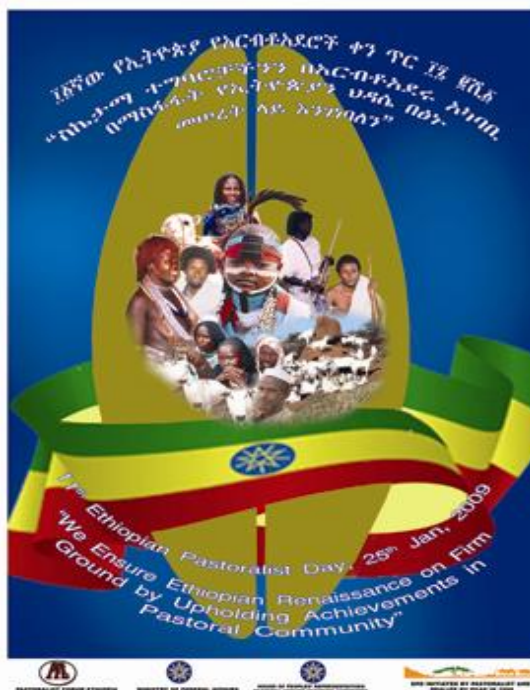




THE GLORIES OF ETHIOPIAN PASTORALIST DAY



Background

The Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) is a common platform for pastoralist and partners to converge their collective voice, to build pastoral solidarity, to share best experiences, culture, living customs and environment among pastoralists and partners from different regions of the country.

EPD has been celebrated annually since the year 1999. The idea of celebrating the Ethiopian Pastoralists' Day was first initiated in 1996, during the conference that had been organized by the Pastoralist Concern Association Ethiopia (PCAE) in Filtu, a town in Libon zone of Somali region. This inspiration of the pastoralist elders had been recognized and taken up by PCAE which is one of the members of Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia.

The date of celebrating EPD was fixed to be January 25, this is mainly because the month January is an ideal time of drought, and the celebrants could have a good opportunity to understand the core problems of the pastoral community.

EPD was first celebrated on January 25, 1999, and for the past 10 years it has been celebrated every year. The first three EPD celebrations (1999 and 2000 in Filtu, in 2001 at Jijiga) were organized by PCAE.

The 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th were celebrated in Afar, SNNP and Oromiya and in Diredawa regions respectively while the 8th, 9th and 10th EPD were celebrated in Addis Ababa and Oromiya regional state (Adama)

The recent three Ethiopian Pastoralist Days (7th, 8th, 9th & 10th) were organized jointly by Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE), and FDRE House of Peoples representatives Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee (PASC).

Participants of the event

The participants of EPD are Pastoralists drawn from different parts of the country, Federal and regional government officials, CSOs, Donors, embassies, academicians, researchers, universities and others invited from outside Ethiopia.



Fig. 1. Celebrating solidarity and unity in diversity (10th EPD)

**Outcome of the ten years (1999-2008)
Commemoration of Ethiopian Pastoralist Day**

In the span of one decade, the celebration of EPD as a platform has passed through different processes. It started simple and localized and becomes complex and expanded to a national level. The ten years impact assessment has underlined to the role of the EPD in assuring recognition of the pastoralists food security, good governance and sustainable resource management. Moreover, some of the impacts as extracted from the assessment are mentioned as follow:

a) Common platform for learning between pastoralists

- * Unity and inspiration
- * Self confidence/ reliance
- * Develop spirit of competition and devotions
- * Conflict resolution
- * Diffusion of local innovations
- * Addressing needs and priorities

b) Increase the profile/ awareness /recognition of pastoralism

- * Awareness creation on viability of pastoralism
- * Intensification of transparency and participation
- * Development of local institutions
- * Rationalities of indigenous knowledge
- * Conservations of cultural practices
- * Institutionalization of EPD at federal and regional level

c) Creation of enabling environment for pastoral development

- * Development of networking among different stakeholders



Fig. 2. Pastoral elders passionately blessing the ceremony and passing key messages

- * Spring boarded for interdisciplinary approaches
- * Gender sensitivity
- * Stimulation of partnership
- * Delivering livelihood options
- * Intensification of development
- * Establishment of pastoral affiliated organizations at different levels
- * Innovative awarding system
- * Develop participatory monitoring and evaluation
- * Creation of activist forums (pastoralist, media)



Fig. 3. H.E Ato Meles Zenawi Awarding development hero Pastoralist

Driving forces for the success of EPDs

- * Enabling government policy and government commitment
- * Strong partnership among different stakeholders (community, government, NGOs, Donors)
- * Innovative and flexible advocacy approach of PFE at different levels

Government acknowledgements of the knowledge gap on pastoralism are an enabling policy environment for research support decision making in the pastoral areas.



THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 10th EPD

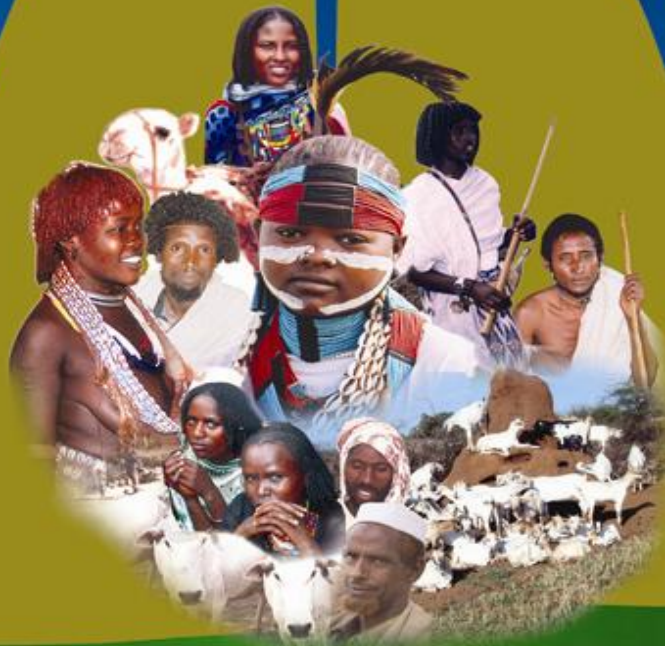
1. We strongly ask the federal government, pastoral regional governments and other partners work with more commitment on improving pastoral development and achieving the MDGs
2. As we have been repeatedly requesting in the past EPD's resolutions, we shall ask for the Government for clearly defined land use and administration policy to be developed for pastoral areas
3. Recognition of those already established and those to be stabilized Pastoral Councils
4. We shall request our Government to Promote infrastructure development, social service delivery, good governance and conflict management intervention ensuring the participation and involvement of pastoral communities.
5. Improving budget allocation for pastoral areas taking into account the age-old marginalization, backwardness and complexity of pastoral problems
6. The existing grant program being implemented in pastoral region should be in line with the pastoral lifestyle, and focus on the existing key and multi-dimensional pastoral problems
7. Continuing the existing government effort towards expansion of small-scale irrigation development to improve source of income of the pastoral communities
8. Promoting and strengthening research and extension on livestock development
9. Strengthening and continuing the existing government special support for pastoral areas
10. We urge Ministry of Federal Affairs should take a lead in the facilitation of the upcoming EPDs

EPD MOTTOES DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

1. Recognition of Pastoralism as a Viable Way of Life and Mode of Production System. 1st EPD, 1999, Filtu, Somali region
2. Pastoralist Oriented Development Interventions, 2nd EPD, 2000, Filtu, Somali region
3. Food Security for Pastoralists. 3rd EPD, 2001, Jijiga, Somali region
4. Poverty Reduction Strategy and Pastoral Development. 4th EPD, Dubti, 2002, Afar region
5. Pastoralism and Sustainable Development. 5th EPD, 2003, Turmi, SNNP region
6. Land use Rights for Sustainable Pastoral Development. 6th EPD, 2004, Yabello, Oromia region
7. Good Governance for Sustainable Pastoral Development. 7th EPD, 2005, Dire Dawa
8. Good Governance for Pastoral Development and Poverty Eradication. 8th EPD, 2006, Addis Ababa
9. More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoralist Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium. 9th EPD, 2007, Addis Ababa
10. More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoralist Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium. 10th EPD, 2008, Adama/Nazereth, Oromia



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 መሠረት ላይ እንገነባለን”



77th Ethiopian Pastoralist Day, 25th Jan, 2009
 “We Ensure Ethiopian Renaissance on Firm
 Ground by Upholding Achievements in
 Pastoral Community”



PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA



MINISTRY OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS



HOUSE OF PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES
 PASTORAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE



EPD INITIATED BY PASTORALIST AND
 REALIZE BY PCAE IN 1999

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