

2007 OSA Annual Conference Schedule

The University of Minnesota
Coffman Memorial Union
Great Hall

Saturday, July 28, 2007

9:00 AM **Registration**

9:30 Welcome: OSA President

Welcome: University of Minnesota

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| Religious Leaders | Ceremony and Blessing |
| Oromo Student Union | Recognitions |

10:10 AM

Keynote Speakers

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| Obbo Zegeye Asfaw A Letter from Obbo | OSA Keynote Speaker |
| Dirribi Demissie Bokku | |
| | Macaa-Tulama Association (M.T.A.) President |

11:00 AM

Panel 1: The Human Rights Situation in Ethiopia

Chair: Prof. Seifudein Adem

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| Dr. Trevor Trueman | The Human Rights Record of the Ethiopian Government: An American Import |
| Obbo Firehiwot Samuel | Human Rights Violations by the Ethiopian Government: The Inquiry Commission Report |
| Obbo Obang Metho | The Anuake Human Rights Violations |

11:45 PM

Panel 2: Discourse on Oromo Music by Oromo Musicians

Chair: Prof. Asfaw Beyene

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| Obbo Ali Birra | Oromo Music: Voice of Oromo Identity and Nationalism |
| Adde Elfinesh Qanno | The Challenges and Roles of Oromo Artists in Diaspora |
| Obbo Qamar Yusuf | Role of Oromo Music in Construction of Oromo Identity and Nationalism |

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch, on Site

1:30 PM

Panel 3: Forming and Building the State in the 21st Century Oromia

Chair: Dr. Beyan H. Asoba

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| Prof. Asafa Jalata | Applying Gada Principles to Form and Build the State in the 21 st Century Oromia |
| Prof. Guluma Gemada | Oromo State Formations in Historical Perspective |
| Prof. Ezekiel Gebissa | Political Transitions and Common Fallacies in the Debate on Oromo Liberation |
| Rev. Harwood D. Schaffer | Agricultural/Economic Policy for a New State in the Horn of Africa |

2:30 PM

Panel 4: The Constants of Ethiopian Rulers: Repression, Human Rights Abuse and Poverty

Chair: Dr. Melaku Mekonnen

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| Dr. Mohamed Mukhtar Hussein | Who Owns the Ethiopian Nation-State? Understanding the Ethiopian –Somali Ogaden Conflict |
| Adde Fowsia Abdulkadir | The Impact of a Century Long Human Rights Abuses on the People of Ogaden |
| Prof. Mohammed Hassen | Brutality: The Art of Governing in Ethiopia |

3:15 PM

Panel 5: The Oromo Women: The Complex Nature of Oromo Women Struggle

Chair: Adde Dune Silga

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| Obbo Zegeye Asfaw | Economic Empowerment and Human Rights Education of Women in Oromia |
| Adde Zeituna Kalil | The Cultural Oppression of Oromo Women in the Society |
| Adde Bangu Qaweti Letu | Siiqqee: An Oromo Women Empowerment Tool |

4:00 PM

Panel 6: Second Edition on Oromo Democracy and The Quarterly Burqaa Magazine

Chair: Prof. Asafa Jalata

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| Prof. Asmarom Legesse | Oromo Democracy: Publication of the Second Full Edition and Follow up; My Visit to the Oromo Immigrant Community in "East Leigh, Nairobi"; My Dialogues with Arsi Elders, and My First Ever Field Trip to Tana River Orma |
| Obbo Darara Matti | Deemsa Guddina og Barruu Afaan Oromoo Keessatti Gahee Maxxansa Burqaa. |

4:35 PM

Panel 7a: Challenges and Opportunities for the Oromo People's Quest for Self-Determination

Chair: Dr. Sentayehu D. Bedane

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| Dr. Alemayehu Biru | Can Democracy Deliver a Comprehensive Solution to the Complex Problems of the Ethiopia Empire? |
| Obbo Leenco Lata | The Emergence and Consolidation of Electoral Authoritarianism in Ethiopia. |
| Prof. Asfaw Beyene | The Oromo Struggle: What next? A Synopsis of Challenges and Opportunities |

5:20 PM

7b: Challenges and Opportunities for the Oromo People's Quest for Self-Determination

Chair: Prof. Gobena Huluka

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| Dr. Negasso Gidada | Invoking the Right to Self-Determination in Ethiopia; Relevant or Taboo? The Oromo Quest to Self-Determination |
| Obbo Mesfin Namarra | Trends and Prospects of Voicing Oromo Issues in Parliament |
| Prof. Marara Gudina | The Ethiopian State, Electoral Politics and Oromo People's Quest for Democracy |

6:15 End of Saturday schedule

OSA Business Meeting, Members Only Go The Mississippi Hall

The Mississippi Hall

Saturday, July 28, 2007

1:15 PM

Panel 8: The State of Health in Oromia

Chair: Dr. Gudata Hinika

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| Dr. Ibrahim Elemo | The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Oromiya |
| Dr. Begna Dugassa | Collective Rights and Public Health: The Case of Oromia. |
| Obbo Kadiro Elemo | The Role of Customary Law in the Prevention of HIV/AIDS with Special Emphasis to the Boorana Gadaa System |

