
ECDC NEWS

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Conference Banquet Tonight Will Honor 25th Anniversary of ECDC's Services

A banquet celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) will be held 6:30 p.m. today at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, featuring remarks by a leader of the Congressional Ethiopian Caucus, awards to organizations and individuals engaged in African refugee affairs and music and entertainment highlighting the continent's diverse cultures.

Representative Mike Honda (D-CA), founder of the Ethiopian Caucus and also Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, will discuss refugee and immigrant issues.

Awards are scheduled to be presented to a refugee entrepreneur who received assistance from ECDC's Enterprise Development Group subsidiary in establishing and managing a business in the District of Columbia, to a State Department official involved with ECDC during its early history in resettling refugees; to a Chicago resettlement affiliate of ECDC; to an international organization engaged in relief and rehabilitation programs; and to a philanthropy leader who provided the organization its first foundation grant.

The event is part of ECDC's 14th national conference on African refugee affairs. Under the theme *African Refugees: The Optimism of Generations*, the conference has attracted leaders of community-based mutual assistance associations and representatives of federal, state and local agencies involved in serving refugees and immigrants.

ECDC is a community-based organization established in 1983 to promote cultural, educational and socio-economic development program 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 branch offices in Arlington, Denver and Las Vegas, and a network of 14 affiliated mutual assistance associations located in major cities around the nation.