TMSAANA Board of Directors Report to the Fourth General Assembly:
Bisrat Aklilu,
President, TMSAANA Board of Directors

In the two years since our Third GA of 28 May 2016, your Board has done a lot of work both here and in Addis Ababa and has been meeting thru Tele Con (and sometimes in person) at least every quarter. The outcome of our work has been shared with Alumni through the Quarterly Board Updates that we have regularly sent you. Though we rarely receive your feedback, we trust you are well informed about the many TMSAANA activities we have undertaken during the current biennium.

This is why I continue to believe “The State of TMSAANA” is good but can and should be better.

I would like at the outset to thank members of the TMSAANA Board – Alem W/Hawariat, Vice President, Garedew Atnafseged, Secretary, Temsegen Petros, Treasurer and Selam Yisma member as well as Aklilu Mekonnen who was a Board member until April 2017. What I will be
reporting and TMSAANA’s accomplishment is due to the diligent and dedicated work of these Board members.

I would like to start my report by recalling how and why TMSAANA was established.

It was on 15 August 2011, almost 6 and 1/2 years ago that a small group of TMS alumni, of whom quite a few are here with us, took the historic decision to establish TMSAANA with three main purposes:

1st To serve as a platform for former students to re-establish contacts and fellowship that we had grown with at TMS;

2nd To work closely with the Addis Ababa based Tafari Makonnen School Charity Association (TMSACA) which at that time was going through the process of legal establishment, and cooperate on joint projects to assist our alma mater. Because of the lengthy decision making process in our country, TMSACA got Government legal recognition only in August 2015, four years after TMSAANA’s establishment.

3rd To identify specific projects that will enhance the quality of education, and develop Alumni Visitors’ Program to share knowledge and experience with our former school.

How has TMSAANA performed against its three establishment purposes? The verdict, you would be pleased to know, is quite well

On re-establishing contact and fellowship among alumni, in addition to our biennium GA, periodic, often quarterly, TMSAANA Regional meetings are increasingly taking place in the Greater NY, DC and LA area that bring alumni together. During the next biennium, the Board will encourage alumni living in Southern part of the US and Canada to start such periodic meetings.
On TMSAANA working with TMSACA, a strong cooperation had started around TMS' 90th Anniversary Celebration that took place in 2015 specially on TMSAANA’s Scholarship Programme as well as the restoration of the famous TMS Water Fountain. Unfortunately, this partnership has not developed due to the delayed establishment of TMSACA and its recent inactivity. Since TMSAANA Board Secretary, Gardew Atnafsged and myself are spending considerable time in Addis, we will continue to get TMSACA revived. Since we have a couple of TMSACA members amongst us, I invite them to share their thoughts with us.

On TMSAANA’s assistance to TMS: TMSAANA as you know provides two type of financial support to TMS students.
- The 1st: a Merit and Need based Tuition Payment Scholarship for both male and female students, and
- The 2nd: a purely need based support to female students to cover their monthly sanitary costs.

During the 2016-2018 biennium TMSAANA has continued to provide support to 800 students – merit and need based Scholarship Assistance grant to 400 female and male students and monthly grant to cover sanitary cost for 400 needy female students.

While our Treasurer’s report will cover TMSAANA’s annual revenue against its annual assistance commitments, let me just mention how important your $120 annual membership payment is. The $120 amounting to Birr 3,304 covers TMSAANA’s support of the annual sanitary costs for nearly 6 female students or the tuition payment of 11 students.

In addition, TMSAANA actively worked with Engineer Berhanu Woldamalak from TMSACA to restore our memorable TMS water fountain that was built over 80 years ago. The fountain, which had
fallen into disrepair, was restored to its original form using the same type of stone and improved water pipes. A plaque prominently displays the water fountain’s restoration by TMSACA and TMSAANA.

TMSAANA is also pleased to have assisted Alumnus Ermias Amare to publish his memorable book about TMS titled ‘Ye TMS Tezeta’, which he will present to us at 2pm. The book is a follow-up to Father Roland Turenne’ book ‘As I Remember ... Memoire of a Former TMS Teacher”, which TMSAANA published in 2016 for the Third GA. Like Father Turenne, Ermias has donated the book to TMSAANA, for which we are grateful to him.

Let me now turn to our major work-in-progress, Restoration of the TMS name. As you must know by now, after a constructive meeting TMSAANA and TMSACA members had with the Mayor of Addis Ababa in early 2014, the issue went through various reviews by the Ministry of Justice and the AA Cultural and Tourism Bureau. Though both institutions gave their non-object to restoring the TMS name, the AA City Administration has still not given us a final decision. We will continue to follow-up our request until they give us a final clear no or yes decision.

Since I have mentioned TMSAANA’s accomplishments and work in progress, let me also highlight two main challenges TMSAANA is facing.

These are

1- Membership and the associated inadequacy of membership due payment,

2- Continuity of TMSAANA’s Leadership due to the difficulty of getting alumni to serve as Board members.
1- **Membership**: Members, as you all know, are the foundation and lifeline of any organization. As you will later note from Temesgen’s financial report, although **TMSAANA has about 215 registered members, the annual due paying members are only 60 or 30%**. The payment of the 60 alumni totaling $7,200, which amounts to about 200,00 Birr at current exchange rate, only covers 55% of our annual student assistance programme. As a result, it is not our annual membership payment that is enabling us to support the 800 students and other activities but the additional donations received from some generous alumni. Some of these generous contributors include people who did not attend or even knew about TMS!

**During the afternoon review of the 2018-2020 presentation of TMSAANA Work Programme and Budget, the General Assembly need to carefully review this issue and give us guidance.**

2- **TMSAANA’s Leadership**: While the Board Nominations Committee Chairman Bayou Tadesse will address the issue of Board recruitment in the afternoon, I strongly feel it is my duty to inform the GA the risk TMSAANA faces due to the unwillingness of alumni to serve on the Board. No organization can survive by relying on the service of the same Board members indefinitely. A Board needs to be refreshed and energized by new members.

I will not cover the various measures the Board has instituted to ensure a robust and accountable internal management of TMSAANA’s activities and resources. We are deeply indebted to Temesgen Petros, who will leave the Board at the end of this month after serving as TMSAANA Treasurer since November 2012. Temsegen is an exemplary professional who has totally reorganized and modernized TMSAANA’s financial management and developed a Standard Operating Procedure for TMSAANA, which the Board approved this year. We will have the opportunity to honor him in the afternoon. I also want to acknowledge
the incredible work our Vice-President Alem Wolde Hawariat has been doing since she joined the Board with Temesgen in November 2012.

Finally, let me once gain express how proud I am for what we are doing as TMSAANA. Every time I am in Addis, it is so gratifying to visit and hear from the students we are supporting and the Teachers how grateful they are to TMSAANA. You will hear testimony from some of the students and teachers during the 2pm video presentation of “TMSAANA’s Contribution to TMS.

We look forward to your views, assessments and guidance on ways of further strengthening TMSAANA.

Thank You.

May I now call our Board Treasurer Temesgen Petros to present TMSAANA Finances TMSAANA Financial Reports and the report of the TMSAANA “Independent Financial Review”.

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