



**Report Future Cities in Ethiopia**

**Academia Engelberg Foundation – Dialogue on Science in Engelberg/OW, Switzerland**

Lucerne, June 2012

## **Back to the future**

In 15 years another 45 million people will be living in Ethiopia. The pressure on Addis Ababa is mounting. The capital needs to be redesigned and new cities created. Young scientists talk about their experiences and findings at the 11<sup>th</sup> Dialogue on Science of the Academia Engelberg Foundation in September 2012.

The UN predicts that the population of Ethiopia will balloon from 80 million today to 125 million by 2025. How can economically sustainable, socially acceptable and environmentally friendly buildings be constructed in one of the poorest countries in the world? About two years ago the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC) was founded. On behalf of the government of Ethiopia Scientists from the ETH Zurich work to speed up the industrial and economic development of this country. In the course of the next years they will help to find answers to these most pressing questions the government functionaries have to face.

### **Air-conditioned gigantomanie**

The development of Addis Ababa threatens to move in the wrong direction. A visitor of this city can easily make out the architectural misplanning that sticks out like sore thumbs. All over the place, high-rises covered in glass facades sprout up out of the dusty ground, amidst the rust-brown carpet of corrugated metal roofs. “Dubai fever” has hit Addis Ababa. Glittering paragons from another, supposedly better world. When the sun beats down on them, they turn into ovens and therefore they have to be cooled constantly. That doesn’t only uses up a huge amount of energy, but also money. Although Addis Ababa is situated 2400 meters above sea level and with its high levels of solar radiation, pleasant temperature and wind conditions it boasts the ideal conditions for natural ventilation. Buildings designed accordingly wouldn’t need heating or cooling and the sun would be the ideal source of energy.

### **Young scientists report at the congress in Engelberg**

Dirk Hebel from the department of architecture ETH Zurich helped start up the project EiABC in Addis Ababa. He then moved on to the project Future Cities in Singapore. At the congress in September, he will speak about “The city as a Proto-Typology”. Franz Oswald, ETH Professor emeritus, has started the Project NEST (New Energy Self-Sufficient Town) to learn how to build sustainable buildings. He will present about how economically and socially acceptable rural communities can be built outside of Ad-



dis Ababa. In addition to that, students of the University of Addis Ababa and the ETH Zurich meet at regular intervals. They will report on their experiences and findings at the 11<sup>th</sup> Dialogue on Science in Engelberg.



Churchill Road in Addis Ababa

Source: Magazine ETH Zurich – 1/2010

#### <Information Box> 11th Dialogue on Science – Future Cities

The process of rapid urbanization is an issue of great complexity with global and local significance. This means a big challenge for urban development in all over the world. The 11th Dialogue on Science with the Academia Engelberg Foundation will focus on the disciplines of architecture, urban planning and environmental sciences. 130 personalities from science, economics, politics and society meet at this scientific dialogue in Engelberg / OW. Details about the congress of 12 to 14 September 2012: [www.academia-engelberg.ch/conference\\_2012.php5](http://www.academia-engelberg.ch/conference_2012.php5)

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