2:00 PM

Panel 9: The Oromo Youth (The Qubee Generation): Challenges and Opportunities

Chair – Adde Arfasse Gemedo

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| Obbo Jawar Mohamed | The Origins and Challenges of Regional and Religious Divide Within the Oromo Nation: Possible Solutions for the New Generation |
| Gadab Foundation | Empowerment through Education: Building the Future of the Oromo Nation |
| Adde Gelane Gamechisa | A Youth Perspective on the Struggle to Define Oromummaa in the 21st Century: Exploring Internal and External Identity Issues Facing Oromo Youth in Diaspora |
| Obbo Damee Ormaa | Oromo Youth in Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities |

3:00 PM

Panel 10: The Question of Oromo Self-Determination

Chair: Prof. Ezekiel Gebissa

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| Dr. Bahiru Duguma | Trends and the Dynamics of Oromo Struggle: Impacts of the First on the Latter |
| Obbo Darara Gubo | Self-Determination Rights in Ethiopia: The Case of Oromia |
| Obbo Daba S. Gedafa | Some of the Challenges and Solutions for Oromo's Self-Determination in 21 ST Century |
| Prof. Tsega Etefa | Pan-Oromo Confederations in the Seventeenth Century: A Legacy? |

4:00 PM End

Please go to Coffman Memorial Great Hall

**Coffman Memorial Union
Great Hall**

Sunday, July 29, 2007

10:00 AM

Panel 11: Strengthening the Core Components of Oromo National Movement

Chair: Dr. Bonnie Holcomb

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| Prof. Addisu Tolessa | Organizational Models for Oromo National Movement: Lessons from the Past for Present Realities |
| Obbo Dima Noggo | Leadership in National Liberation Struggle: The Oromo Experience |
| Obbo Lube Biru | The Importance of Unity and Tolerance for Oromo National Movement |
| Obbo Kebede Feda | Family Size and Children's School Attendance in Rural Oromia |

10:45 AM

Panel 12: Sustainability and Natural Resources

Chair: Dr. Alemayehu Biru

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| Obbo Mohamed Adilo | Invasion of Borana Rangelands by Woody Perennials: Climate Change or Institutional Constructs? |
| Dr. Tolessa Deksisia and Obbo Bula Atomssa | Deforestation is Putting Fresh Water Resource at Risk in Oromia |
| Obbo Mohamed Bedri | A Grassroots Oromo Organization: Activities of Saphalo Foundation in Kenya |
| Obbo Zegeye Asfaw | The March 5, 1975, Land Proclamation and Its Impact: A Historical Retrospective |

Lunch, on site 12:00 -1:00 PM

1:00 PM

Panel 13: Gada: An Indigenous African Democracy

Chair: Dr. Asmerom Legesse

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| Obbo Rundassa Eshete | Evaluating the Gadaa System and Compare It to Other Social Organizations Around the World |
| Obbo Aman Qamsare | The Past, the Present and the Future of Gadaa |
| Obbo Daba S. Gedafa | Comparison of Oromo's Gada System with Maasai's Age-set System |
| Obbo Lube Biru | Oromoo Gadaa System: Unacknowledged Indigenous African Socio-Political Democracy |

2:00 PM

Panel 14: What Clicks to the Oromo Youth?

Chair: Obbo Jawar Mohamed

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| Obbo Beka Jalata | Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela: Lessons for Oromo Struggle for National Liberation |
| Adde Kulani Jalata | Oromo Nationalist Heroes |
| Oromo Youth (TN) | Regional and Religious Divide within the Oromo Nation: Facts or Myths? |
| Gadab Foundation | Empowerment through Education: Building the Future of the Oromo Nation |

3:00 PM

3:30 Closing Presentation by Adde Bangu Letu

4:00 End OSA Business Meeting, Members Only Go The Mississippi Hall

The Mississippi Hall
Sunday July 29, 2007

1:00 PM

Panel 15: Discourses on Ethiopian Political Changes

Chair – Dr. Mesfin Abdi

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|--------------------|---|
| Dr. Teka Obsa Fogi | Oromo Identity and the Christian Faith |
| Obbo Apee Jobi | Some Thoughts on the Narrative of Modern Ethiopian Nationalists |
| Prof. Sisay Asefa | Peace, Democracy and Progress in Ethiopia |

1:45 PM

Panel 16: Education as Basis for Development of Oromia

Chair: Prof. Addisu Tolessa

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|---------------------|---|
| Obbo Dinku Deyasa | The Status and Role of Private Higher Education in Oromia |
| Obbo Kebede Hordofa | Preliminaries to Oromo Dialectology: Towards Sub-classification |

2:30 PM

Panel 17: Entrepreneurship and Business Potentials for the Oromos

Chair: Prof. Mosisa Aga

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| Obbo Amsalu Bultosa | Oromia Business Environments and Its Prospects |
| Obbo Samuel Gamtessa | Playing for the Best Bet in the Non-Cooperative World: Some Lessons from the Theory of Games of Strategy |
| Obbo Mike Abebe | Entrepreneur and Business Potential of Oromos in Diaspora |
| Obbo Desta Galgalu | Connecting Immigrants to the Financial System of USA: The Case of Oromo Immigrants |

3:30 PM End

Go to Coffman Memorial Union Great Hall

4:00 PM OSA Business Meeting, Members Only