

# **A Report on the OSSREA 11<sup>th</sup> Congress**

*Theme*  
***OSSREA's Responses to Africa's Challenges of  
Change***

**9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> December 2013, Dessalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



**Organisation for Social Science Research in  
Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)**



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OSSREA acknowledges the support of Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida), Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD), and Danish Development Agency (DANIDA).

Published 2014

Printed in Ethiopia

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## **Acronyms**

ADB	African Development Bank
ADEA	Association for the Development of Education in Africa
ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ANC	African National Congress
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
ARV	Anti-Retroviral
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDF	Community Development Fund
EATUC	East African Trade Union Congress
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HE	Higher Education
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NHS	National Health Survey
NORHED	Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development
OSSREA	Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
USD	United States Dollar
WUAs	Water Use Associations

**Report on the OSSREA 11<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**“OSSREA’s Responses to Africa’s Challenges of Change”**  
**9<sup>th</sup>–10 December, 2013, Dessalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa**

**1. Introduction**

This report is based on a conference held from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in Dessalegn Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the theme “OSSREA’s Responses to Africa’s Challenges of Change.” In the two day conference attended by various researchers, notable professors from different countries of the African Continent, partner organizations (e.g. representative government Institutions, donor organizations) and invited scholars (see Appendix 1), over 40 policy briefs were presented, discussed and debated. Prior to the presentation and the discussion of the policy briefs, in the plenary session, welcoming remarks by the President of OSSREA and Opening Speech by the State Minister of Education of Ethiopia were made. That was followed by goodwill messages conveyed by representatives of various partner organisations and by reports of the OSSREA Secretariat.

This report has attempted to include the gist of the two day conference and it has been organized into two major sections: 1) *Plenary Sessions* and 2) *Policy Briefs: Presentations, Debates and Discussions*. Provided in the first section are summaries of the opening remarks/speeches, goodwill messages conveyed by partnering/donor organizations, and reports of the OSSREA secretariat. In the second section titled “Policy Briefs: Presentations, Debates and Discussions,” summaries of the policy debates have been included. Since the policy briefs were presented in eight sub-themes (Funding Higher Education; ARV, HIV & Gender; Climate Change; Land Deals; Social Protection & PhD Training; Public Sector and Urban Unemployment; State Fragility; and Water Resource Management), the report has organized the policy debates and discussions along these sub-themes.

**2. Plenary Session: Opening Remarks/Speeches, Goodwill Messages and OSSREA Secretariat Report**

In the plenary session, higher officials of OSSREA, representatives of a number of partnering organizations, non-government organizations and higher institutes of education collaborating with OSSREA, in one way or another have made speeches with regard to the conference theme as well as the contributions made by OSSREA to the development of the continent and knowledge creation in particular. Representing OSSREA, Prof. Habtamu Wondimu, the President of OSSREA, and Prof. Pascal B Mihyo, the Executive Director of OSSREA, delivered speeches, while Dr. Paulos Chanie, the Director of Research and Dr. Abiye Daniel, the Publications

and Dissemination Director and the Master of Ceremony for the event, made presentations.



**Prof. Habtamu Wondimu, the President of OSSREA, welcomes the Congress participants and Guests of Honour**

## **2.1. Gist of the Welcoming and Opening Speech**

### **2.1.1. Welcoming Speech by Prof. Habtamu Wondimu, President of OSSREA**

After welcoming participants and the guest of honor, Dr. Kaba Urgesa, the State Minister of Education of Ethiopia, Prof. Habtamu expressed appreciation to different partners for supporting OSSREA in many ways. The president in particular acknowledged the support given by Addis Ababa University (which has been hosting OSSREA since its formation in the year 1980) as well as the Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish development agencies in Ethiopia, who have been funding OSSREA. Other development partners that received the President's recognition for their support included African Development Bank, African Capacity Building Foundation, NEPAD, NORHED, ADEA (just to mention some of them), which gathered to celebrate the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of OSSREA and attend its 11<sup>th</sup> Congress. Having recounted the initial objectives of OSSREA, Prof. Habtamu underscored that the present Congress was expected to contribute a lot to narrowing down the gaps between policy makers, implementers and researchers through availing well researched evidence. Prof. Habtamu has also outlined OSSREA's many contributions to the development of the

African continent in various spheres, over the last 33 years. In that regard, the president shared the news that OSSREA has recently been selected as one of the best think-tanks in eight categories globally and in the African continent and he reiterated all those success stories are the outcomes of the joint effort of OSSREA and its many partners.

### ***2.1.2. Opening Speech by H.E. Dr. Kaba Urgessa, State Minister of Education of the FDRE***

After welcoming the participants, Dr. Kaba congratulated OSSREA for celebrating its 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary and for staying in operation for that long. And he attributed OSSREA's success over the years to: the consistency of support it enjoys from development partners, its dynamic researchers, its chapters at country levels, and, most importantly, its visionary leadership from its executive committee and its management team. Acknowledging the various contributions of OSSREA in terms of research, capacity building, and assisting universities found in many African countries including Ethiopia in advancing their graduate studies, the State Minister affirmed that the government of Ethiopia continued supporting the Organization. The guest of honor also lauded OSSREA's strength in policy synthesis and analyses that were apparent from the books launched during the conference. Underscoring that education, agriculture, industry, and trade as key drivers of change, Dr. Kaba called for OSSREA to generate more policy inputs on these areas and beyond.



**The State Minister of Education, FDRE, Dr. Kaba Urgessa, delivers opening speech**



**Partial view of the participants attending the Congress**

## **2.2. Messages Conveyed by Representatives of Partner Organizations in Brief**

During the plenary sessions, representatives of some 13 partner institutions conveyed goodwill messages to the Congress. The institutes were represented by:

- Ambassador Dr. Samuel Assefa, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF);
- Madam Nina Sokoine, East African Court of Justice;
- Madam Caroline Khamati Mugalla, East African Trade Union Congress (EATUC);
- Madam Alice Sena Lamptey, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA);
- Mr. Daniel Osiemo, NEPAD (KENYA);
- Dr. Morrison Rwakakamba, President's Office, Government of Uganda;
- Dr. Admasu Tsegaye, President of the Addis Ababa University (he was represented by Dr. Gebre Yintso);
- Professor Mohammed Salih, University of Rotterdam, the Netherlands;
- Professor Edward Kirumira, the Nile Basin Research Project (WASO) and Makerere University;
- Dr. Munzoul Assal, NORHED Project and University of Khartoum;
- Ms. Hannak Tsadik, Life and Peace Institute;

- Dr. Benedicto Kondowe, Malawi Human Rights Commission; and
- Dr. Steve Kayizzi Mugerwa, African Development Bank (ADB).

As pointed out earlier, a considerable portion of the plenary session was devoted to the conveying of goodwill messages by the partner organizations and institutes. While transmitting their goodwill messages, most of the individuals representing the partner organizations used the forum in four ways:

- a) to express their appreciations to the good work OSSERA has been doing since its establishment in general and to the present conference in particular;
- b) to outline areas of shared concerns/collaborations with OSSREA;
- c) to suggest future endeavors that OSSREA could be more fruitful at; and
- d) to highlight activities carried out and problems encountered by their own institutions.

For obvious reasons, the summaries presented in this report revolve around the first three points. In relation to words of encouragement to what OSSREA is doing, almost all the representatives of the partner organizations lauded its commitment to providing evidence-based policy options (as is the case with the present Congress) to member countries of Africa and beyond in matters pertaining to governance, health, education, climate change, gender issues, and the like. NEPAD's representative, for example, noted that he sees OSSREA as a leading organization making significant contributions by way of developing evidence-based policy options.



**H.E. Ambassador Dr. Samuel Assefa, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), passing goodwill messages**

On another note, OSSREA's pre-occupation with improving the capacity of young scholars and researchers was considered exemplary. Dr. Morrison, the Presidential Advisor from Uganda, was in particular very appreciative of OSSREA's engagement to reach out young scholars—a praise shared by almost all the representatives. Relatedly, the representative of Nile Basin warmly acknowledged the Organization's commitment to improving the quality of graduate studies including PhD programs run by universities of member countries (which many see as key endeavor to Africa's future development). In this regard, some partners recounted the various advanced trainings/workshops on research methodology offered at two levels: a) to students pursuing their graduate studies (PhD students in particular) and to professors offering research methodology courses and advising PhD and Master's students.

