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Conference report

April 27–30, 2005 in Addis Ababa: “Stemming the Tide: Efforts at Preserving Languages”

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Conferences

April 27–30, 2005 in Addis Ababa: *Stemming the Tide: Efforts at Preserving Languages*

From April 27 to 30, 2005 an international conference on endangered languages of Ethiopia with the title *Stemming the Tide: Efforts at Preserving Languages* was held at the University of Addis Ababa. The conference was organised by the Department of Linguistics, Addis Ababa University and the Department of African Languages and Cultures, University of Leiden, the Netherlands. The conference opened with a talk of the phonetician Peter Ladefoged followed by papers giving an overview of the sociolinguistic situation of individual (mostly but not exclusively Ethiopian) endangered languages, e.g. Anfillo, Ongeta and Southern Agaw. Some of these papers were supplemented by linguistic data. Other papers focused on grammatical topics, e.g. the long distance reflexive in Benchnon, or on endangered domains in non-endangered languages, e.g. the avoidance vocabulary of Alaaba and Kambaata women. On the third day of the conference, a round table discussion with representatives of several endangered languages was held, in which the situation of these languages and their speakers was debated. The representatives formulated what kind of help for the preservation of their languages they expect from linguistics.

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24.–26. Juni 2005 in Leipzig: 10. wissenschaftliche Konferenz von ORBIS AETHIOPICUS in Verbindung mit der 7th International Conference of Ethiopian Art: “Ethiopian Art – A Unique Cultural Heritage and a Modern Challenge”

Die ca. 100 Teilnehmer wurden von Oberbürgermeister Wolfgang Tiefensee und von dem äthiopischen Botschafter Hiruy Amanuel im prachtvollen Neuen Rathaus in Leipzig begrüßt.

Die Tagung wurde zu Ehren der hundertjährigen diplomatischen Beziehungen zwischen Deutschland und Äthiopien, sowie dem zehnjährigen Jubiläum des ORBIS AETHIOPICUS und “zu Ehren des Nestors der äthiopischen Kunstgeschichte Professor Stanisław Chojnacki” (90. Geburtstag im Okt. 2005) gefeiert.

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