

## Press Release of 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting of PHE EC

The 11th Annual General Assembly Meeting of Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHEEC) was successfully held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2017 at Harmony Hotel in Addis Ababa with more than 100 participants attended from member and partner organizations including government officials and media outlets. The meeting had two major sessions: The first thematic session which had been held in the morning on the importance of multi sectoral approach in relation to demographic dividend, eco region, river basin and biosphere management. The second was PHEEC's business session that was held in the afternoon on organizational progress of: 2016 board, annual physical and financial, and audit reports, and 2017 physical and financial plan.

The meeting was opened by the speech of Dr. Yinager Dessie, National Planning Commission, and commissioner through his delegate Ato Bereket Fisha Tsion. In his speech, he mentioned, the role of non-government charity and society organizations on the Ethiopia's development and appreciate efforts made by the consortium and its member organizations on exercising multi sectoral and PHE integration approach in linking population health and environment with sustainable development, GTP II and CRGE targets so as to base our policies and programs on strong foundation.

Similarly, key note message was forwarded by H.E. Ato Kebede Gerba, State Minister of Ministry of Water Irrigation and Electricity. On his speech, he stated *"The importance of other sectors and stakeholders engagement in the development of water resources that could be mentioned as one of our learning point. From our effort to engage with sustainable development, GTP II, CRGE targets multi*

*sectoral and integrated approaches are indispensable. I would like to extend my appreciation again to PHEEC for its continued effort in embarking on the same direction."* He also chaired the morning thematic session with Dr. Agonafire Tekalegn vice chair of PHEEC board.

The presented topics were on: Multi sectoral approach in harnessing population dividend which was presented by W/ro Senait Tibebe from Packard Foundation, Multi sectoral approach in eco region management by Ato Negash Teklu, PHEEC, Multi sectoral approach in biosphere reserve management, Yayu BR and Multi sectoral approach in River Basin management, Omo Giba Basine by Ato Zerihune Dejene and Ato Endashaw Mogessie respectively from PHEEC.



**Photo of participants in the 11<sup>th</sup> GA meeting (morning session)**

Strengthening implementation of the multi sectoral and PHE integration approach in addressing Social, economic and environmental issues and sustainable development goals at national and global level. In this regard, participants raised the issue of ensuring actual implementation of integration and the need of coordination, working strongly on exercising integration supported by tools, institutional arrangements for effective multi sectoral integration and ensuring integral management.

The afternoon business session which was chaired by General Assembly leaders Ato Getalem Kassa and Ato Sisay Tarekegn, raised issues related to the consortium and its members, such as: the need of exerting efforts in resource mobilization that can be channeled to members and capacity building of members and partners.



Group photo of PHEEC members in the 11<sup>th</sup> GA meeting

In addition, important decisions made were:

- 2016 physical, financial and Audit Reports, 2017 physical and financial plan of the consortium were appreciated and approved unanimously.
- Eight new members were accepted that made the total members of the consortium to be 66.

Population Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC) is a non- governmental non-for-profit organization established in 2008. The consortium was established with a vision “**to see Ethiopia with a sustainable use of resources, resilient ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods, and a healthy population**”. The organization has also a mission “**to contribute to sustainable development in Ethiopia by promoting and enhancing the integration of population, health and environment through multi-sectoral approaches**”.

The consortium currently has 66 member organizations that are working in all regions of Ethiopia. It is also a member of Global Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA), Global Climate Action Network (CAN), IUCN and the PHE Eastern Africa.