In terms of areas of focus shared by OSSREA and partner organizations, the following stood out: HIV/AIDS related studies, gender issues, capacity building (including trainings linked with graduate studies), governance, advocacy work, conflict resolution, climate change, and public policy development. Tasks of building collaborative networks among various partners on shared concerns were also underlined as areas of focus.



**Ms. Hannak Tsadik, Life and Peace Institute, passing goodwill messages to the Congress**

With respect to the future endeavor by OSSREA, almost all the partners recommended that OSSREA keep up the good work it is doing. AAU's representative, for example, stressed that OSSREA should work more aggressively on knowledge production and dissemination. Acknowledging that OSSREA has already become an imminent African research institute working on critical issues (e.g., HIV/AIDS, climate change, gender), the representative of ADB, whose speech could be considered as keynote address of the Conference, urged OSSREA to keep on playing a key role in strengthening the encouraging trends being witnessed in the Continent. The encouraging trends that OSSREA has been urged to promote include: the relative peace evident in the Continent, its economic growth (albeit economic/financial crises facing other continents) and democratization processes that are underway in many of African countries. The representative of NEPAD, on his part, expects to receive some assistance from OSSREA on issues pertaining to monitoring and evaluation.

On the Plenary, six new books by OSSREA were also launched by the State Minister of Education. The titles were:

- PhD Training in Eastern and Southern Africa;
- Thirty Years of Public Service Reform in Eastern and Southern Africa;
- Impacts of Climate Change in Pastoral Areas;
- Informal and Formal Social Protection in Eastern and Southern Africa;
- Insights into Gender Inequality; and
- ARV Treatment Challenges and Prospects



Executive Director of OSSREA, Professor Paschal B. Miho (left) hands the new books to the State Minister of Education, H.E. Dr. Kaba Urgessa (right), for an official launch

### 3. Policy Briefs: Presentations, Debates and Discussions

#### 3.1. ARV, HIV, Gender ( Chair: Ms Alice Lampetey)

##### 3.1.1. Summary of selected policy briefs

Arguing that the introduction of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) has changed HIV/AIDS from being a terminal disease to a chronic one, the first policy brief by Nathan Negussie has basically explored the contexts underlying the sexual behavior of people attending ART in Addis Ababa. On the basis of his findings, the author has forwarded a few policy recommendations that are believed to mitigate problems encountered by ART beneficiaries in particular and for HIV intervention programs in Ethiopia in general. More specifically, the author recommends that: mental health treatment need to be integrated with HIV/AIDS interventions; religious institutions' involvement in HIV intervention should be promoted; early intervention of ART has to be encouraged, and more work has to be done in reducing stigma and discrimination.

Employing a qualitative study, the second policy brief by Namabira & Kamanzi seeks to understand how efforts made “to empower women have led to the patriarchal value system re-arrangements and how such re-arrangements have led to the empowerment of both men and women over the past ten years” over the last 10 years in Tanzania. Generally, the study revealed positive trends: there has been an evolution in expectations about

women from being submissive to being pro-active now; men are changing from being tough to being accommodative; and gender roles are changing by inserting women into the roles played by men and by getting men in the roles that used to be women's. On a negative note, the study indicated that men are becoming lazier and incapable of catching up with the competitive environment women have gotten into. On the basis of their findings, the authors called for a re-organization of the workforce through two general strategies: 1) updating institutional structures and 2) competence- and entrepreneurial-based ongoing education.

On the other hand, the study by Kamanzi ("Women's Responsiveness towards Medical Insurance in Rural Rwanda: The case of 'Mutuelle De Santa'"), as a whole reports good progress in improving health outcomes in Rwanda (e.g., an increase in access to health care through medical insurance; overall women's satisfaction with medical services in public hospitals). In spite of that, the study also reveals that there is a disparity in terms of choice of medical insurance coverage in rural Rwanda, most respondents preferring affordable coverage like Mutuelle de Santé Insurance despite limited coverage. Revealed in the study is also that public hospitals do not acquire the prescribed medicine of some particular ailments like Hypertension, Cancer, diabetes, and asthma. By way of tackling these problems, the study called for: a policy of pooling funds to take care of emerging common diseases like diabetes and cancer; devising strategies of subsidizing specialized medical services to make them affordable for the poor; a substantial increase in the government's budgetary allocation for reproductive health care; training additional nurses and doctors and creating a mechanism of using the available health professionals efficiently as well as establishing rural health facilities within the reach of the population.

### **3.1.2. Presentations and Discussions**

As scheduled, other than one topic whose presenter failed to show up, all the policy briefs scheduled for the session under the sub theme, "ARV, HIV and Gender" were presented. The policy briefs presented include: *Sexual Behavior of People Attending Anti-Retroviral Therapy in Addis Ababa* (by Nathan Negussie); *Determinants of Access to Treatments by AIDS Patients in Uganda* (Joseph W. Matovu) *Food Insecurity, Poverty and HIV/AIDS* (by Ayalew Gebre and Sebseb Belay); *More Strategies Needed to Combat Men "Goal-Keeping"* (by Judith Namabira and Adalbertus Kamanzi); *Vulnerabilities, impacts, and responses to HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa* (by Getnet Tadele); *Monitoring and Evaluations of HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs* (by Helmut Kloos); and *Women's Responsiveness towards Medical Insurance in Rural Rwanda: The case of 'Mutuelle De Santa'* (by Adalbertus F. Kamanzi).

In the session, all but one of the nine scheduled policy briefs was presented. The presentations were followed by discussions which allowed participants to raise questions and give comments. The first presentation was made by

Nathan Negussie on *Sexual Behavior of People Attending Anti-Retroviral Therapy in Addis Ababa*. At the outset, Ms. Alice Lamptey, the Chair, quipped as to how Nathan managed to determine, as she said, such an “evasive” topic as sexual behavior. Related questions were also raised from the audience. For instance, he was asked who the participants in the study were and to what extent the respondents were open and how that has possibly affected the study. The issue of key populations was discussed. The role that religious institutions played in the lives of ART adherents was also raised. He responded that the participants were young men between the age of 25 and 29. He explained that he found his participants to be open probably because they were young. When pressed, he conceded that they may have given him socially desirable answers to sensitive questions.

A couple of participants (Getnet Tadele and Helmut Kloos) argued that key populations vary from country to country and that needs to be related to the situation in the study. Getnet, for instance, pointed out that there is some intertwinement among key populations in that men-to-men groups are having sexual contacts with heterosexuals. In response to the comments made, Nathan stressed the role of religious institutions in reducing discrimination as they are so influential that they can contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS either positively or negatively. In his study, thus, two participants turned to religious institutions seeking positive outcomes which they said they were satisfied with. Getnet also highlighted as a turning point in the argument regarding the use of ART when reluctant beneficiaries were advised by the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to use both ART and holy water to fight the pandemic. The presenter also stressed the fact that in African countries the introduction of ART has resulted in the fall in people’s engagement in risky sexual behaviors. This is in contrast to the trend in western countries where studies show a completely different scenario. Finally, some female participants urged the researcher to conduct the study on women as well.

Unlike the earlier presentation, the policy brief by Joseph W. Matovu policy titled *Determinants of Access to Treatments by AIDS Patients in Uganda* resulted in few questions and comments. The presenter was asked by a participant (Kloos) how age was correlated with accessibility. The presenter responded that age was a factor in treatment accessibility because it would be related to social services. In relation to *Food Insecurity, Poverty and HIV/AIDS* (a paper presented by Ayalew Gebre and Sebseb Belay) participants commented that focusing only on the relationship between food insecurity and HIV/AIDS would have been a better approach in the study. There was also a question on the ‘nexus’ between the three factors emphasized by the presenter. Methodologically speaking, too, the presenter was challenged for arguing that the study was the first of its kind while it used secondary data gathered through the internet from other prior studies in Africa. The presenter contended that much has been said on HIV/AIDS in Africa in other studies. But he held that the studies have not seen the factors in a socio-economic and culture specific manner. A

participant recalled a case conflicting with the findings of the present study in which when economic development falls, the rate of HIV infection falls as well. As an evidence for a trend contradicting the findings of Aylaew, the participant cited the case in Zimbabwe in which the rate of infection declined albeit severe economic crisis.

