

Acknowledgement

From June 27 to July 3, 2010 thousands of Ethiopians gathered in San Jose, California to reaffirm the promise of that great day in 1984, when the ESFNA Soccer Tournament and Cultural Festival was a budding idea. With deep emotion and great joy, I shared many extraordinary experiences with the players, special guests, artists, vendors, and our ardent supporters –the fans.

I would like to thank the twenty-seven veteran teams and the four teams who participated for the first time to fill the one spot available in our second division. More than 800 players, numerous family members and friends, and thousands of community volunteers and vendors from the Bay area came together and made this year's tournament a tremendous success. The soccer-friendly weather helped to make a festive occasion pleasant and enjoyable.

The tasks of preparing the stadium, booking hotel rooms for our players and making arrangements for our guests, though challenging, were accomplished by the hard work of my colleagues in the Executive Committee, and the local organizing committee of the Bay area, particularly the President of the San Jose Anbessa club, Mr. Melaku Aynalem and the San Francisco Walia club, Mr. Dagnachew Bezabeh. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my EC colleagues, who strived tirelessly to coordinate a notable event:

Vice President - Abiy Nurelegne
Secretary – Samuel Abate
Treasurer – Taye Wogederes
Business Manager – Bisrat Desta
Finance Chair - Abework Abay
Internal Auditor – Zelalem Seifu
Public Relation Officer – Fassil Abebe
Tournament Coordinator – Endale Tufer

The success of ESFNA San Jose 2010 was also possible thanks to the diligent work and sacrifice of many committed groups and individuals. On that note, on behalf of ESFNA, I would like to thank the ESFNA Board of Directors for their incessant contributions and guidance, which reflected the basic premise and foundation upon which this Federation has been built.

Most of our players and coaches behaved professionally and displayed honorable sportsmanship in their dealings with each other and with members and coaches of opposing teams. However, there were some incidents that happened both on and off the field that the ESFNA will not tolerate. Such behavior is inexcusable and appropriate action will be taken to ensure a safe gathering for all at future tournaments. Nevertheless, all of the players and coaches should be congratulated for their

performances. I would like to congratulate the LA Stars for taking the Division I trophy and Las Vegas for being Division II champions. Congratulations also goes to San Diego for their promotion to Division I by finishing second in Division II and Kansas City for becoming the 28th member of the ESFNA family.

Members of ESFNA's sub-committees, who were responsible for ensuring that the activities of the week-long tournament were properly executed, have discharged their respective responsibilities effectively and with honor. The Tournament Coordinating Committee members worked arduously to maintain the original game schedule without unnecessary delay. The Finance, Auditing, and Security Committee members worked hand-in-hand at the main ticket and parking gates to ensure smooth crowd flow and minimal delays at SJSU Stadium for the soccer games, and at the McEnery Convention Center for the Teddy Afro show and the Closing Night gala. The Business Committee Members properly managed the Dry Good and Food vending activities to the satisfaction of vendors and guests. Our Public Relation Committee members did a fabulous PR job by working closely with artists, Ethiopian local media, and radio stations throughout the states. All of the aforementioned committee members deserve acknowledgement for a job well done.

ESFNA and its patrons appreciate the cordial hospitality and treatment Ethiopians and other guests received in our main Head Quarter Hotel – the San Jose Marriott, and the overflow hotels – the Saint Clair hotel, Crowne Plaza, and Hilton. Special thanks goes to Mrs. Tonirose Lambio and Mr. Nate Moore of the Marriott, Mrs. Elizabeth Rose and Nadine Banalies of The Saint Claire, Mrs. Robyn Kinnebrew of Hilton and Mr. Michael Robasciotti of Crowne Plaza.

We would also like to thank the SJSU Stadium Staff for their help throughout the tournament. Special thanks also to Jody Smith and Matthew Goudreau for their professionalism, and for providing help as needed.

We greatly appreciate Mayor Chuck Reed for his warm welcome to one of the oldest, most historical, and attraction-filled cities in California. We had a superb time in your city, Mr. Mayor. Also, thank you to Mr. Daniel Fenton, President & CEO and Todd Gibbs of the San Jose Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Food and Dry Good Vendors and Non-Profit Organizations who entertained and educated our guests and fans with breathe-taking music, gourmet food, and humanitarian activities deserve many thanks. ESFNA is privileged to have you as our service providers. Special thanks goes to all food vendors for providing the players' welcome dinner and orientation.

Last but not least, ESFNA appreciates the thousands of ESFNA San Jose 2010 attendees. Thank you for coming from the four corners of the globe and for your continued support of this worthy cause—the annual pilgrimage of Ethiopians. ESFNA

deeply appreciates the individuals and groups who used the occasion of ESFNA San Jose 2010 to organize events on Ethiopian causes of minor and major significance. Your every effort is worthy of celebration and acknowledgement.

It is obvious that ESFNA may have overlooked many important individuals and groups in this acknowledgement; please rest assured that the Federation appreciates you and all you have done for ESFNA San Jose 2010. We would like to extend many thanks to you and the numerous dedicated friends and supporters of the Federation.

Note: The Federation is working hard to select a host city for our 2011 annual tournament. The Federation's Executive Committee is evaluating tournament packages from Atlanta and Toronto. We have conducted the site visits and we will make the announcement as soon as possible. We invite you to explore our website, www.esfna.net for the latest updates.

The Executive and Finance Committee are currently preparing the financial reports for San Jose 2010. Our 2010 Financial Statement will be ready in September, and be presented at our Bi-Annual Board of Directors meeting scheduled for October 2010. A copy of the report will be sent to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting. For those that are interested, please get involved with your local team and get informed on the ongoing ESFNA happenings.

If you need to get in touch with us, or you have a proposal, question, and/or suggestion please email us at mdemisiew@yahoo.com or to our secretary abatesam@yahoo.com.

Mekonnen Demisiew

President,
ESFNA