

EDITORIAL

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The Ethiopian Journal of Health Development has come a long way since its first appearance in 1984. With the support that it has enjoyed from many institutions, groups and individuals, it is growing in strength and reputation. Its objective of promoting the primary health care approach is being fulfilled. In the words of a former Minister of Health of Ethiopia "the Journal is one of the few that has managed to reach the health professionals ...at the periphery where it is most needed." We expressed "our hope that our Journal will enjoy the full support of, and close association with, the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA)" for which it has now come to be the "official organ". Addis Ababa University (AAU) has also included the Journal in its list of "reputable journals". By a memorandum of understanding recently signed between the EPHA and AAU, our Journal is promised continued support as a joint publication of the two institutions. All these are encouraging developments of which all members of the Editorial Board and Editorial Consultants are proud, and for which we are grateful to all sponsoring organizations, authors of articles, reviewers and subscribers for their contributions to help us reach this stage. We are hopeful that all this will continue with the help of everyone who has been with us and with those who will join in the future.

It is to be remembered that the EJHD and its Editorial Board and Editorial Consultants were established by the National Health Development Network (NHDN) Committee which ceased functioning in 1986, although its ideals are still the guiding principles of the Journal. For the first time since the establishment of the Journal, an election of the Editorial Board members has been carried out by the outgoing members, bringing in the 12 newly elected members whose names appear in this issue. This is done in accordance with the provision of the memorandum of understanding between AAU and the EPHA mentioned above. It was found necessary to have elections because it proved difficult for the members to continue to work together. Some have left the country. Among those in the country some, for reasons beyond their control, could not continue to participate in the frequent meetings of the Board. For others, the additional responsibilities they have assumed could not enable them to continue as actively as they used to. We know they still support the Journal -their Journal -and we are sure to enjoy their continued contributions. Unfortunately, the new list of Editorial Consultants does not appear in this issue because we were not ready with the complete list by the time of printing. Again some of the old members are out of the country. One of them, Desta Shamebo, we lost by death (see Obituaries). We also wish to enlarge the membership of the Editorial Consultants and we could not publish their names before we obtained their consent. We hope to come up with the complete list of names in the next issue. Wish us good luck and, please, join us to continue with the excellent work that previous members of the Editorial Board and Editorial Consultants, authors, reviewers, subscribers and sponsors have accomplished. It is your Ethiopian Journal of Health Development.