Other participants also argued that selecting other variables such as size of households, occupation, and amount of food taken might have led to quantifiable results. They hinted that interested researchers may take up the issue for further investigation.

Gender related topics occupied the second part of the day's discussions. Related issues were raised on the three presentations made in this part. The need to rearrange the gender debate was stressed in the discussions. This implied how the term 'gender' is perceived. It was argued that gender is historical, relational and contextual. There should be a change in the existing norms, values and communication. It was contended that the idea and practice of empowering women was creating additional burden to women because women have already much to deal with at home. The idea of engaging men and giving them opportunities was also suggested. It was stated that women are in the "driving seat" while men are lagging behind. It was argued that governments are taking sides with one part of the society – women – and this has its own backlash. On the other hand, the case that women were still overlooked in their representations in African parliaments was highlighted. As an illustration, it was mentioned that out of the 55 constituency representatives in Swaziland only one is occupied by a female, upon hearing which almost all participants shook their heads in sadness. One participant suggested that instead of empowering women it would be better to adopt affirmative action and cited the Kenyan Model as an example.

Adalbertus F. Kamanzi's study received particular admiration from the audience. The study titled *More Strategies Needed to Combat Men "Goal-Keeping"* argued that women are taking the role of providing for men in Tanzania. The study, which showed the switching of roles in this regard, was received well especially by female participants apparently because it showed the trend that women are becoming more capable of doing things that once were men's. Participants noted that many of the findings in the study were reflected in their countries, too. It was argued that people are disliking marriage because men are becoming ineptitude and hence dependent on women for their survival. One female participant even went as far as saying that the word "woman" should be changed, the insinuation of which drew a big laughter from the audience. Finally, the study was described by the Chair as a "good" and "honest" study and she suggested that OSSREA should take its findings to African heads of states. She argued that the study is highly recommendable and should be disseminated by OSSREA. There was, however, some skepticism regarding the study expressed by one participant. He said that the narratives that men were

playing, lying idly or drinking beer while women were working hard to win the bread of their families may have been casual inferences.

On the other hand, Alfred S. Otara's study was met with serious methodological criticisms. In addition to Helmut Kloos's comment that the researcher could have included the issue of HIV/AIDS as one of the health concerns, the Chair expressed her concerns for numerous loopholes in his study. She said that there was no linkage that many generalizations which were not related with the title and objectives were made. As a result, he was urged to "re-interrogate" his study.

As a closing remark, the Chair emphasized the case that some of the studies were criticized for not thorough in their methodological approaches. She reflected on the recurring questions on theoretical and conceptual frameworks that the participants inquired of several of the presenters during the day. She also expressed her optimism that such things are matters of exercise and they will be developed through time as one keeps moving as a researcher. She also said that OSSSREA should be applauded for creating such an opportunity for the enhancement of research culture. Nevertheless, the Chair, too, had her share of criticism when one presenter expressed his dismay that the ten-minute time allocated for the presentations had been too short to present their works and hence it had curbed idea generation and discussion as a whole.

### **3.2. Funding Higher Education ( Chair, Prof. Damtew Tefera)**

#### **3.2.1. Summary of selected policy briefs**

In his study titled "Revenue Diversification and Resource Utilisation Options for Ethiopian Universities in the Face of Declining Public Funding," one of the presenters reported some signs of drive towards diversification of funding sources, in the face of decreasing public funding. Mechanism used to diversify funding sources include: introducing non regular programs (e.g., extension programs, summer programs, distance education) offering consultancy services and short-term trainings, maintenance and /or furniture workshops, as well as farming. Arguing that these funding resources are inadequate and minimal, the author recommended that universities institute demand-driven academic reforms, establish productive industry linkages and they contract/out source non-core activities.

The policy brief by Elysette Randriamahenintsoa titled "Challenges and Opportunities of Higher Education Funding: Policies and Programs in Madagascar" has tried to examine apparent gaps in local and international policies with regard to the challenges faced by some higher education institutions (HEIs) currently undergoing major changes in their structure and curricula in Madagascar. According to the study, like that of their fellow francophone African nations, HEIs in Madagascar were expected to embrace and implement LMD system. Despite well-meaning intentions (e.g., quality assurance, relevance, graduates employability, harmonization

of programs, comparability of degrees), the changes sought could not materialize mainly because public universities were chronically underfunded, understaffed and poorly equipped. Additionally, it was found that key stakeholders, teachers in particular, had neither the ownership of the changes proposed nor the competence that the changes required. Among other things, the author recommended that future reform initiatives should be preceded by proper piloting stage and preparations and that the human dimension of reform initiative like LMD be dealt with (e.g., provision of ample information and sensitization of all the stakeholders, building the capacity of faculty). The author also underscored the need for genuine commitment of the government to the reform agenda in terms of funding, and multiplication of partnerships and collaborative networks with other regional and international institutions or organizations including the World Bank.

Critiquing the current modalities of funding higher education in Tanzania as unsustainable and unrealistic, the study by Johnson Ishengoma sought to analyze the dominant modalities for funding higher education in Tanzania as well as challenges emanating from these modalities and prospects, and propose alternative funding modalities for the achieving higher education financial sustainability. The study reported three dominant funding modalities: cost sharing model, (disguised) full government funding model, external donor support model. In spite of that, the study further revealed that the cost sharing model is not properly being implemented due to "lackadaisical attitude of implementers and political pressure from politicians who uses the policy for political gains." As alternative models of funding modalities, the author recommends five other modalities which he argues are successful elsewhere. The recommended modalities include: the market model, bond issues, higher education specific financing facilities, Diaspora bonds for education, and impact investing.

Duga's policy brief highlights that the higher education financing scenario in terms of what is happening and what needs to be done in Malawi. Among other things, the study indicated important features characterizing Malawi's higher education. More specifically the study showed that Malawi has the highest higher education unit cost as a percentage of GDP per capita in the world, that it has the lowest student tuition fees in the world, that it has one of the lowest higher education enrolments per 100,000 inhabitants in the region, and that it has the lowest student-lecturer ratios in the world of around 11 students to a lecturer. As a possible solution to problems encountered in Malawi, the author argues for a need to rearrange the existing funding mechanisms and a realization that students have to pay for their university education now and in the future.

### ***3.2.2. Presentations and Discussions***

In the afternoon session held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013, a total of seven policy briefs were presented. In the first phase of the session, the following

papers were presented in a row: “Challenges and Opportunities of Higher Education Funding:

Policies and Programs in Madagascar” (by Elysette Randriamahenintsoa); “Revenue Diversification and Resource Utilization in the Ethiopian Universities (by one of the presenters); and “Implications of Alternative Higher Education Financing Policies on Equity and Quality: the Kenyan Experience (by Oanda I. Ogachi). Following the presentations, the Chair opened the floor for questions discussions and participants raised questions and gave comments presenters.

In relation to the first presentation by Ms. Randriamahenintsoa, the following three questions were raised:

- 1) The World Bank has already realized that the current practice funding higher education in Madagascar is not working; so do you think it would be practical once the election is over?
- 2) You recommended that the teacher’ remuneration should be revised i.e. reduce teachers’ salary? Would not that affect quality?
- 3) You seem to be in favor of the World Bank’s policy on higher education funding but World Bank has had conflicting policies on the issue. Which particular policy are you referring to?

Ms. Randriamahenintsoa responded that the recommendation by the World Bank is likely to be implemented once the election is held. She also noted that salary increment, despite its financial implications, is quite important to ensure quality in education.

The Kenyan presenter, on his part, was asked to what extent his recommendation for raising teachers was realistic. While admitting that there could be financial constraints for raising teachers’ salaries, the researcher along the earlier presenter, argued that quality of education depends on the amount of funding allotted to education and the quality of teachers. Additionally, the researcher also added that the financial expenses to be incurred for raising teachers could somehow be offset by increasing the teaching loads of the teachers which is very low and amounting to 125 hours a year.

