



# Summary of the Conference Proceedings

20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Ethiopian  
Economy

21-22 July 2023

## Sponsors



# General

- Total number of participants:
  - Day One: 320
  - Day Two: 160
- Total Presentations:
  - Welcoming and opening speeches
  - A keynote speech
  - A panel discussion
  - Seven plenary presentations
  - 32 presentations on breakout sessions

# Messages from the opening session

## Welcoming speech by EEA's President

- Appreciated the presence of GoH, keynote speaker; and all participants from various corners
- Highlighted the challenges: inflation, conflict, ...
- Indicated EEA's effort to initiate MDI, to work with regional states (Afar, Oromia, Somali, ...), to organize many forums and capacity building activities, to contribute to the quality of education by starting the process for establishing a school.
- Members and the general public feel that these efforts are not enough and want us to do more.
  - **It is their right to expect and our duty to deliver!**

## HE Mr. Mammo M, Governor of the NBE

- Policy makers everywhere are facing a cocktail of challenges: Inflation, high private and public debt, large drop in financing sources for developing countries, and for Ethiopia a tragic domestic conflict.
- (+) Ethiopia's recent economic performance in the context of this very challenging situations
- (-) Inflation, forex shortage, debt servicing, and a range of structural and sector-specific bottlenecks still as a severe challenge.
- General: Economic developments show a mixed picture. There is a **lot to celebrate** but there is also a **lot that needs more work**, some course corrections, some re-thinking and some re-imagining.

- NBE is working intensely on three areas:
  1. restoring price and external stability;
  2. championing financial sector modernization and inclusion, and
  3. becoming a more transparent, collaborative, learning and knowledge-generating institution.

**Points for collaboration (three areas):**

1. On the CALL FOR ACTION (to EEA and its members):  
Indicated some areas of collaboration
2. Engage in constructive collaboration.
3. Focus on practical, evidence-based ideas, proposals and solutions that can feed into effective policy-making.

## Keynote speech by HE Prof. Birhanu Nega, Minister of the MoE

- The need to strengthen contribution of professionals to the countries economy.
- ‘Intellectual class is missing in action’.
- It is necessary to re-generate a more vibrant intellectual environment.
- ‘Academics is working in a complex and confused global environment’
- We are living in a period of ideological barriers and a rapidly changing technologies.
- The need to fit into how the international system works; not in a ‘business as usual’ manner.

- It is necessary to establish a national research fund, rather than being driven by the interests of other funders.
  - To undertake research directly relevant to our lives (our context)
- Professionalism should be taken seriously, serving independently
- It is necessary to keep integrity of professional associations.
- The effort at MoE to create space for intellectuals to think freely without interference from the government
  - Autonomy at universities is about having a space to think freely

# Messages from the panel discussions

- Three panelists: Hon Seid Nuru, Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, and Atnafu G/Meskel
- **First panelist**
  - Focused on the role of the government in the Ethiopian Economy which is based on different ideologies
  - The role should be beyond Economic stabilization. Understanding the context of the economy is crucial to design contextualized policy that foster economic development.



Three main key issues:

1. Importance of the private sector.
2. The need to improve production and productivity
3. The need to be pragmatic to allow flexibility of some extent rather than strictly following one ideology with out context

For effective implementation of policies and strategies:

- Policy harmonization between regional and federal government
- Minimize external and exogenous shocks
- Fight rent seeking, Corruption and Nepotism through institutional transformation and capacity building
- Ensure rule of law in the country

## Second panelists

Four key issues that are necessary conditions while designing a policy:

1. The set of public aspirations;
2. The set of Economic model;
3. The initial condition of the economy; and
4. The contemporary situation of the economic system.

The following key issues are critical for reforming the economy:

1. We need a deeper understanding of the Ethiopian economy to design an appropriate policy
2. Creative use of what we have
3. Learn and create our own contextualized instruments and policies
4. There is no one golden word and policy, pragmatic long term development strategy is necessary.
5. Design how to do it, define the problem and understand how things are operating

## Third panelist

- Focused on whether our economic teaching helps the Ethiopian economists and the economy?
- The current economic research is 'dollar-driven'; not focusing on the problem at hand.
- The Ethiopian economy is being challenged by three key problems: income inequality, Inflation, and unemployment.
- The contemporary economic system of Ethiopia is solving short-term problems than implementing long term economic policies.

