

International Conference Proposal
On African and Jain Philosophies:
Indigenous Enlightenment in Peace-
Building

Mekelle University, Ethiopia

On

17-18 May, 2017

Tentative Programme

17 May 2017

09:00 - Inaugural Session:

Introduction to Conference by (Mekelle University)

Inaugural address by

Address by Indian Ambassador in Addis Ababa

Keynote Address by Prof. (Dr.) Rajmal Jain (Jaina Philosophy)

Keynote Address from Mekelle University (African Philosophy)

LUNCH (12:00-13:30)

13:30-17:00

Session -1: Non-violence in Global Context

Tea/ Coffee

Session – 2: Peace & Prosperity

Session – 3: Environment and Climate Change

17:00-18:00

Panel Discussions on Role of African and Jain Philosophies for global peace and integrity

18 May 2017

09:20-12:00

Session – 4: Global Economy

Tea/Coffee

Session – 5: Global Integrity

Lunch (12:00-13:30)

13:30-17:00

Session – 6: Jaina Archaeological and Historical Evidences in Africa

Tea/ Coffee

Session – 7: Food & Health

Session – 8: Meditation to Salvation

(Note: In each session 3 talks to be considered each of 15 min + 5 min for discussions)

Concluding Session – 17:00-18:00

About the Conference

The department of Philosophy is proposing to host an international conference from May 17 to 18, 2017 at Theater hall, Ad-haki Campus. The general theme of the conference is “African and Jain Philosophies: Indigenous Enlightenment in Peace-building”. The department has already established a contact with a Jain Society in India, and participants will appear from that society, too. Of course, the department will post a call for paper for Ethiopian and African Universities to participate in the conference. There will be attendants from federal and regional governments, Indian Embassy, religious institutions, NGOs, Tigray Universities and others.

Rational and objective of the Conference

This conference seeks to promote an academic culture in exploring indigenous philosophies and enlightening them, so that they can resolve the various challenges of humanity. Paramount to this task, different philosophic cultures are working not only in providing ideas, but also in shaping the world. As Karl Marx noted in his *Thesis on Feuerbach* the role of Philosophy, [is now] to transform the world. So both African and Jain philosophies are crucial in fostering ethical discourses which aim at constructing the world. The primary focus of both philosophies is the cultivation of the inner world, i.e. the existential environment. And this shows how their thought is deep rooted within the social context of a particular society.

Moreover, both African and Jain philosophies predominantly preach the word of peace to the globe. In other words, there is a deep interest in maintaining a non-violent relation among human beings, and also between human and nature. And this aspect is quite significant in developing various sect of philosophy, including Moral Philosophy, Intercultural Philosophy, Environmental Ethics, etc.

So, the very objective of this conference is to foster both African and Jain philosophies in their particular orientation to the non-violence construction of the human world. These are some of the core objectives of the seminar;

- Creating an intercultural communication between African and Jain philosophies

- Developing an academic culture in exploring indigenous thoughts and practices on ethical resolutions
- Promoting global-south alternative philosophies to the world in relation to peace-building
- Working at the interaction between philosophy, religion and science in making the world good and peaceful

Conference Date

May 17 & 18, 2017

Venue

Theater Hall, Adi-haki Campus

