feminist Press, which she co-edited with scholars from Tanzania, Malawi and Kenya, and Justice, Rights and Worship: Religion and Politics in Tanzania, also co-edited. She was a member of the drafting committee for the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Academic Freedom and Social Responsibility, and was in the executive of UDASA for many years. For the last 2 years she has been Director of Research and Publications.

Robert Quinn
Robert Quinn is the founding Director of the Scholars at Risk Network, and the former founding Executive Director of the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund. Mr. Quinn is an adjunct professor of law at Fordham Law School teaching courses in international human rights and US legal systems. Mr. Quinn received his A.B. cum laude from Princeton in 1988, and his J.D. cum laude from Fordham in 1994.

Gerard Rwagasana
Rwagasana Gerard is Director of the Center for Instructional Technology of the National University of Rwanda (NUR) and President of the NUR academic staff. He has served as a lecturer in physics at
the University of Burundi at Bujumbura, the Institut Superieur d'Agronomie de Kolo at Niamey-Niger and the Universite Marien Ngouabi at Brazzaville, Congo. He has a Masters in ICT in Education from Strasbourg University, a Doctoral Studies in Physics' Didactics from the Russian Friendship University and a MSc. in Physics from the Russian Friendship University.

Ousmane Sene
Professor Sene has been teaching African and African American literature at the University Cheikh Anta Diop for 25 years and has chaired the department for 10 years. He is also a visiting professor in US universities teaching African literature and civilisation. He is the current President of the Senegalese State Alumni Association, grouping former Senegalese scholars of the US Department of State scholarship programs such as the Fulbright Program. Professor Sene is also the current Director of the West African Research Center (Warc) in Dakar. Warc promotes research and scholarship in and on West Africa by hosting foreign researchers and scholars doing research on and in West Africa, organising a number of international gatherings such as workshops, conferences and seminars on issues relating to West Africa and offering fellowships and travel grants to West African junior scholars. Professor Sene is also the Director of the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program for Senegal.

Jalal Deen Tayeb
Jalal Deen Tayeb is a Professor of Geography at the University of Khartoum, Sudan. He serves as President of the National Civic Forum and sits on the Executive Committee of the governing board of the Arab Association for Academic Freedom (ASAF). Dr Tayeb is a member of the University of Khartoum Academic Staff Trade Union, the Social Watch (Sudan), the Sudanese Anti-Globalization Association and the Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society.

Jonathan Travis
Jonathan Travis is the Programme Officer at NEAR and is responsible for coordinating all NEAR activities including the Action Alert Programme, event organisation and research. Prior to joining NEAR, Jonathan served as a Programme Assistant for CARA and was a Research Assistant at the John Smith Memorial Trust. Jonathan has also spent two years teaching in Tanzania and Russia. He holds an MA in International Studies from the University of Leeds and a BA in History.

Violet Wawire
Dr Violet K. Wawire is a lecturer in the department of Educational Foundations, Kenyatta University, Kenya, where she teaches sociology of Education. Her past research interests include, quality and relevance of early childhood education. Currently her focus is on equity and access issues in higher Education where she has co-authored a book on private and public higher education in Kenya. On going projects include a CODESRIA sponsored study on cross border higher education in Kenya as well as one on participation of students with disabilities in university education under the Africa higher Education Collaborative (AHEC) programme.

Bahru Zewde
Bahru Zewde is Emeritus Professor of History at Addis Ababa University. He has authored several books and articles, most notably A History of Modern Ethiopia 1855-1991 (Second Edition) and Pioneers of Change in Ethiopia: The Reformist Intellectuals of the Early Twentieth Century. His edited books include: Ethiopia: The Challenge of Democracy from Below (with Siegfried Pausewang) and Between the Jaws of Hyenas: A Diplomatic History of Ethiopia 1876-1896 (by Richard Caulk). He has served as Chair of the Department of History at Addis Ababa University (1982-1986) and Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at the same University (1993-1996). He is currently the Executive Director of the FSS, Member of the Board of Trustees of Trust Africa and Editor of the Africa Review of Books.