# Messages from plenary presentations

## MDI

- A MDI is two dimensions and 14 pillars to measure global and national developments using a single composite indicator from economic, social, governance and political perspectives on people-centered way.
- State fragility (-15.3%) and gender inequality (-14.3%) are the most important pillars causing huge development losses around the world.
- To realize multiple development goals, nations should harmonize socioeconomic and governance policies, ensure state stability and gender equality, and effectively manage adverse effects of exogenous factors of development.

## Presentation topics in the breakout sessions (Day 1)

- Human Development Index for Oromia Region
- Saving and Investment Dynamics in Oromia Region, Ethiopia
- Rural Outmigration in Oromia: Trends, Causes and Implications
- Fiscal Performance and Domestic Revenue Mobilization in Amhara Region
- A GIS approach to electrification planning in Cameroon
- Economic Diversification in Cameroon: A Trade–DSM Analysis
- Digitizing National Planning Frameworks for the Coherent Implementation of Global and Continental Commitments
- Gender Productivity Gap in Ethiopia
- Trends in Inter-Industry Wage Differentials and Gender Wage Gaps in Urban Ethiopia, 2003 – 2018
- Gender-based Income Inequality and its Determinant in Informal Sectors
- Gender Finance Gap and Women Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia

- Centrality Measures for Regional Economic Integration of Ethiopia in the 21st Century
- Drain or Gain? The African Diaspora in the U.S since the 1990s
- Economic Growth in Africa and East Asian Countries: A Panel Causality Analysis
- The nexus of external debt and governance in Eastern African nations: A cross country analysis
- Sub-national Budget and Expenditure Analysis
- Determinants of Inflation in Ethiopia: An autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) approach
- Decomposing Gender Gap in Employment and Earnings: Do Urban and Rural Labor Markets in Ethiopia Behave Differently?
- The digital divide in rural Ethiopia: Determinants and implications of sex-disaggregated mobile phone ownership and use
- Status of Households' Food Insecurity and the Responses to Shocks: Evidence from Bahir Dar and Gondar Cities of the Amhara Region, Ethiopia
- Agricultural transformation in Ethiopia: progress, challenges, and policy options
- The Contribution of Agricultural sector to Economic Growth in Ethiopia

# Plenary Session (Day 2)

- Presentations by the WB team (three presentation)
  - Highlighted the work they are doing in collaboration with the ESS
  - Major activities and roles of the WB
  - Coverages, types, and contents of data they are working on
  - Broad datasets that are accessible to the users, that we also need to utilize
  - Level of utilization of the available datasets
  - The fact that ESS is also benefiting through their collaboration, in terms of building their infrastructure and they capacities
- Socializing Global Public Investment in Ethiopia
  - A new financial architect guided by the three principles: All contribute, all benefit, and all decide.

- Presentations by the IGC team (three presentations)
  - Labor market data is deficient
  - Mismatch in the work experience requirement and the existing work environment
  - The need to improve labor market environment; provision of active employment service
  - The need to integrate core skills and wage information in vacancy announcements
  - Presented a study on supply side drivers of inflation

