

EPSNA Virtual Summer School 2023: Fostering Academic Excellence and Collaboration Across Ethiopian Universities

August 27, 2023

Dear EPSNA Community,

We are thrilled to share with you the remarkable achievements and moments that defined the Ethiopian Physics Society in North America (EPSNA) Virtual Summer School 2023. With great joy and pride, we recap the journey of this transformative event that united minds, transcended borders, and ignited the flame of knowledge.

President's Opening Speech: A Celebration of Unity and Learning

The opening ceremony set the tone for the EPSNA Virtual Summer School, as the President of EPSNA, Prof. Daniel Erenso, welcomed participants, distinguished scientists, and members of the academic community. In his inspiring speech, Prof. Erenso highlighted the significance of the event, emphasizing the power of education and scientific exploration to shape a better future. He introduced the history of EPSNA and its endeavors to advance STEM education in Ethiopia. The President encouraged participants to embrace the opportunity to learn, exchange ideas, and collaborate across disciplines and continents.

Highlights of EPSNA Activities: A Commitment to Excellence

The President acknowledged EPSNA's commitment to academic excellence through financial prizes and mentorship programs. He also mentioned EPSNA's initiatives, including promoting Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) and recognizing distinguished scientists in Ethiopia. A book and computer drive for schools in need demonstrated EPSNA's dedication to fostering education.

Participant Universities: A Global Exchange of Knowledge

The EPSNA Virtual Summer School brought together a diverse group of participants from various Ethiopian universities, as well as partnering institutions in the United States. With the collaboration of six Ethiopian universities and EPSNA, the virtual event was organized in six centers across Ethiopia. Each center facilitated enriching interactions, discussions, and presentations that enriched the participants' understanding of cutting-edge research.

Success Stories from Center Universities:

Mekelle University: Center of Northern Cluster Ethiopian Universities In collaboration with EPS and center state universities in Ethiopia, EPSNA orchestrated a virtual summer school that transcended geographical barriers and united students and staff members from across the nation. Mekelle University (MU) proudly hosted participants from Mekelle University, Adigrat University, Axum University, and Raya University, with a total of 59 graduate students and senior staff members participating.



Participant at Mekelle University center



MU academic vice president, Dr. Abdelkadir Kedir, handing certificates to the participants.

The objectives of this initiative were multi-faceted, aiming to motivate students and educators to resume their academic activities after the challenging period of conflict, provide insights into cutting-edge research, encourage pursuit of graduate studies, and foster collaboration with institutions and professionals in North America. The summer school achieved all this and more, offering a psychological boost to participants, showcasing current research trends in physics and mathematics, and emphasizing the crucial role of these fields in modern life.

Jimma University: Center of Western Cluster Ethiopian Universities: 33 participants from 10 western universities have participated in the school, where the head of Jimma University Physics department has been the coordinator of the center. The participants include undergraduate students, postgraduate students and physics staff members. Jimma University's president, Dr. Jemal Abafita has delivered a closing remark to the school at the center and handed over certificate for the participants.



Participants at Jimma University center.



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Addis Ababa University: Center of Central Cluster Ethiopian Universities: With over 60 participants from 15 Ethiopian universities, the event brought together undergraduate, graduate students, and faculty staff members to the AAU center. The diversity and quality of presentations, along with interactions with enthusiastic attendees, emphasized the summer school's significance in nurturing competent physicists and stimulating local-global research collaborations.



Participants at Addis Ababa University center.



Prof. Tileye Feyissa, dean of the college of natural and computational sciences, handing certificates to the participants at the AAU center.

Haramaya University: Center of Eastern Cluster Ethiopian Universities: more than 26 participants attended Haramaya University center from Haramaya, Oda Bultum, Dire Dawa, Jigjiga, and Kebridehar universities.



Participants at Haramaya University Center.

Closing Remarks and Gratitude: A Unity of Effort

The President's closing speech expressed deep gratitude to all contributors, including distinguished scientists, EPSNA executive committee members, physics department chairs, academic vice presidents, sponsors (American Physical Society, and Cruise School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), and EPSNA dedicated members. Their collective efforts and commitment made the summer school a resounding success.

As we reflect on the journey of the EPSNA Virtual Summer School 2023, we celebrate the power of collaboration, learning, and unity. It is through such events that we advance the pursuit of knowledge and contribute to the growth of science and education in Ethiopia and beyond.

For more details and updates, please visit the EPSNA website at <https://www.epsna.org/>. Stay connected with us on the EPS-EPSNA WhatsApp Community.

With warm regards,

The EPSNA Team