

# ECDC NEWS

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## **ECDC Announces its 14<sup>th</sup> National Conference to be held in Arlington, VA**

Arlington, VA –The Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) will host its 14<sup>th</sup> national conference on May 5-7, 2008 at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA. This year's conference theme, *African Refugees and Immigrants: The Optimism of Generations*, will explore many pressing African refugee and immigrant issues.

“Africans are known as an optimistic and hopeful people when faced with hardship. The goal of this year's ECDC conference is to celebrate this culture of hope, and educate others on many issues surrounding African refugees and immigrants in the United States,” said ECDC President Tsehaye Teferra. “As ECDC prepares for its upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a celebration of the optimism of generations is an appropriate and fitting theme for this year's conference.”

As the African newcomer population in the United States continues to grow, the conference will provide both a unique opportunity to reflect on various African refugee issues. Participants will engage in panels, workshops, and discussions in addressing ways to improve important services provided to newcomers from Africa. There will also be time to network and share experiences. This year's annual banquet will also feature a look at ECDC's first 25 years while celebrating the accomplishments and contributions that African newcomers bring to their new homeland.

The conference typically attracts over 250 people from African community-based organizations; federal, state, and local government agencies; refugee service providers; think tanks; academia; and African newcomers.

For information on conference registration fees, lodging arrangements and other program details, please call Kate Vandermade at (703) 685-0510 ext.212, or visit us on the Web at: [www.ecdcinternational.org](http://www.ecdcinternational.org).

The Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) is a community-based, non-profit organization that is dedicated to resettling refugees, promoting cultural, educational, and socio-economic development in the refugee community in the United States, and conducting humanitarian and development programs in the Horn of Africa. Since 1983, ECDC has worked to help establish stronger and more culturally appropriate services for the United States refugee community and continues to pursue programs that will help newcomers become productive members of their new American communities.

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