

Community Work and Life Center (CWLC) of Addis Ababa University
Progress Report
July 28, 2006

Job Fair

The first Job Fair in the history of Addis Ababa University was carried out on Monday May 8, 2006. The staff of the Community Work and Life Center and the Dean of Students in collaboration with the advisory board organized a one day program. A visiting team from the US came to Ethiopia to support and participate in the program.

A total of 15 organizations (local and international organizations) and more than 1,500 students from different departments in the Social Science Faculty took part in the job fair.

The main objective of the job fair was to orient students and expose them to the world of work by creating linkage to the employing organizations. The objective of the job fair does not include to securing jobs for the students. It is believed it would greatly contribute to student's awareness on the work environment as well as give them an opportunity to create contact which will assist them during job searching.

In general even if it is the first of its kind and had faced challenges, it was a success. Some of the challenges

- Miss match between employers and students expectation
- Misunderstanding of organizations about the purpose of the Job Fair
- Loose support from partners
- Lack of experience in organizing Job Fair

NB. 200 questionnaires were distributed to students to get their feedback and to evaluate the program. A detailed report is being done by the first year GSSW students who volunteered to work in the CWLC.

DIF Proposal

The DIF proposal is almost at the final stage. Ato Mulugeta Nehazhi from The Dean of Students has worked on it and gave it to Dr Abiy Tasses to fill some of the formats.

Individual and group counseling

20 students who report to the center for various (career and life skill) reasons have been provided with counseling service. Moreover, the center assisted a student who comes up with innovative idea to organize life talk show program in the culture center for students of the campus. Accordingly, 22 life skill talk show programs have been launched on weekly bases at the cultural center. The discussion topics have been selected by the center staff. Besides, the talk show program director and facilitator have been trained and assisted by the center staff to facilitate the talk show program.

Job opportunity

An organization named Glocal-Forum has contacted the center to collect student CV for two job opportunities. The center collected the eligible applicant CV and submitted to the organization.

The center staff approached a local NGO named Ethiopian Youth Connection Foundation to facilitate summer Job opportunities for graduating students. Accordingly 160 students reported to the center and 44 students are assigned to different organization to work for 3 months as an intern.

ICT

The ICT and Documentation unit has carried out the following activities

- Organizing and facilitating career related skill training on interviewing, resume
- writing, cover letter, and networking was done by the ICT section. The training was given by a resource person from Talent Search Ethiopia, a private firm engaged in

connecting employers with career seekers. Second phase training was also conducted on the same topics mentioned above by MeL Wilson, a volunteer from Chicago.

- Promoting, facilitating and organizing of the Center's first annual job fair, on May 8, 2006, is also handled by the ICT section. On the job fair many organizations from government, non-government and private sectors have participated. The announcement of the job fair to all nine campus of Addis Ababa University was done by the ICT section of the center. E-mail contacts with the invited employers was also handled by the center's ICT section to confirm the time of the job fair and to clarify some questions posed by the employers.

- Video Filming of the job fair was done by the ICT section of the center. The center has also planned to produce a 20 minutes documentary film about the center. Recently invoices for studio rental are collected and they are being evaluated. Script writing and selecting usable footages from previous collection are being done by the ICT section.

Budget Report

Addis Ababa University Finance Office is working on the budget and are in the process of reporting. We hope to get the report soon.