

COS team attended the HMNDP meeting in Geneva during march 11-15, 2013

March 18, 2013

A High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP), sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and other international partners, was held on March 11-15, 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland to focus on drought preparedness and management policies. The meeting brought together more than 300 government decision-makers, development agencies, and leading scientists and researchers to encourage countries to move from crisis management to disaster-risk reduction – an approach already successfully embraced for hazards such as tropical cyclones and floods. COS was represented at the meeting: Dean Vikas Chandhoke chaired a plenary session on “Constructing a Framework for National Drought Policy: The Way Forward”; Professor John J. Qu and Dean Chandhoke made a presentation on GMU global environment and natural resource activities during a special side session event; and Research Professor Ray Motha, a member of the HMNDP Organizing Committee, was a discussant in a plenary session on Planning for Appropriate Response and Relief within the Framework of National Drought Policy. Mr. Balehager Ayalew presented “Drought Assessment and Monitoring for Sustainable Production of Tef Crop and Land Management Using Geoinformation Science” in poster session. COS also had the other poster entitled “A Drought Study in the Horn of Africa with Terra MODIS Measurements” on display during the poster sessions. The presentations at the meeting showed that proactive drought management planning is now possible following major advances in science and technology, and knowledge about sustainable land management, including innovations for national and regional drought monitoring, early warning systems, risk-based responses as well as mitigation and coping strategies. The first preparatory meeting for this HMNDP, entitled “Expert Meeting on the Preparation of a Compendium on National Drought Policy”, was held at GMU on 14-15 July 2011 to help formulate policies that engender cooperation and coordination at all levels of governments in order to create more drought resilient societies. A ministerial declaration was issued at HMNDP, encouraging governments to develop and implement national drought management policies consistent with their development objectives, and providing detailed scientific and policy guidance on how to achieve this goal.

More detailed information can be obtained from:

<http://www.hmndp.org/>