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Oromo Studies Association

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1. Message from the president

I hope all OSA members and friends of OSA are enjoying the 2010 New Year so far. For the Oromo people the year started with a bumpy road. First it was the land grab issues by the so called foreign investors. Then, the news of some individuals surrendering to the enemy surfaced. Right now the issue of the 2010 election in Ethiopia is becoming a very hot topic. Despite of all these obstacles, let us hope the Oromo people will move forward towards the goal of self determination in the near future.

OSA has moved one step forward and digitalized the OSA membership form. From now on OSA active members, former members and new members could go to OSA web site and renew their memberships or become a new member on line. The strength of an organization is measured by the number of members it has. Please join OSA and make it a viable organization.

OSA is approaching its mid year conference, and would like to encourage OSA Members and friends of OSA to plan and attend on April 3, 2010 in MN. The annual conference will be in Washington D.C. on July 31, 2010, and August 1, 2010. All are invited to attend OSA conferences.

Thanks

Haile Hirpa, PhD
OSA President

2. OSA Membership

This message is to announce to you that OSA has finally digitalized OSA Membership page on OSA website. OSA membership is open to all Oromos and friends of the Oromo people. Please visit OSA web-site and renew your membership online or become a new member. You can also renew your membership by mailing, the old way. You can pay your OSA membership by Paypal, by Visa, by Mastercard, by American Express or by Discover card. Open OSA web-site and click on membership. Then follow the direction on the membership window. (Please go to <http://oromostudies.org/> and the membership page with online pay option can be found at <http://oromostudies.org/Membership.html>) Please pass this information to all friends so that OSA membership can reach all who are stakeholders in OSA through out the world. If you have any questions, please contact the OSA President at hhirpa@gmail.com or at (502) 819-4107.

So far the following individuals have used the online option and renewed their memberships or have become new members. These individuals are from all over the world and from all walks of life, professionals, senior citizens and students included. Their names are as follows: Haile Hirpa, Haile Qerenso, Trevor Trueman, Peri Klemm, Bonnie Holcomb, Gobena Huluka, Mesfin Abdi, Guluma Gameda, Asafa Jalata, Zeituna Kelil, Assefa Kuru, Jemal Gishe, Ibssa Ahmed, Admasu Tucho, Gudaye Tasissa, and Jawar Mohammed.

I am betting to announce hundreds of names next month. I am counting on you to renew your membership or become a new member and make my wish become true.

3. 2010 OSA Mid-Year

OSA is delighted to invite you to the 2010 OSA Mid-Year Conference that will be held on April 3rd, 2010, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at University of Minnesota, Hoffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Avenue, SE, 55455.

The theme of the Conference is "Oromo Unity and the Roles of Oromo Religions in Building Oromumma." Oromo scholars, Oromo religions leaders, religion scholars, and other OSA friends are cordially invited to present scholarly papers at this Conference. All Oromos and Oromo friends are invited to attend.

This year the Oromo struggle for self determination is at a very crucial stage because of the world economic crisis. The political and social situations in the entire world is changing. In Ethiopia the opposition groups are trying to forge unity to challenge the Meles Government at the May 2010 election. The current Tigrean minority regime

of Meles Zenawi has declared the Oromo movement as illegal and its number one enemy. Oromos are persecuted just for being Oromos, regardless of their religion, place of birth, level of education, social status or world outlook. Meles has officially declared that being an Oromo is a justified reason to be harassed, tortured, jailed, killed, or evicted. To overcome the war being waged against the Oromo people, Oromo political leaders, Oromo religious leaders and Oromo scholars have to come together and build Oromumma. Oromumma is the pillar of Oromo unity. Leaders of Oromo religions have to create alliance and march their followers to Oromo unity, which is the only way to victory. To survive, Oromos have to develop tolerance for each other and build self respect. Then, Oromumma will flourish and Oromo enemies will vanish over night. Political organizations and political leaders have to recognize the roles that religious leaders have played in the past and how they could shape the future.

The Mid-Year Conference will focus on issues that will help in building Oromo unity and Oromumma. OSA will address the roles that Oromo religions could play in building Oromumma, the issues of 2010 election in Ethiopia and the current Oromo eviction or land grab issues that is going on in Oromia.

The Executive Committee of OSA fully recognizes that issues related to religion are controversial. Our intention is not to bring up controversial issues to the floor of OSA but to discuss its role in building Oromo unity and Oromumma. The issue of Oromo Unity is the place to begin in solving the major problems that the Oromo nation is facing. Only a united nation can move forward in resolving the multifaceted problems. The Mid-Year Conference will have one session in the morning and a second session in the afternoon. The morning session will focus on Oromo Unity and Oromumma including the role of Oromo religions in developing Oromumma, whereas, in the afternoon, we will focus on the issues of the so called 2010 Ethiopian election and its implications for the Oromo and the land grab issues.

Please submit the sub title of your paper and a one paragraph summary of your article to OSA President at hhirpa@gmail.com before February 28, 2010.

4. 2010 OSA Annual Conference

Conference date: July 31 - August 1, 2010

Conference Place: Howard University Campus, Washington D.C

Theme: “Oromia and East Africa in the 21st Century: Rethinking the Urgency of Paradigm Shift for Democracy, Human Rights and Social Injustice in the Age of Intensified Globalization.”

5. Progress on Oromo Professional Teams

OSA has been engaged in organizing different Oromo Professionals and friends of the Oromo people in their respective disciplines. So far eight teams have been initiated.

1. The Environmental Team
2. The Healthcare Team
3. The Qubee Team
4. The Agricultural And Food Stability Team
5. The Economic Team
6. The Journal Team
7. The Leadership Team
8. The Education Team

So far the Environmental Team and the Healthcare Team have at least met once to outline the team's objectives and future strategies. The remaining teams are planning to meet soon.

6. Invitation to submit published articles to OSA

If you have a published article or articles, OSA would be happy to post it on OSA web site. Please forward your article or articles to OSA President at hirpa@gmail.com .