

**Opening Speech by Dr. Arega Yirdaw, President of Unity University
at the 16th Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference
June 16th – 17th, 2017**

- ◆ **Invited Guests to the Conference,**
- ◆ **Research Presenters, Moderators & Rapporteurs**
- ◆ **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure and honor for me to address the opening ceremony of this 16 Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference and to welcome you all to this important academic gathering.

For us at Unity University, this annual event is both exciting and educational. Because it brings together people of diverse scholastic and professional backgrounds, to discuss the various relevant and timely questions useful to the development of the country. The knowledge and expertise shared in this kind of academic conference is essential for the development of higher education institutions.

As you all know, research, through its scientific discovery instills scholarship in us and help us utilize our instinct of inquisitiveness to probe and attain full understanding of the unknown.

As you are all aware, for developing countries like ours, the role of research is very crucial indeed, as we have a multitude of unresolved problems, that have to be addressed, in order to expedite our multifaceted national development programs.

As we set out to undertake research, we must keep in mind that the proper identification of our problems is of paramount importance for finding scientifically tested solutions. We in the developing countries cannot afford

to undertake research, simply to satisfy some adventurous curiosities, as is sometimes the case in developed countries. What I am trying to stress here is that, in countries like ours, there are far too many problems that need the attention and commitment of serious researchers, who should be encouraged to deal with current and relevant studies that can be put to implementation, for the purpose of adding value to our development.

There are of course few compelling and apparent motives for research. They include the desire to get a research degree to satisfy ones academic ambition.

The other motive for research is the aspiration to face the challenges in solving the unsolved problems. And most importantly, the drive to engage in a research undertaking that would benefit society, is the most noble of them all.

Institutions of higher learning are entrusted with the extremely challenging task of producing highly-educated, professionally-competent, intellectually-responsible, and mature citizens, who have the ability and commitment to respond to the various calls of a nation. To accomplish this indispensably important mission, it is obligatory for institutions of higher learning to carryout high quality, purpose-oriented, and problem solving researches as regularly as possible. I must also add here, that the complex task of transferring knowledge and experience from instructors to learners, is continuously enhanced and developed through research. The present trend of growing interest in research, that is being demonstrated by our young scholars, is an indication of the future potential of the role that research can play in streamlining and expediting the country's development efforts.

We may not consider decision-making as a component of research, but the truth of the matter is that research facilitates decisions of policy makers. Research provides the basis for nearly all government policies pertaining to the economic, political, social and cultural programs of a nation. Infarct, research is the basis for carrying out all aspects of national development designs and activities.

The role of research in governance whether it is business, industry or economics as a whole, has increased substantially nowadays. The ever growing complex nature of government and business has necessitated the use of research in solving operational problems. This reality is aptly described by the famous Hudson maxim which says *"All Progress is born of inquiry. Doubt is often better than overconfidence, for it leads to inquiry and inquiry leads to invention"*.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

As an institution of higher learning, Unity University has been holding annual research conferences of multidisciplinary nature since year 2000 without interruption. Today we are together at the 16th Conference, and this is a millstone indeed.

I am happy to know that our Research and Publications Office has selected research papers from different universities for presentation in this year's Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference.

Unity University's participation this year is worth mentioning, since almost 50% of the papers are prepared by its own scholars. Few years back there was none from Unity University.

The research papers that will be presented today and tomorrow will deal with various themes such as climate change, agriculture, investment, finance, health, education as well as other cross-cutting issues.

As you may all know, the other important task of higher learning institutions is undertaking teaching-learning activities. In this regard, Unity University has been offering different Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programs in various fields.

It is currently offering both 1st and 2nd degrees in business, Leadership, economics, accounting and finance. It also offers undergraduate degrees in health, agriculture, computer science and engineering programs. It is also engaged in offering Executive training programs to governmental, non-governmental, and private organizations that seek to upgrade the knowledge and skill of their employees. The University is also engaged in running general education from KG to High school level, at different locations, with the goal of integrating general education with higher education, thereby contributing to the betterment of quality education.

Ladies and gentlemen!

I would like to conclude my opening remarks by wishing you a success in your deliberations, and by thanking all the presenters, the moderators, and rapporteurs, for giving us your invaluable time. I also would like to thank the organizers of this conference and our guests who have honored us by your presence today. With that said, I now declare the conference open.

Thank You!