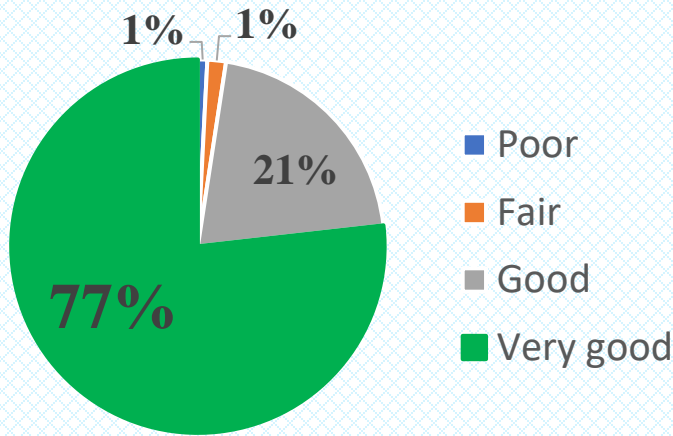


## Presentation topics in the breakout sessions (Day 2)

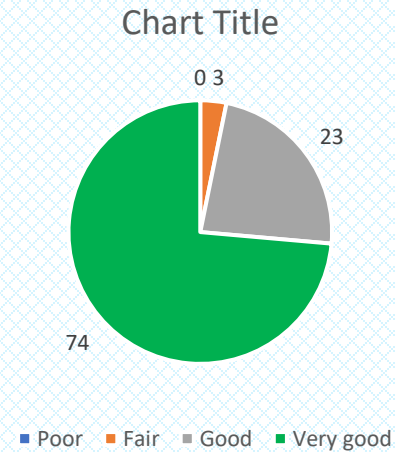
- The Dynamic Linkage between Renewable Energy Consumption and Environmental Sustainability in SSA Countries
- Fuel and appliance adoption in Ethiopia: Heterogeneities and prioritization
- Analyzing Bank Stability in Ethiopia: Panel Data Evidenced over the Period 2000/01 to 2021/22
- Banking Competition and Financial Inclusion: Evidence from Ethiopia
- Smallholders' Crop yield and adaptation to climate change in the mixed farming system of Ethiopia
- An Empirical Analysis of Food Poverty in Urban Ethiopia
- Causes of Informal Sectors: Case of Women street vendors in Dire Dawa City, Ethiopia
- Does unequal tax burden contribute to women-owned businesses leaving the tax net?

