

# I PREFACE

## Vorwort

It is a great pleasure to report in this year on our visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Nearly five generations of Ethiopian academic students, post docs and professors have been educated at our institute since 1998. Many of them are themselves professors, vice-chancellors as well as members of the Academy of Sciences in Ethiopia. Thus, our visit to Addis Ababa in Spring 2023 was also a get together for the extended LIOS family.

One of the first LIOS members from Addis Ababa is Prof. Yohannes Teketel, former vice-chancellor of Addis Ababa University and founding vice-chancellor of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University. His student, Prof. Adam Getachew Workneh is now professor and director at the AASTU. Furthermore, Dr. Bekele Teklemariam finished his PhD in Linz and now moved to University of Stuttgart, Germany. Last generation of Ethiopian students are listed as long-term visitors below. This legacy has motivated Ethiopian Academy of Sciences to admit myself as associated member. This ceremony also took place in Addis Ababa during our visit. Several lectures as well as visits at the Universities in Addis Ababa clearly showed that our efforts in Africa and especially in Ethiopia bear many fruits. We are quite proud of our partnership with these Universities and Academicians in Ethiopia.

Especially great pleasure was to visit Addis Ababa with a larger delegation from Johannes Kepler University, including Prof. Veronica Wittmann, Prof. Michael John, Prof. Dieter Meissner and members of our Institute/University. I think the best way to assist the development of Africa is by building science and technology bridges and the academicians there. Our visit showed that Ethiopian science is on the best way to develop with wonderful facilities built at AASTU.

As for the general Institute's statistics, we are continuing to attract many graduate students working on their academic thesis at our labs. We are also happy to observe the increase of interest in renewable energy research worldwide. Since the global warming and its percussions are now directly visible worldwide, I strongly hope that the mitigation efforts also will take off worldwide. Global warming is a global issue and cannot be fixed by one country or continent alone. A global collaboration is needed. National interests and financial decisions therefore will not solve the problems. We have to work and find solutions which can be implemented worldwide, irrespective of the national borders and jurisdictions. Solar energy production and storage will be a decisive technology needed for the future of human civilization.

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