In the session after the break, four other papers were presented in a stretch. The papers presented were: “Students’ perceptions of financing public universities in Zambia: Toward more sustainable and inclusive policy strategy” (by Gift Masaiti); 2) “Funding Higher Education in Tanzania: Modalities, Challenges, Prospects and a Proposal for New Funding Modalities” (by Johnson Muchunguzi Ishengoma); and 3) “Financing Higher Education in Malawi: Prospects, Challenges, and Opportunities” (by Steven H Dunga). The presentations were then followed by questions and discussions.

Johnson Ishengoma, the presenter from Tanzania, was asked whether or not one of his recommended funding modalities commodifies education like other goods sold and bought. He was also asked if the African Diaspora was large enough to warrant a Diaspora fund that could be used for financing higher education. Ishengoma responded that the African Diaspora from Europe and North America was quite large and they are capable of raising money and that is evidenced from the huge remittance/hard currency channeled to different countries of the Continent.

The researcher from Zimbabwe was asked in what ways universities make sure that students pay back their loans. He responded that universities ensure payment by threatening to withhold students' certificates upon graduation.

### **3.3. Climate Change ( Chair, Ms. Caroline Mugalla)**

#### ***3.3.1. Summary of Selected Policy Briefs***

Bamlaku's study titled "The Impact of Climate Change and Variability on Somali Pastoralist Women of Eastern Ethiopia" reports bleak features in the livelihood of Somali pastoralists resulting from climate changes for which neither the customary nor the modern institutions are capable of handling. According to the research report, negative outcomes of climate changes included: an increase in the scale of poverty and the disruption of families, a rise in the rate of pastoral mobility due to the recurrent drought and the decline of natural resources, a change in their lifestyle including dropping off from pastoral life. With regard to women, the study has showed that they have been more severely impacted by climate changes than their male counterparts mainly because they constitute the poverty stricken section of the society and because of their dependence on natural resources that are deteriorating. It is also reported that they face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity. As policy recommendations, the author suggests that the mobility of livestock as a necessary lifestyle of the pastoralist community should be recognized and their land and resource rights including that of women be protected ; that the pastoralists' needs and interests should be taken into account in adaption plans; that variations in the rangeland and cropland in land tenure systems should be recognized; and that the specific needs of ex-pastoralists in national and regional development strategies need to be acknowledged and addressed.

The policy brief by Admire Mare from Zimbabwe examines how agro-pastoralist communities in Chivi district (who have been on the receiving end of climate change-induced drought and famine for the past couple of years) are coping with climate change and other stressors. The major finding reported in the study is that issues pertaining to agro-pastoralist communities are not sufficiently discussed, addressed and incorporated to policy matters. The author thus recommends that climate change and the agro-pastoral crisis that accompanies it should be given due attention by

different stakeholders (i.e., the government of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Agriculture and Mechanisation, traditional leaders, local government officials, and non-governmental organisations).

Venosa Mushi's policy brief from Tanzania, on its part, assessed how pastoralists in Kilosa District in Morogoro Region adapt to climate change from a gender perspective. Adaptation strategies used by pastoralists include: crop farming, selling of animals, fencing reserve pasture and shifting to new areas. The study, however, notes that women are in difficult position to decide on proper adaptation strategy regarding climate changes because they are marginalized in terms of decision making and ownership of resources. In order to bring about viable strategies of adapting to effects of climate change, the author calls for the need to address the existing gender inequalities in particular and devising of various strategies of mitigating climate change impacts through research findings, advocacy, awareness creation, mobilization and empowerment of the most vulnerable communities and persons like pastoralists and women respectively

### **3.3.2. Presentations and Discussions**

In the session on the sub theme titled "Climate Change" and chaired by Caroline Mugalla on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014, five policy briefs were presented. The first policy briefs presented in a row were: *The Impacts of Climate Change and Variability on Pastoralist Women in Somali Region of Eastern Ethiopia* (by Bamlaku Tadesse); *Gender and Climate Change Adaptation among Agro-Pastoral Communities: Case Study of Chivi District in Southern Zimbabwe* (by Admire Mare); and *Women Pastoralists and Climate change Impacts in Kilosa District, Tanzania* (by Venosa A. Mushi).

Following three presentations, the floor was open for questions and answers. All the presenters were asked if they had policies on climate change (CC) in their respective countries and whether or not those policies were being implemented. Mare responded that in the case of Zimbabwe there is a CC policy but noted that the policy were not being implemented contrary to other policies and national plans in other sectors that were operational. He added that although the policy is there, there is no enabling environment and multi-sectorial approach. Mushi also pointed out that in Tanzania; there is no exclusive CC policy. Instead, the presenter explained, the issue of climate change is addressed indirectly through other policies, such as the livestock policy, and the National Development Plan. For her, even those indirectly related CC issues lacked proper implementation. She suggested that the CC policy should be implemented by local government authorities and that the Tanzanian government should bring down these issues to the bottom and ensures their implementation, for instance, by requesting the local government authorities to prepare a guideline as to how to address the CC issues in a particular area. And for this, she underlines the possibilities for the government to seek help from NGOs and civil society organizations.

Another participant also enquired what the gender mainstreaming guidelines are that Mushi discusses in her studies. The enquirer added that although Mushi has identified the gaps observed on issues of climate change and gender inequality, the ways forward do not clearly come out from her study. Mushi asserted, in response, that her policy recommendations focus on the issues of gender mainstreaming and their incorporation in development plans and policy drafting. Said differently, she recommended that those in charge of policy making should be gender sensitive and should think of the marginalized in devising their policy strategies.

Some participants expressed their concerns about the absence of clear methodological details in the studies presented. The presenters responded that due to time constraints, i.e. 15 minutes for presentation, they were not able to present all the study details; and they said that their studies have incorporated details of research methods, both qualitative and quantitative. One participant suggested on the approaches followed saying that during interviews it may be difficult for the local people to conceptualize or perceive climate change as the study intends to and so they could have been given a sort of comparison so that they can clearly demonstrate the change from their own experiences. Following this comment, another participant enquired about how the researchers conceptualized climate change in devising their research questions and methods. Moreover, he expressed his worries that there are no clear cut policy issues that come out of the studies as such. He added that the studies simply gave participants generic information and they tend to be mere speculative in nature. In support of this view, another participant commented that the necessary background of the studies is missing as a result of which the studies reflect mere global adaptation trends and added that local climate change never confirms with those global trends. Although climate change is a global phenomenon, the participant further explained, Africans need a micro environmental analysis. In light of this, the presenters were asked if they had used empirical evidence to support their claims and if the changes they noticed were in real terms resulted from climate change.

Mare responded to the questions asked above saying that his study targeted 5 regions of Zimbabwe some of which were previously pastoralists and the rest were agro-pastoralists. But now, because of the climate change, every region has turned to be agro-pastoralist. He then asserted that this shows how his study is rooted on the local context (which apparently coincides with global trends) and that the shift in livelihood is a clear indicator of climate change.

Bamlaku also addressed the question of how he conceptualizes CC saying that he has referred to the pastoralists' perception of CC that is a change in rainfall pattern, for example. He also said that the aspects of CC observed in the study area, includes the appearance of prosopis, and deforestation.

The last question was directed to Bamlaku in which he was asked what he meant by deforestation as the studied area is arid and semi-arid and thus the availability of forests are very unlikely. In response to this question, Bamlaku asserted that over 60% of Ethiopia is covered by arid and semi-arid but this does not mean that there is no bush. For instance, there is acacia tree coverage in particular areas of the region the study targeted. And the acacia trees are used for charcoal making and the making of permanent house; due to the restriction of mobility, the pastoralists are now forced to settle by constructing permanent houses out of the acacia trees and that's when the deforestation occurs.

After tea break, two additional policy briefs titled *Challenged Livelihoods as a Result of Water Scarcity among Maasai Women Pastoralists in Kajiado Country, Kenya* (by Beth N. Nijru) and *Traditional Adaptation Mechanisms to Climate Change and Variability among Women Pastoralists in South-west Zimbabwe* (by Matsa Mark) were presented. That was followed by questions and discussions. Beth was critiqued for failing to have enriched her study with some statistics. In line with this suggestion another participant enquired whether or not Beth's recommendations are supported by evidences from her findings. Beth responded saying that what she presented for discussion is the gist of her study and that statistical details are available in her paper. As regards the evidences of her recommendations, she stressed that all the recommendations are made based on the findings of her study. In addition, she said that the Maasai women are doing things which they never did before due to water scarcity resulting from CC. She for instance, stated that, a Massai woman never before went out to sell goods. Nor does she sell meat or milk as a livelihood. But now things have changed, the scarcity of water has necessitated the shifting of livelihoods and roles such as those mentioned above.