# Conference Evaluation: Major outcomes

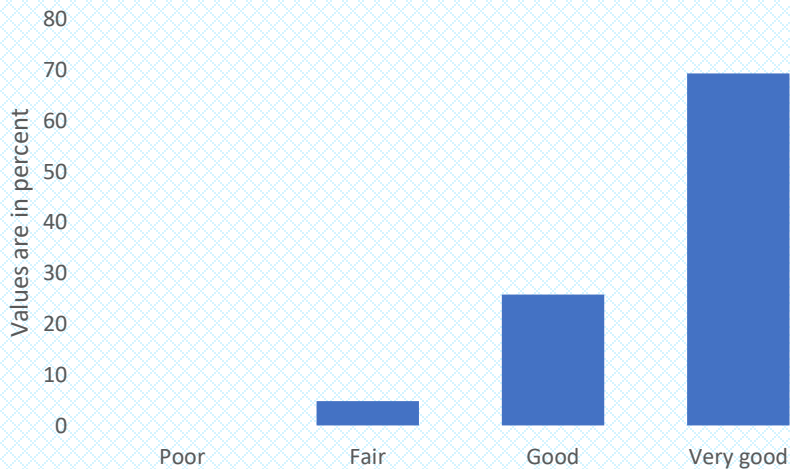
- Registration Package



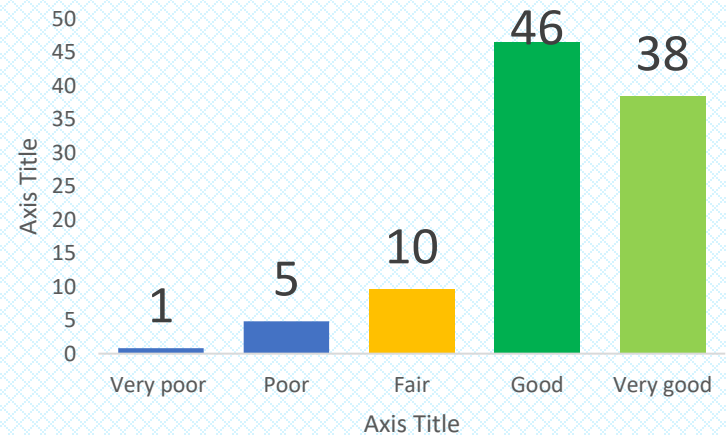
- Opening Session



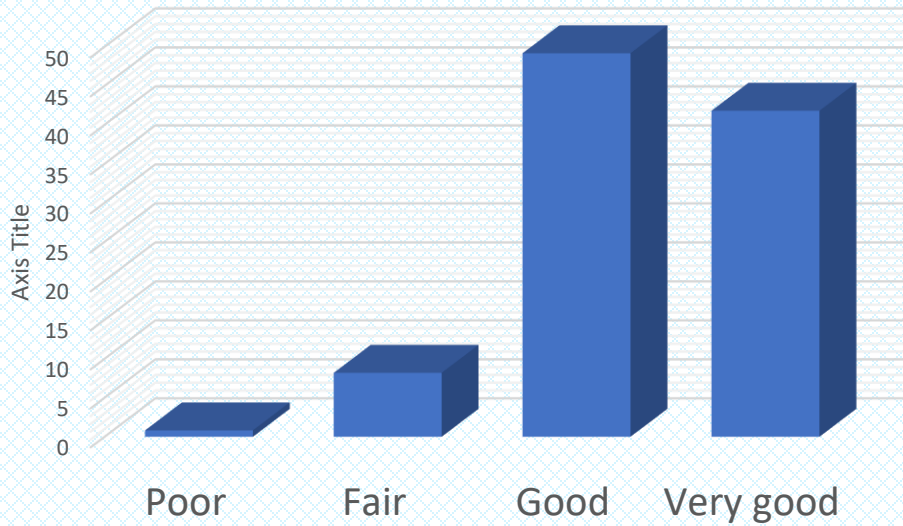
- Keynote Speech



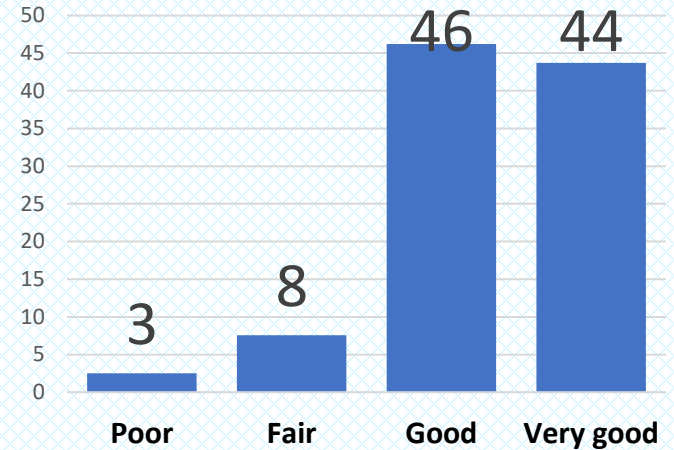
- Panel Discussion



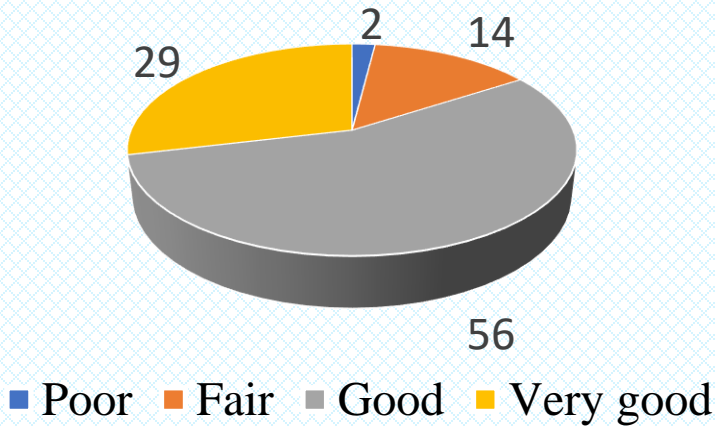
- Quality of Plenary Presentation



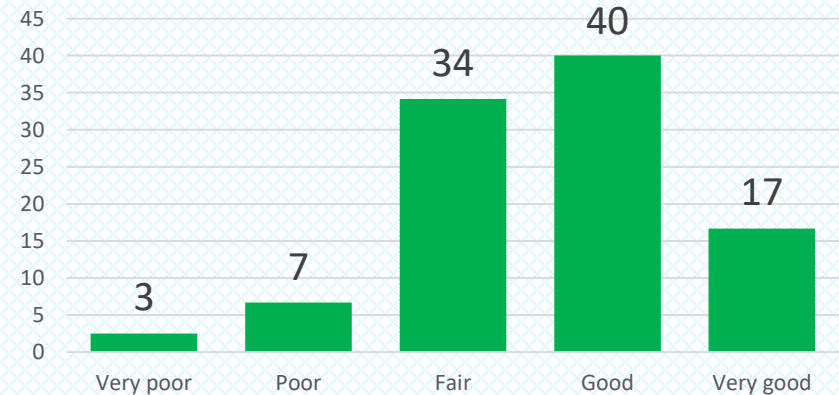
- Variety of Topics



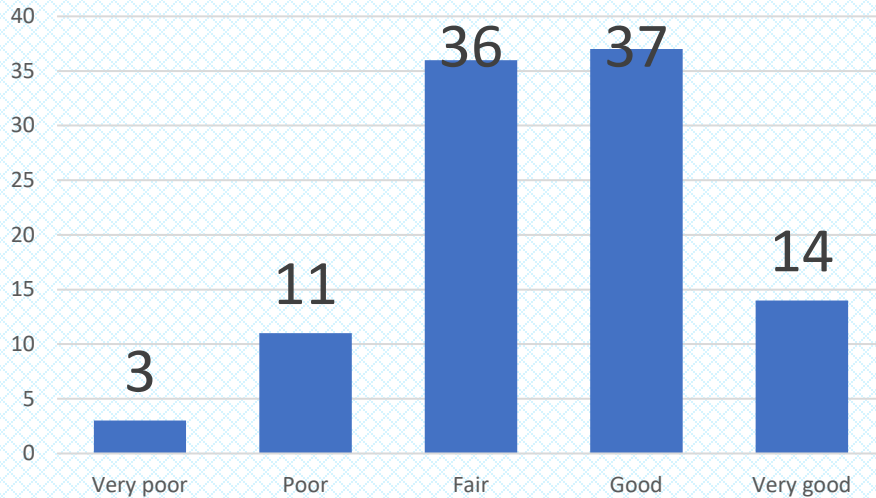
- Quality of Parallel Session Presentation



