

Looking Back & Looking Forward: The Somali Region (aka the Ogaden) in the 21st Century

***Institute for Horn of Africa
Studies and Affairs (IHASA)***



**IHASA – 2010 Conference – June 18th to June 20th, 2010-
University of Minnesota, Human Rights Center**

**Theme: Looking Back & Looking Forward: The
Somali Region (aka the Ogaden) in the 21st Century.**

Call for Papers

Overview of Institute for Horn of Africa Studies and Affairs (IHASA):

Institute for Horn of Africa Studies and Affairs (IHASA) is a 501c3 national nonprofit organization whose mission is to document, research, analyze, publish and disseminate information on the political and socio-economic justice issues affecting the people in the Horn of Africa and in the Diaspora community. IHASA promotes peace, justice, equality, development and supports policies and actions that contribute to the advancement of good governance and the elimination of conflicts in the Horn of Africa.

IHASA strongly believes that the people of the Horn of Africa, given the opportunities necessary, are productive and the region is very dynamic and resourceful. IHASA believes that the necessary opportunities can be attained through peace, justice, and mutual development as a way of life.

Call for Presentations and Papers for the IHASA-2010 Conference

The Institute for Horn of Africa Studies and Affairs will host an Academic Conference – 2010- focusing on the Somali Region in Ethiopia, (also known as the Ogaden). The conference will be held on June 18th, - 20th, 2010, at the University of Minnesota's Human Rights Centre. The Somali region in Ethiopia is the least developed region in the Horn of Africa; protracted conflict has plagued this region. Although the entire Horn of Africa region is in a precarious situation, the Somali region in Ethiopia is more impacted on regional, sub-regional and country level factors which add to the complexity of situation of this region.

IHASA would like to extend an invitation among others to political scientists, sociologists, historians, economists, lawyer, environmentalists, civil society organizations, international institutions and policy makers to participate in this conference.

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The challenges of this region lie in finding mechanisms addressing how to move the region from an ongoing perpetual conflict and severe underdevelopment to finding comprehensive political solution with lasting peace and justice for all, to improving development opportunities. The conference calls for interdisciplinary papers within the three sub-themes and topic areas of the conference.

The three sub-themes and topic areas for the IHASA-2010 Conference are:

A. The Nexus between conflict, peace, human rights and development in the Somali Region of Ethiopia.

Papers presented in this sub-theme should employ regional, sub-regional, and country level analysis. Issues will include but not be limited to:

- **Conflict profile:** what kind of conflict exists in the Ogaden? Its phases over the years
- **Stakeholder analysis:** who are the various parts of this conflict? Their respective positions, capacities and perspectives on peace
- **Causes of this conflict:** what are the geopolitical aspects? Underlying root causes; factors prolonging etc
- **Trends and opportunities**

B. Appropriate conflict resolution mechanisms for this region

Papers presented in this sub-theme should reflect issues pertaining to the impact of protracted conflict and severe lack of development issues such as the ones manifested in the Somali Region Ethiopia.

- **The impact of protracted conflict on the masses of this region**
- **Current human rights and humanitarian situation of the region**
- **Appropriate conflict resolution mechanism that take into account the complex history of this region including the need for comprehensive political solution**

C. Building broader-based conversations among the people of the Somali region of Ethiopia

Topics in this sub-theme should reflect issues pertaining to: how to build bridges between the communities of the nine regional administration zones within the Somali Region in Ethiopia. Topics will include but not limited to:

- **Identifying barriers to broader-based dialogue among the people this region**
- **Building networks that reach out to the diverse groups in the Diaspora**
- **Identifying opportunities to engage in critical dialogue addressing the disconnection among diverse groups from this region.**

Guidelines for Paper:

Below are the guidelines in submitting paper/presentation.

- Papers should reflect the conference theme.
- Abstracts for paper and proposals for presentation, and roundtables need to be submitted for approval by **March 8th, 2010.**

Looking Back & Looking Forward: The Somali Region (aka the Ogaden) in the 21st Century

- Speakers of approved papers and presentations are required to send the full text of their papers, and presentation including abstracts to IHASA **by May 7th, 2010**
- Papers should be single-spaced, 12 point font size, Times New Roman. They should be submitted as a Word document.
- A conference paper proposal or abstracts should consist of:
 - Title of the paper
 - Name(s) of speaker(s), their Institution, city and country
 - Abstract of approximately 200 words, summarizing the presentation

Once the paper proposals and/or abstracts are approved by the conference committee, the approved papers, presentation and roundtables should adhere to these guidelines.

- The minimum length [short paper] is 6 pages and the maximum length [full paper] is 10-12 pages (single-spaced A4).
- If you are preparing a Power Point Presentation with the paper, it should be integrated into ONE single Word document.
- Power Point Presentations, without accompanying speaking texts, will not be accepted as papers.
- Papers may be written and presented in English.
- Please avoid using unexplained acronyms, sets of initials, jargon and phrases which a diverse audience may not understand.
- The full text of the paper with abstract must be submitted at info@ihasa.org no later than May 7th, 2010. Earlier submission would be appreciated.
- IHASA has first publication rights to papers presented at the conference.

The quality of our conference as a whole largely depends on the relevance and interest of the papers. Therefore, it is our best hope that you will help us making your paper very relevant to our conference theme.

Contact: info@ihasa.org Phone: 612 250 9590

Website: www.ihasa.org