Beth was also asked if she had used triangulation to check the validity of her research instruments for which she positively responded saying that she has used observation on top of the qualitative and quantitative methods she has employed in her study.

Another participant asked about the water sources Kenya has and what the Kenyan government is currently doing to alleviate the water scarcity in the country. Beth said that the water sources the country has are not enough to meet the demand. It is also expensive to use water pump as diesel these days is very expensive. She expressed her hope that the concerned officials will seriously consider these and other similar policy briefs in an attempt to change the situation before it gets out of control.

Questions were also forwarded to Mark from participants. A participant pointed out the absence of enough explanation in Mark's presentation concerning traditional adaptation mechanisms and that a number of things beg for explanation in this regard. Similarly, another participant commented that the study should have been organized in such way that it

addresses questions such as, what women used to do to adopt CC once upon a time? What are they doing now? Are the traditional mechanisms traceable? If yes, what're their benefits? If there is a case of rigidity and if they can be mapped out, then that's when they call for policy intervention. Mark was also asked about the significance of his discussion of the role of colonialism in his study. He responded that he discussed the role of colonialism as a background to his research as his research assumes CC as a process. Therefore, as he stated, he relied on the experiences of his key informants who were removed from the preferred areas during the advent of colonialism and this becomes important to understand the traditional adaptation mechanisms this people have been using.

Another participant expressed his concern on Mark's research methodology which looked archival/ historical than of an empirical investigation. Mark responded that because the region where he carried out his study was vast, the study was basically carried out by interviewing elderly people. He however admitted that he has noticed some gaps because of the historical bias that the elderly interviewees have. He also notified participants that another research is coming out which studies two generations by taking rainfall and temperature as research variables and that this new study will address the gaps observed in the study he presented.

Lastly, Mark was asked to explain why he tends to use the terms pastoralists and ago-pastoralists interchangeably while ago-pastoralists are settled communities whose main livelihood is crop farming. In response to this, he stated that in Zimbabwe, the most viable economic activities are rearing cattle, goat and sheep and every other activity stems from that. This people also grow crops which do not require a lot of moisture. So, the 'agro' component is there but it comes out second to the animal rearing.

#### **3.4. Land Deals ( Dr. Morrison Rwakakamba)**

Five presentations were delivered on *Land Deals*. The papers presented were: *Progress and Impacts of Large-Scale Land Transfers in Benishangul Gumuz Region: Evidences from two Districts* (by Dereje Teklemariam); *Nature and Magnitude of Land Acquisitions in Tanzania: Analyzing Role of Different Actors, Key Trends and Drivers in Land Acquisitions* (Mangasini A. Katundu); *International Land Deals and Rural Poverty Reduction in Kisarawe District, Coast Region, Tanzania* (by Samwel J. Kabote); *National and International Actors in the Orchestration of Large Scale Land Deals in Zimbabwe: What's in it for Smaller Farmers?* (by Manase K. Chiweshe); and *Acquisition of Land for Expansion of Sugar Production: Effects on the Livelihoods of the Magabbo Smallholder Farmers in Zambia's Mazabuka District* (by Thomson H. Kalinda). Although Blessigns D. Chinsinga was scheduled to make a presentation on *Large Scale Land Deals in the Sugar Industry and Rural Development in Malawi: A Political Economy Inquiry*, the presenter did not show up.

After the first three presentations the floor was made open for questions and comments. One of the participants commented that it should be Africans who should invest on their lands and that opportunities should be given for such an investment by Africans. Another participant enquired all the three presenters whether their study findings and recommendations are new to their respective governments. The enquirer added that the recommendations given in all the three presentations regarding the lease of land is weak and that it must be clearly stated that land must not be sold but leased for a short period of time. Another question was followed on who owns land in both countries, i.e. in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

In response, each presenter expresses his belief that his study is a new contribution to the making of policies. Dereje pointed out, for example, one of the contributions of his study to be his recommendation on the need to have a Ministry of Investment which will be responsible for all the land deals that the country enters into. He said that so many actors are involved in land deals in Ethiopia and that the investment operation is disintegrated, hence the need to follow an integrated approach is vital if policies have to be fruitful. Similarly, both Katundu and Kabote emphasized that their policy recommendations are new as they at least insist for the implementation of policies concerning land deals which have been hitherto on papers. In addition, Kabote underlines the originality of his policy recommendation by pointing out one of his recommendations which states the need to prohibit the transfer of land to another investor. Regarding the ownership of land, all the three presenters stated that land is a public property in both countries. However, Katundu pointed out that in case of Tanzania, the president has the power to transfer land.

A participant asked Dereje who the victims of the land appropriations are; is it the indigenous or the settlers? Dereje responded that as his study targeted the indigenous Gumuz, his findings show that it is the Gumuz, not the settlers, who are victimized by the land appropriation.

In the second round the three presenters were asked whether or not the land deals are economically viable for the people and if not who is benefiting from such deals in each country. Katundu responded to the question saying that usually it is the investor who benefits from such land deals; however, there are cases in Tanzania in which some investors are closing funds. He therefore, suggested that the case should be further investigated as to why they are closing funds. Another question was forwarded on whether or not Ethiopia was following an international benchmark for setting land price when it recently improved the price of land. In connection to this, another participant enquired Dereje about the feasibility of his recommendation to value land scientifically instead of using distance from the capital (which the Ethiopian government is currently using) as a parameter for land value. He responded that there are some scientific methods to do so although they might involve some challenges. Regarding benchmarking in setting land

price, Dereje said that the Ethiopian government has used some variables, such as opportunity cost in setting the new prices.

Privatizing land as a solution to land deals problem was suggested by a participant. The participant said that almost all the problems which have been presented in the three studies are resulted mainly from bureaucratic procedures. Kabote responded to the suggestion saying that privatization in this regard should be further studied in terms of its feasibility on land deals.

Before breaking for tea more suggestions and comments were given by participants. One scholar from Canada expressed his views that African countries are pioneers on issues of land when compared to particularly with other third world countries; he also advised to further pursue the issues raised in the studies. Another participant expressed her concerns that the studies have presented what is obvious and that they should say a bit more. Also, she commented that instead of magnifying the disadvantages of such deals it is better to focus on the possible benefits that could be gained from the deals. She took the Ethiopian case, wherein Dereje criticizes the government for waiving 50% of tax for export productions (from these lands) for 5-7 years while producers for local consumptions are denied of such benefits. She emphasized that the government is doing the right thing for encouraging the exports as the country depends so much on foreign currency.

Manase K. Chiweshe and Thomson H. Kalinda made their presentations after the tea break. It was suggested from participants, following the presentations, that the studies lack clear statistics and that the researchers should put this suggestion in due consideration if their policy recommendations have to make a difference. Another suggestion was also made to Kalinda to incorporate the reasons that made the lives of the study's target community better than their neighbors as such tangible evidences are important for policy makers. Kalinda elaborated on the point raised saying that the sugar companies are getting lessons from previous experiences that the local people could resist the eviction by for instance, burning the plantation. Therefore, there has been transparency in the land deals and the fact that the local people have agreed to take part in the plantation have made such deals successful in terms of changing the livelihood of the local people.

Another participant enquired Chiweshe to explain the case of Zimbabwe's land deals saying that the land distribution doesn't follow what is commonly known as the Western model. He also asked what the effects of such distributions were in terms of land management and productivity. Chiweshe responded saying these issues are still much debated in Zimbabwe and there are many questions left unanswered in this regard. He was also asked about people's response on the distribution that the government is taking land from the white settlers who are citizens and giving it to another white investor. He responded that the term citizen has less value than indigenous.

