

Ethiopian Development Research Roundtable

July 1-2, 2003
Hilton Hotel
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

*Organized by:
Ethiopian Development Research Institute
and
World Bank*

Tuesday, July 1, 2003

8:30 – 9:00am Opening: Review of Roundtable Goals

- ❖ Ato Newai Gebraeb, Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister and Director of the Ethiopia Development Research Institute
- ❖ Ishac Diwan, Country Director for Ethiopia and Sudan, World Bank

9:00 – 10:30am Panel Discussion: Resolving Policy Debates

Topics:

- The roles of knowledge and ideology
- How to draw implications from research for public action?

Chair: Anthony Barclay, Program Officer, African Capacity Building Foundation

Speakers:

- ❖ Paul Collier, Director, Development Research Group, United Kingdom
- ❖ Andreas Esheté, President, Addis Ababa University

10:30 – 10:45am Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:45pm Debate 1: Is the Agricultural Development Led Industrialization Model (ADLI) the Way to Go?

Topics:

- Is agriculture the necessary way forward or is it “a dead horse”?
- What are the various facets of the ADLI debate?
- Yields in agriculture and the experience with the extension program.
- More broadly, what is the role of agriculture in a development strategy adapted to Ethiopia’s needs.

Chair/Commentator: Paul Collier, Director, Development Research Group, UK

Debaters:

- ❖ Eleni Gebre-Medhin, International Food Policy Research Institute
- ❖ Erik Korsgren, Swedish International Development Agency

Commentators:

- ❖ Demese Chayalew, Unity University College, Addis Abeba

12:45 – 1:45pm Lunch

1:45 – 3:45pm Debate 2: Land Tenure

Topics:

- Characterization of the current land tenure system
- Understanding farmer's perceptions and behavior
- Constitutional guarantee to land: how valuable is the ultimate safety net in practice?
- Impact of the current system on land fragmentation

Chair/Commentator: Mwangi Kimenyi, Director, Kenya Institute for Policy Research and Analysis

Debaters:

- ❖ Dessalegn Rahmato, Manager, Forum for Social Studies
- ❖ Gebru Marsha, Addis Abeba University

Commentator:

- ❖ Berhanu Nega, Director, Ethiopian Economists Association

3:45 – 4:00pm Coffee Break

**4:00 – 6:00pm Debate 3: Why is productive private investment so low?
Bad policies or the environment?**

Topics:

- Impact of policies and uncertainty on the investment climate.
- How private incentives are affected by the environment and functioning of markets.
- The case for and against infant industry protection.
- Determinants of competitiveness: liberalization/competition policies vs. pro-active policies.

Chair/Commentator: Mike Obadan, Director-General, National Center for Economic Management and Administration, Nigeria

Debaters:

- ❖ Ermyas Amelga, Executive Director, Apex Bottling Company
- ❖ Ageba Gebrehiwot, Addis Ababa University

Commentator:

- ❖ Govinda Rao, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, India

Wednesday, July 2, 2003

8:30 – 10:30am Debate 4: What Kind of Financial Sector? Macro Stability vs. Financial Dynamism and Growth

Topics:

- Costs and benefits of macro-stability and of closed and open financial systems.
- Connections between macro stability and closed financial system (is it possible to have a liberalized banking system and a closed capital account?)

- ❖ **Chair/Commentator:** Chalongphob Sussangkarn, President, Thailand Development Research Institute

Debaters:

- ❖ Alexandre Kyei, International Monetary Fund, Ethiopia
- ❖ Newai Gebreab, Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister and Director of the Ethiopia Development Research Institute

Commentator: Ishac Diwan, Country Director for Ethiopia, World Bank

10:30 – 10:45am Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:45pm Debate 5: The Decentralization Bet: Will decentralization lead to more effective development, or is it a costly lure?

Topics:

- The politics of decentralization: inequality at the center vs. at the local level.
- Comparing the advantages (local knowledge, management, accountability) and costs (low capacity, returns to scale of public services, ability to implement national goals) of decentralized systems.
- Fiscal implications and risks.

Chair/Commentator: H. R. Amani , Executive Director, Economic and Social Research Foundation, Tanzania

Debaters:

- ❖ Andreas Esheté, President, Addis Ababa University
- ❖ Yosef Girmay, Columnist, Fortune

Commentators:

- ❖ Mwangi Kimenyi, Director, Kenya Institute for Policy Research and Analysis

12:45 – 2:00pm Lunch

2:00 – 3:45pm Panel Discussion: Dealing With High Risk: Should risk reduction be the main goal, or is risk management (sharing, insurance) the answer?

- ❖ **Chair:** Govinda Rao, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, India

Panelists:

- ❖ Peter Hazell, Director, Development Strategy and Governance, International Food Policy Research Institute
- ❖ Luc Christiansen, Economist, World Bank
- ❖ Ato Adunia, Ministry of Agriculture

3:45 – 4:00pm Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:00pm Summing up: Defining the future research agenda

Chair: Paul Collier, Director, Development Research Group (UK)

Presentations by the chairs of the various groups