



# Mekelle University

## Profile



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Tigray Development Association





## Resilience at its Peak!

Mekelle University, which is located in Mekelle 783 km away from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, is a federal government-funded higher education institution with an international reputation for teaching, research and community engagement, and collaborative and partnership understanding with national and international sister institutions from all over the world. The establishment of Mekelle University has its own history.

Mekelle Business College was first established as a school of Business & Economics in 1987: and in 1991 the school was upgraded to a college offering diploma level programs and renamed itself as Mekelle Business College with an intake capacity of 150 students. It instigated with 16 academic staff and about 20 administrative staff members. At the end of the first year, the college received a full accreditation by the Ministry of Education. Since then, the college has been continuously expanding its programs and building its capacity.



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Open Air Cafeteria (MBC)

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And Mekelle University College was established in 1993 at the Arid Zone Agricultural College which had been settled in Mekelle after a series of relocations. Then, as a College of Dryland Agriculture



and Natural Resources Management, it has permanently settled at the Endayesus Campus, which had been a military barrack since the time of Emperor Menelik. It was first established under Momona /Faidherbia albida/ tree. The College started with three-degree programs and 42 students in 1993. After two years, the Faculty of Science and Technology was established at the same campus and, together, these two faculties were then upgraded to Mekelle University College.



The merger of the two former colleges, Mekelle Business College and Mekelle University College, established Mekelle University in May 2000 by the Government of Ethiopia (Council of Ministers, Regulations No. 61/1999 of Article 3) as an autonomous higher education institution.

Having graduated more than 100,000 professionals in the last two decades-until 2021, the onset of the devastating conflict in Tigray, Mekelle University with the designation of Research University, was one of the top three universities in Ethiopia with an aspiration to be among the leading

research universities in Africa. Currently, with more than 10000 academic and administrative staff, the University has seven colleges and nine academic institutes



**Dr. Fana Hagos, the president of MU**



running a total of 392 programs including 53 PhD, 204 Masters, 14 Specialty, 2 Sub-Specialty and 122 undergraduate programs with some more programs in the pipeline. Moreover, before the devastating conflict in 2021, the University had more than thirty thousand students pursuing their studies in the university's six campuses in Mekelle and some nine centers outside Mekelle including Addis Ababa and Hargeisa in Somaliland.

Of course, Mekelle University had not been providing its full scientific operations from 2021 to November 2022 due to the war. It

had also been through challenges due to Covid-19, climate change and cost of living. During this dark period, Mekelle University and its community were suffering a lot of finance and budget cut, communication blackout, halting of its partnerships, power breakups, suspension of research and development projects and the like. Its staff had been exposed to death and injury, imprisonment and torture, bombardments, loss of family members and tragedy, psychological traumatization, starvation and economic loss, displacement and family disintegration, health crisis, shelter crisis, property crisis, livelihood crisis and other multi-faceted crisis.



Despite these all challenges, Mekelle University management and staff were struggling utmost to serve the community. With all the problems it had been faced with, Ayder Comprehensive Hospital and its entire staff remained functional. The main offices of Mekelle University were also open and the leadership of all levels remained almost intact. Some academic programs in postgraduates were continuing and around six PhD defenses had been taken place. Furthermore, more than 350 researches were published. You could imagine how resilient the university and its staff were during the crisis.

However, following the Peace accord signed in Pretoria, South Africa on 03 November/2022, Mekelle University has embarked on resuming teaching, research and community engagement. Nonetheless, the attempt to resume has been facing a very daunting task of rehabilitating and reconstructing. Having made a partial maintenance in some of its basic resource, the university has resumed its academic programs as of July, 2023 and its graduating students have already been back to the University. Moreover, it has enrolled its non-graduating students as of October/2023.



It has also been striving hard to restore its Partnerships all over the world. The University has signed agreements and Memorandum of Understandings with many existing and new partners in the last one-year.



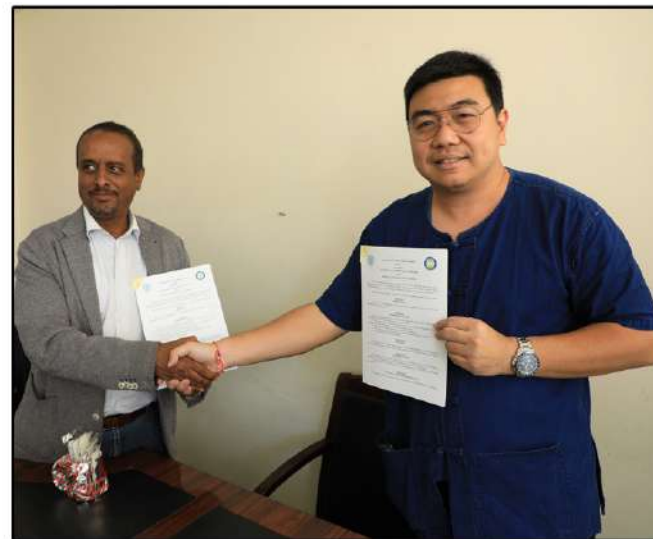
**Chinese Ambassador visit to MU**



**Opening ceremony of MU American Corner**



**Collaborations with Italian Delegates**



**MoU with Thai University and Investors in Fishing**







# Photo Gallery