In the second round question-answer session, all the presenters were asked about the future of Africa, i.e. if each African country should continue basing its economy on agriculture or on industry. Each of the presenters expressed his conviction that the change is inevitable and the change Africa requires is highly dependent on policy management and policy implementation. Although Africans have noble ideas, they become crippled when they come to practice those ideas. What is more, they said that laws need to be 'debug', if they are causing the system to malfunction. In the longer term Africans should need to address issues of migration, land rights, human rights, etc. for change to come.

In connection with this, a participant expressed her views on Dereje's study that what can a land offer on its own where there is no money to develop it. What's wrong in negotiating with investors with big projects so long as their projects benefit the small scale farmers of the area in particular and the local people in general? For this, Dereje admitted that commercial farmers should, of course, change but the change should be made with equity and justice.

To Kalinda, a question was forwarded on what caused the high prevalence of HIV in the area which in a way made the better money flow problematic. The enquirer also said that the fact that women sex workers are flowing into the area shows there is still a problem for empowering women despite its discussion for the past 30 or so years. Kalinda responded that studying the cause of the HIV prevalence was beyond the study's scope but he admitted the importance of making further study on the issue.

Finally, presenters were asked about the response of the local people to those coming from outside. The enquirer added that in the case of his country, Sudan the local people drove the investors out saying that the land belongs to the local community. For this, the presenters responded that there are conflicts and tensions between the local people and the investors and sometimes the conflicts can go to the extreme, in case of Ethiopia for instance, wherein the Federal policy had to intervene.



Participants visiting OSSREA Publications on Display

### 3.5. Public Sector Reform and Urban Unemployment (Chair, Prof. Edward Kirumira)

Policy briefs presented, discussed and debated in the morning session of 10 December, 2013 held under the sub- theme of “Public Sector Reform and Urban Unemployment” were:

- *Integrating all Stakeholders Service: Health Service Governance in Addis Ababa* (by Shawl Asfaw)
- *The Performance of Decentralization and Public Sector: Accountability Reforms in Uganda* (by William Muhumuza)
- *Good intentions , Poor results: Reforming the Academic Organizational Structure and Performance Management System at the Univ. of Botswana* (by Keene Boikusto)
- *Experiences and Aspirations of Unemployed Youth in Ohangwenan Khomas Regions of Namibia* (by Ndeshimona H Namupala)
- *Improving Institutional effectiveness to Provide Decent job Opportunities: The Most Sustainable Means of Moving to a Brighter future* (by Didi S Ojwang)

The presentations were followed by intense discussions and questions. In connection with the first presentation by Shawl Asfaw, quite a good number of questions were raised and critiques were made. First, a presenter disagreed with the conclusion. The participant argued that the rate of client satisfaction regarding service provision reported in study was not as low as claimed by the researcher. According to the participant, even by the British

standard that level of satisfaction (e.g. 54% of the clients expressing satisfaction with the waiting time for health services, 60% of the respondents confirming the availability of health facilities in a convenient distance, is very high. He thus advised the researcher to examine his findings against international practice/standard. Another participant wondered why the researcher depended on older NHS (National Health Survey) data instead of relying on data released recently. The same participant said he was not sure some of the data reported in the background section belonged to were referring to health situations in regions or at a national level. Another participant felt the findings reported in the study (which were by and large failure stories) contradict with government discourse (success stories on the medical sector) and he sought explanations for such a mismatch. When given the opportunity to respond, the presenter admitted that he has not used the latest NHS data because they were not available when his study was conducted. With respect to empirical data reported in the background, the presenter indicated his study made use of regional as well as national data as appropriate. While acknowledging the notable improvements gained in the health service of the service of the nation as often reported by the government, the presenter still argued that his study revealed much needed to be done. He also maintained the low satisfaction of client in many areas was accurately compared with the good practices reported in the literature and it is quite moderate in when examined in light of the standard by the UN.

In relation to William Muhumuza's policy brief, the chair noted that reforms taking place in Africa are often externally initiated and he cautioned that such forms might at times be not directly relevant situation at hand. He thus underscored the need for more relevant, home grown and contextualized reform initiatives.

The third presenter from Botswana, Keene Boikusto, was critiqued by a participant for being over critical of the situation in the University of Botswana. Given that the University is relatively young, the participant added, we hear good news about the university: it pays good salary and gravitates academics from different parts of the world including that of Africa. The presenter was also asked if there could be any lessons to be learnt from University of Botswana. The researcher noted that admittedly a lot of good things are happening in Botswana University over the last couple of years and that is attributable to the Vice Chancellors good intentions and due to the financial commitment by the government. He, however, argued the Vice Chancellor's good intentions lack collective decisions and there are some gaps in actions taken by the government.

Questions posed to Namupala, the presenter from Namibia, related to lack of conceptual clarity. He was for example, asked to define what unemployment is; if his conception of employment refers to formal unemployment alone; whether employment necessarily means having jobs and whether his study has focused on self-employment. He was also asked

what the official unemployment statistics in Namibia was. The researcher responded definitions of such key terms including relevant data on unemployment rate in Namibia were broadly dealt with in the major paper. Discussions of these issues, the presenter added, were deliberately left out in the interest of time. He thus encouraged participants to look into the major paper for exhaustive discussion of conceptual matters. The researcher, however, noted the issue of 'self-employment' was not the focus of his study.

In addition to questions posed to individual presenters, there were also questions and comments directed at all the presenters of the session. For instance, a participant expressed surprise that papers presented in this session had reported comparable/similar findings despite using different methods/approaches (some purely qualitative; some quantitative) and he felt that was problematic. He also noted that some paradoxical findings citing the case of Ethiopia in which the country has recorded a very encouraging and consecutive economic growth but that was not accompanied by fall in unemployment rate—instead a rise in unemployment was witnessed in the country. Another major critique from the audience is the tendency of almost all the research reports to blame the government on every issue (e.g., delivery of poor quality education, allocation of inadequate budget for higher education). The researchers were advised to reexamine their findings and see whether or not individual institutions had to take the blame for some of the problems reported in the policy briefs. With regard to reporting similar findings, albeit employing different research design, one of the presenters defended that he could see nothing wrong with that. The convergence of the findings from works designed differently, he argued, could instead be considered as a plus.

### **3.6 State Fragility (Chair, Dr. Kassahun B)**

Under the sub theme " State Fragility" held the 10<sup>th</sup> December, four presentations were made in the afternoon session. Ogolla, Nashon Otieno Aluoka, Norbert Musekiwa, Albert Arko-Cobbah, and Sifiso Ndlivu presented their studies titled, *Kenya: The Social Foundations of State Fragility; Challenges of A Growing Democracy; Zimbabwe: The Impact of Fragility on Social Services, 200-2008; Angola: Overcoming Resource Curse: A Post-Conflict Governance Analysis; and South Africa: State Fragility as State Incapacity in the post-Apartheid Era* in that order.

Following the presentations each presenter was asked to elaborate what is meant by fragile state and the difference between the different terminologies, such as failed, collapse, weak as applied to States. Musekiwa responded on this question saying that in order to understand the definition of a fragile state, one has to see it from different dimensions, i.e. if the state is affected by a single aspect, such as international isolation, it can be said that it is fragile. But if the threats are so many then it becomes a failed state. A participant enquired whether the State (i.e. Zimbabwe)

fought to keep itself intact when the fragility was shown, i.e. during the sanction and if there were any indigenous systems, such as traditional leadership to keep the state intact. He responded that although Zimbabwe has the said indigenous systems they are not working well. And he underlined that the Zimbabwean government is surviving anyway.

Aluoka, on the other hand, said that fragility is something that every state cannot escape from – every state experiences some level of fragility. For Ndlivu, state fragility is the analytical framework for her study and she explained it in terms of the state's inability to fulfill citizens' basic needs and failure to address major problems that arouse from issues of governance. She mentioned Somalia as the extreme sign of fragility. Lastly Cobbah addresses the question of state fragility saying that it is a dynamic process which doesn't happen overnight.

Musekiwa was then asked about the factors that contributed to the high inflation rate in Zimbabwe, and whether the factors are internal or external. He responded that it is the political agreement which the government made in adopting the USD as a formal currency that caused the high inflation rate. In response to the question he was asked on the contestation regarding political power and land grabbing between the Zimbabwean government and the British, he said that his study doesn't cover the historical aspects of such issues as it is broader. As enquired by a participant about what contributed to the dropping of the HIV prevalence, he said that although not supported by evidence the consistent support of global fund and support from civil society organization might have contributed to it.