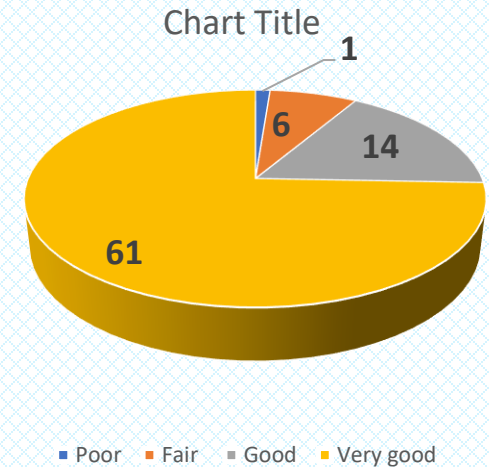
- Adequacy of allotted time



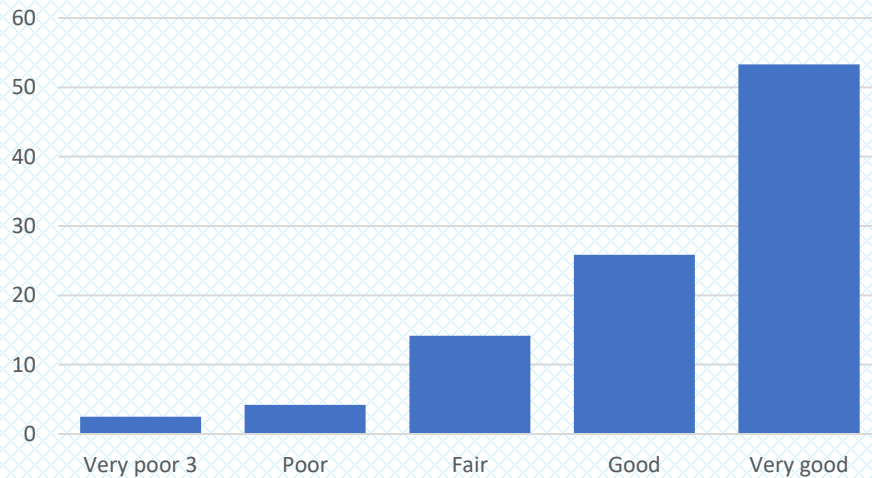
- Adequacy of time for discussions



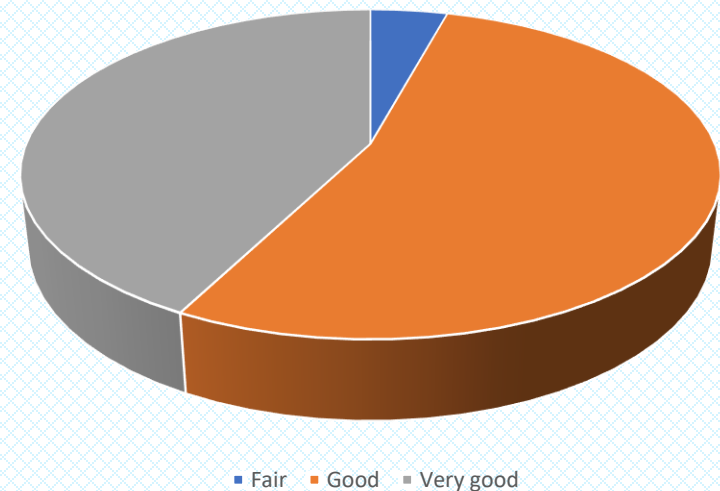
- Room adequacy and convenience



- Refreshment and meals



- Overall rating of the conference



# Conference Sponsors





# Evidence to Action Conference and Exhibition

# 2023

Addis Ababa,

# ETHIOPIA

24th – 28th July, 2023

Venue: Ethiopian Economic Association  
Auditorium, Addis Ababa  
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Evaluation and Development



Participants of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference are invited to attend this E2A Conference

Thank you very much!