ECDC NEWS

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ECDC's 16th National Conference Scheduled for May 3-5 in Arlington

The 16th national conference conducted by the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) will be held May 3-5 at the Holiday Inn Arlington in Arlington, Virginia. The conference theme is African Refugees and Immigrants: *Challenges, Changes, Champions.*

Sessions will examine the challenges confronting humanitarian organizations providing protection and assistance support for refugees and internally displaced people on the African continent. Concurrent workshops will address issues confronting federal, state and local efforts to improve reception and placement services for refugees being resettled in the United States.

"From new leaders heading key federal agencies engaged in refugee and immigration affairs, we will hear updates on new policies and procedures," said ECDC President Tsehaye Teferra. "From local service providers struggling to sustain programs amid the current economic crisis, we will learn about innovative best practices being developed to help newcomers achieve self-sufficiency and independence. And from resettled refugees who have become champions of survival and achievement, we will glean inspiration and encouragement as they describe their personal experiences."

ECDC is a community-based organization established in 1983 to promote cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland. It is one of ten national agencies authorized by the Department of State to resettle refugees and now has three branch offices and a network of 14 affiliated mutual assistance associations located in major cities around the nation.

For information on conference registration fees, lodging arrangements and other program details, call Senay Gebremedhin at (703) 685-0510 Ext 250, or visit: www.ecdcinternational.org.

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