In addition, a participant asked Musekiwa's opinion on the democratization process as one of the options to fight state fragility in Zimbabwe. He admitted that no matter how debatable the issue of democratization in the Zimbabwean context is, the voice of the people is important – voice is meant to give the service provider the chance to respond. He then added that his study focuses on the democratization process as an option and the discussion of same is dealt with in detail in the research paper however he promised to investigate the impacts in the future. A participant commented that Musekiwa's research seems to incorporate so many things which didn't as such fall into one piece. She suggested that the framework of the study should be *accountability* so that the study attempts to answer whether or not people failed to project their desires and what failed in terms of people receiving services and who gives those services.

The next question was directed to Cobbah on the Tanzanian case. He was asked what he meant in his presentation by *Angola is a respectable state* – by whom and on the basis of which accomplishments. Cobbah responded that Angola, during the war and 10 years after the war has improved in so many ways, i.e. from war to peace, to Elite Patriotism then to a more transparent system. It is making serious attempts in building infrastructure and other development indicators. He added that, thus, declaring the country as such, given the progress made so far is not self-contradicting. He

was also asked if there are any institutional frameworks that are clearly defined in the Angolan Constitution for which he positively responded saying that some institutional frameworks do appear in the constitution. He added that because of the growth of the distrust involved between the government and the civil society organizations, there has been a new Bill of amendment, which was copied from Ethiopia, in which 15% of funds should be from external sources in order to promote transparency among the civil society.

Another participant commented that the study seems to overshadow the fact the Angola is a resource scarce state. Cobbah said that the notion of resource-scarcity in the case of Angola is related to institutional failure which leads to corruption. He said that there is what is called the *Dutch disease* which is the act of encouraging internal workers to require higher wages. He added that lesson should be taken from Botswana which has a well-defined institutional set-up. He underlined that what is important is strengthening institutions and promoting free access to information; if political and economic institutions are strengthened a diversified economic base will be attained.

To Ndlivu, a participant directed a question on the role of the ANC leadership when the Black empowerment is neutralized by corporate interests and how the behavior of the different South African leader comes as a factor to capacitate or incapacitate the State to fight fragility. She responded that ANC failed to fulfill the popular expectations. Policy making in South Africa has reflected a chaos character, according to her. She admitted that ANC has been discredited as a 'beacon of hope' for those marginalized. She said that in assessing the role of the different leaders and their contribution to the state capacity, it will be best understood in terms of their respective policies. She explained that during Mandela's leadership, the focus was on ensuring social services to citizens as a result of which a microeconomic program was introduced. During Thabo Membeki, there was an increased centralization in which economic planning was transferred to the presidency; and this centralization, according to her, has marginalized some institutions. Talking about the current status quo, she said that President Zuma, has proposed to develop a developmental state by drawing lessons from East Asian Tigers. She however expressed her personal opinion about how feasible it will be without considering the State's capacity.

In the next session, more questions and comments were entertained. A participant asked for an explanation on Aluoka's statement in which he said the unleashing of democratic processes as a likely cause of state fragility. Pointing to the presentation made, he said that Kenya is experiencing fragility as a result of cultural and ethnic differences and whether or not the whole business of establishing a democratic system is to harmonize such differences and problems. Aluoka responded that Kenya submits to two approaches of democracy. One is State consolidation and the other is

fragility. He admitted that democracy is like a house of many rooms in the Kenyan context wherein the lack of it may entail either consolidation or fragility.

He was also asked about the role of ethnicity in State fragility. He said that we are born with some identity and that identity is politicized and becomes our ethnicity; Ethnicity in the Kenyan case is often politicized and manipulated in a much nuanced path way to the notion of fragility. On issues of ethnicity, Ndlovu was also asked about the situation in South Africa. She said that ethnicity is mobilized on a political terrain that people identify themselves on ethnic terms than national terms. Muskiwe also added that appropriation of ethnicity is a major problem and this ethnic sentiments are reflected everywhere and if there are no strong institutions to account for the control of such sentiments, the problem would only get worse. He also added that the root cause of state fragility in almost all African countries is colonial imbalances.

Another participant pointed out that independence is the cause of State fragility for both Zimbabwe and South Africa. He said that Zimbabwe at independence (1980) introduced 'reconciliation' which was not as such supported economically. So there was no economic reconciliation. In 1994, South Africa did the same, according to him. So for him, the notion of fragility has its roots in those reconciliations which do not address fundamental economic issues at the time of independence. He added that the post ANC left an economic apartheid to South Africa.

More comments and suggestion were made on causes of and solutions to State fragility for Africa. Many participants expressed their views on how colonialism propagated tribalism and ethnicity in a more nuanced form. Finally, a participant gave food for thought for all present about the meaning of democracy. He said that democracy is the rule of the people by the people and that there is no a single African State which falls under this; therefore, he suggested to indigenize concepts and words in such a way that they make sense instead of importing them as they are and rendering them meaningless.

### **3.7 Social Protection and PhD Training**

Under the sub theme of "Social Protection & PhD Training" all the policy briefs (except one) were presented. The first presentation was made by Constance A. Shisanya on *Implementation and Outcomes of Secondary Education Bursaries in Kenya*. The question of credibility was raised in relation to the study. It was argued by participants that community development fund (CDF) was not a bursary and the two were wrongly being compared since they are not equals. It was also inquired as to what the motivation behind the bursaries and equity banks was. The question, "Who are the poor?" was raised in connection with the beneficiaries of bursaries. Concerns were expressed about the auditing in Kenya. The question of the beneficiaries of the equity banks was a concern. The

presenter explained that CDF is supposed to fund infrastructure development and under it there is the bursary fund. He also underscored that there could be misappropriation of funds if they are not in the proper hands. He treated the issue of poverty saying that the best performing students are selected and it should have been that the vulnerable should have got the chance. The definition of poverty being not the same, it was suggested that other indicators should be looked at. For, instance household conditions could be obtained by reaching the households. The question of the effectiveness of the schemes was an issue. The system is criticized for not being sustainable and systematic. Parents are still expected to pay money for their children's bus fares, lunch and so on. It was also pointed out that many of those who were involved in the services were women, although men were also coming.

With regard to the presentation made by Patrick Gwimbi on *Social Protection and Climate Change Adaptation in Lesotho: Opportunities and Constraints*, some questions in relation to gender were raised. His call for a need for constitutional revision was challenged. The participants argued that this would further make the issue more gender-sensitive and it would be better to start on the positive gains. He was also challenged for his argument that Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) should be integrated by the adaptation policy. It was contended that CCA is wider than social protection policy. Instead, the policy could be included in CCA. Adequate definitions for social protection, social security, social allowance and social insurance were sought. The idea of promoting the concept of social protection was raised in a general manner. The issue of controlling the concept of social protection, i.e., seeing it from a formal or informal angle was also raised. Whether social protection is a workable concept or it is something thrown to Africans by the westerners was stressed.

Gwimbi in his responses pointed out that the constitution stipulates that everyone is equal entailing equal gender access for both males and female. He also argued that the theoretical framework is that of integration and conceded that CCA could be a sub-set of climate change prevention.

The argument by Truephena E. Mukuna that climate change is not recognized in Kenya received a firm opposition from one of the participants that it was not true because there are several documents on climate change in the country. She was also challenged to explain the discrimination pastoralists faced from the government and to produce clear evidence of the discrimination. Her argument on indigenous knowledge also raised the issue of secrecy as a hindrance for the dissemination or sharing of the knowledge. She was also asked about the social safety-net works amongst the Maasai. It was noted that much has not been done in the study regarding social safety networks.

In her responses, Mukuna argued that she said that the issue of climate change may have been addressed in documents but they were not being implemented as indicated. She pointed out that the government is making

progress but the approach is a top-down one and that what is debated in parliament should be made to trickle down to households. She stated that indigenous knowledge is context-based and the Maasai have their own knowledge in early warning signs of climate change events and that the knowledge should be documented before it could get lost. She also asserted that people were being marginalized and much attention was not given and the reason for this, she argued, was that the area is difficult to develop. Conflicts often arise between agro-pastoralists and pastoralists due to grassland and water and that agro-pastoralists encroach on pastoralists' territories and this often results in conflicts. She also pointed out that the Maasai have informal social-safety networks but expressed her support for a formal social protection policy.

