

Faculty and research staff at AAU are similarly anticipating GTP II, where Anshebo sits on the Strategic Planning Committee. He said, “The focus area of GTP II will be a major source for the strategic plan to be prepared.” He hopes to roll out the PhD program. The University has already approved the curriculum, and now

Anshebo is just awaiting a budget.

GTP I helped the materials science community get its footing. Now, the scientists are counting on the continued support of the country’s leadership. According to Lee, GTP II must approach materials science as “an essential area to develop and improve in Ethiopia.” As programs grow

and students graduate and research progresses, materials science will produce the knowledge and materials that will develop and improve Ethiopia in return. And the video of Addis Ababa cityscapes at the Ethnological Museum will become increasingly unrecognizable.

Ben Pelhan

US-China Clean Energy Research Center issues solicitation to address the energy-water nexus www.us-china-cerc.org

The US Department of Energy (DOE) issued a \$12.5 million Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for a new technical track under the US-China Clean Energy Research Center (CERC) that addresses water-related aspects of energy production and use. The solicitation calls for the formation of a US-based consortium to work with Chinese counterparts to bolster collaborative efforts to help ensure energy, water, and environmental security and to combat climate change. The consortium will be funded with \$12.5 million DOE support and \$12.5 million recipient cost share for a total of \$25 million over the five-year period of performance.

“Water resource scarcity, variability, and uncertainty are impacting energy systems in the [United States] and China,” said Secretary Ernest Moniz. “Increasing

collaboration through the CERC engages the technical resources of both countries, opening opportunities for researchers and industrial partners to address our common challenges in the energy-water nexus. By leveraging science, technology and innovation, we can ensure our collective energy and water security.”

This US investment will be matched by an equivalent effort in China, bringing the total bilateral investment to \$50 million. The new energy-water track was initially announced in November 2014, when President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping renewed their commitment to CERC with \$200 million in total funding over five years. In addition to expanding work under CERC by \$50 million for research in energy and water, the announcement in November extends ongoing collaborative efforts to

2020, adding \$150 million to continue initiatives already under way. These focus on the development and deployment of clean vehicles, building energy efficiency, and advanced coal technologies for carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration.

This FOA also seeks to transform how water is used in energy production and electricity generation, while improving water quality and availability for a diverse range of human applications. It builds on the contents of *The Water-Energy Nexus: Challenge and Opportunities*, which DOE issued in June 2014.

Topics covered in the FOA include water use reduction at thermoelectric plants; treatment and management of nontraditional waters; improving sustainable hydropower design and operation; climate impact modeling, methods, and scenarios to support improved understanding of energy and water systems; and data and analysis to inform planning, policy, and other decisions.

Bernard Bigot appointed as new ITER Director-General www.iter.org

During a meeting held in Paris on March 5, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Council appointed Bernard Bigot as the next Director-General of the ITER Organization, succeeding Osamu Motojima.

Bigot said, “The whole world needs innovative technologies to ensure a long-term sustainable supply of energy. Magnetic confinement fusion is one of the most promising options. I am deeply

honored for the possibility of contributing to the large, international, and ambitious research program that is ITER, which has innovation as its aim. Be assured that I will do my best to meet the expectations of the ITER members.” Motojima, appointed Emeritus Director-General of the ITER Organization by Bigot, is leaving ITER with the gratitude of the ITER Council and after having made significant contributions to this international endeavor.

Bigot, a distinguished scientist, was the Chair and CEO of the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission, CEA, and was also the High Commissioner for ITER in France before he joined the ITER Organization. Bigot has had a long and distinguished career and a record of close involvement with ITER. He is an experienced senior manager of large programs and projects, a leader capable of finding common ground among ITER members, an excellent communicator, and he is highly respected by the fusion research community, according to the ITER Council. He has taken up his duties as Director-General immediately. □