

University Capacity Building Program (UCBP)

An on-the-job capacity development program for the construction sector building universities throughout Ethiopia



The University Capacity Building Program is an innovative capacity development venture jointly undertaken by the Government of Ethiopia (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Capacity Building) and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit). A four year program, the UCBP is fully funded by the Ethiopian partner. It combines capacity development with cost efficient and timely construction of universities, many of them in remote locations.

The UCBP has two main objectives:

- 1 Re-engineer and modernize Ethiopia's construction sector, leading to increased international competitiveness.
- 2 Design and construct public universities in 15 locations throughout Ethiopia, at a competitive cost and in a very short time frame.

The UCBP is changing the way Ethiopia's construction sector works-not through any standard or traditional classroom approach, but rather, in the course of planning, designing and constructing the universities.

As they aim to achieve international certification (ISO 9001), companies undergo a rigorous transformation process. Company management teams scrutinize and rethink their own business processes, from financial management to project planning to equipment management. Since each phase of the program brings in new companies, the Program will directly involve a high percentage of companies operating in the sector

The UCBP is establishing safety and technical standards for Ethiopian construction sites. At UCBP sites, German master craftsmen (carpenters, concrete builders, electricians, masons and plumbers) are up-grading the skill level of workers onsite, introducing new technologies and identifying best practices. These practices are then cataloged and disseminated throughout the sector.

The UCBP also strengthens local and regional economies by engaging small and medium enterprises at all sites. In addition to UCBP's aim to sub-contract 40% of construction to local enterprises, the UCBP supports local enterprises with managerial and entrepreneurial training.

A phased approach to building has allowed universities to begin operation in early 2007. Around 5600 students (total) started classes in Axum, Dire Dawa, Dilla, Debre Markos, Jijiga, Nekempt and Sodo by April 2007. When complete, the UCBP universities will be able to accommodate over 121,000 students.

For more information: www.ucbp.com.et ucbp@ucbp-ethiopia.com +251 11 662 2260



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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & MINISTRY OF CAPACITY BUILDING

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