The Chair tried to summarize the pre-tea-break session by highlighting four things. The first is the case related to empowerment in Uganda. He wondered as to whether women or men were beneficiaries of the programme. He commented that this was the most controversial issue in the discussions. Second, he argued that the introduction of social protection schemes needs further research. He reflected that protection schemes had been promoted by donors and they may not be relevant as such. Third, with regard to the identification of the poor and the exclusion of the rich, he suggested the problem could be minimized by involving locals in the identification process. Lastly, he touched upon whether the ten dollar benefit that students received in some African countries was adequate or not. He said that the practice is the same in many countries such as Malawi, Kenya and Tanzania. He argued that the philosophy behind it is that if too much money is given it could breed social tension in the society. So, the given amount is neither too much nor too little to create such kind of problem. One participant intervened here saying that the amount varies depending on the living standards of countries, citing South Africa where such money would have been too little.

### **3.8 Water Resource Management (Chair, Prof. Helmut Kloos)**

Under the sub theme of "Public Sector Reform and Urban Unemployment," almost all the policy briefs scheduled for session were presented. The policy briefs presented in the session include the following: *The role of local institutions in water use management and its implications for poverty reduction: the case of small irrigation in Tigray* (by Fredu Nega) *Water Resources use and management for poverty alleviation in Gerado Irrigation Scheme, South Wollo, Ethiopia* (by Hassan Beshir); *Innovative but not Feasible: Green Water Saving Schemes at the Crossroads in The ASALS of Kenya* (Chris A. [Shisanya](#)); *Innovative Risk Reduction Measures and Urban Welfare in Wastewater Irrigated Agriculture: An Endogenous Switching Regression Approach* (by Esekiel N Ndunda); *Examining the practice of River Based Agriculture Water Use Innovations along River Mpanga , Kabarole District, Uganda: Opportunities, challenges and Prospects*(by Kirungi Jackline); *Assessment of the impact of innovations in*

*water resource management on poverty in Wakiso District Uganda (by Jamil Serwanga); Harnessing water for poverty alleviation: Water resources use and management in informal irrigation schemes in Nyamaropa Communal Lands, Zimbabwe (by KrasposyK Kujinga) and A comparative study of innovative approaches in Agriculture water utilization and management for poverty alleviation in Urban and rural areas: A case of Makonde District, Mashonaland West Province in Zimbabwe (by Rumbidzan D Chapoto).*

Following first presentation by Fredu Nega, a number of questions and comments were raised. A participant noted that the research was well designed, nicely executed and beautifully presented. In spite of that, a couple of members aired some reservations on some of the conclusions arrived. In line with that, a participant challenged the presenter's claim that Water Use Associations (WUAs) do not contribute to poverty reduction. If WUAs fail to contribute to reduce poverty, the participant debated, does that mean the community can survive without irrigations. Another participant wanted to know: "If farmers are beneficiaries of the vegetables they produce is not possible to say that is helpful in poverty reduction?" One other participant asked if the amount of water used and wasted could be measured scientifically. On a more general level, other participants were curious to know the policy implications of the policy brief.

The presenter responded the focus of the study was not to probe if irrigation contributes to poverty reduction. Even though the study could not conclusively tell that the irrigations used in the study area have exclusively contributed to poverty reduction, the presenter pointed out that usefulness of the irrigations in improving the lives of the farmers is undeniable. At the same time, the researcher cautioned, that those farmers do not totally rely on irrigations—the use of non-irrigations systems as well. With regard to policy implications, presenter noted that studies on water use could go beyond the box of looking at the issue in connection with poverty reductions and examine individual orientations towards shared use of water.

Questions asked and comments raised following the presentation of the second policy brief by Hassan included:

- Is having irrigation a matter of choice?
- Can we make causal relation on the basis of the statistics (the t-test) used in the study?
- Is water price workable recommendation in the context of the Ethiopia?
- Where is the innovative thing found in the study?

With respect to the first question, the presenter responded that having irrigation is not obviously a matter of choice and it has to do with proximity to water. Even then, he added, access to irrigation can make a difference in farmers' lives by way of mitigating poverty thereby improving the quality

of their lives. On the question of t-test showing causal relation, the researcher admitted that it does not tell us causal relations between variables but can indicate some association in a way a prelude to causal connections. Concerning the feasibility of water pricing in the context of Ethiopia, the presenter argued that it can maximize efficient use of irrigation subsequently bringing about more yields. In relation to innovative use of water, the presenter noted that the study revealed three patterns of use: Geo-membrane, water pump and government initiated mechanism but he questioned the sustainability of the latter—i.e. programs initiated by the government but not owned/bought by the community.

Right after the lively presentation by Prof. Shisanya, the chair opened the floor for questions and comments. A participant remarked that the study indicated that farmers prefer maize, a water consuming product, to that of more revenue generating products but less water consuming products. And he wanted to know the reasons for that. Another participant asked if water use mechanisms/ practices reported in the study were unique to Kenya or whether they are available in other parts of the world. Other participants in turn asked: whether water uses in the study are traditional or completely are new/innovative; if shared water use doesn't entail conflict among users (as is the case of using the Nile among countries like Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt); whether recommending polluted/waste water is feasible; and if gender dynamics was given enough attention/ emphasis in water use issues.

The presenter responded that there is no breakthrough in the findings of water use in their study sites. He admitted that most of the practices reported in the study have been there for ages and are apparent in other parts of the world particularly in Asia. The present study, the researcher explained further, helped to put things into perspective and examine water use along the idea of "think green". With respect to gender dynamics, the presenter noted that the Water Act in Kenya clearly spells out that a third of the members of water institutions should be women.

After the policy brief by Esekiel N Ndunda, a participant expressed surprise on the presenter's recommendation/ acknowledgement of polluted or waste water use. Relatedly, another participant inquired if there is a clear policy on the use of waste water use. Admitting that the Kenya does not have a policy of using waste/ polluted water, the researcher argued that it could selectively be used. At the same time, he called for putting evaluation and monitoring schemes in place so that there are sustained contamination control mechanisms

It could be said that the fifth policy brief by Kirungel has not generated much discussion. As is the case with most of papers in this session, the claim to have found innovative water use was seriously challenged by participants. One participant argued that he could see nothing innovative. Another participant asked if the practice of river based agriculture was illegal in Uganda. The presenter responded that it wasn't illegal but explained that the challenge is the absence of monitoring the practice.

Serwanga's report is another work that has not inspired much discussion. The audience could see nothing innovative and for that matter very little empirical evidence about the paper. A couple of participants, for instance, noted that the presenter's claim for dealing innovative use of water. Reflective of how the report was received was the final remark made by the Chair: "This work cannot be published in any peer reviewed/ reputable journal!"

Similarly, Kujinga's presentation was not received positively in terms of content as well as methodology. In terms of content and presentation, the paper was critiqued for dwelling too much on the introductory sections of the work and saying too little on the methodology. Additionally, the paper was found to be lacking clarity (e.g., failure to provide adequate statistics on people involved in illegal activities; failing to make a clear distinction between illegal and informal irrigations activities). In terms of methodology, too, a participant critiqued the presenter for failing to: to carve a research space and address the identified gap, for failing to show the voice of the informants and for failing how the framework used in the study has been used in the research report.

As was the case with most of policy briefs presented in this session, a couple of participants questioned the innovativeness of the approaches reported in the research report by Rumbidzan D Chapoto. A participant, for example, severely critiqued the presenter claim of using "dug holes" as innovative approach in water management and utilizations. It was also felt that paper presented did not live up to expectation in the sense that it failed to make comparison between old practices and existing practices.

#### **4. Closing: Votes of Thanks and Reception**

The Congress was concluded with votes of thanks made by the OSSREA Executive Director Professor Paschal Mihyo and Professor Edward Kirumira, who thanked, at the reception, all the participants for the active contributions and OSSREA for organizing the event that brought together African social scientists, academicians, policy/decision-makers and implementers.

## Appendix 1. List of Participants

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