



Seminar Presentation

Friday, January 10/2025 (2 PM)

**BAHIR DAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF MECHANICAL AND INDUSTRIAL
ENGINEERING**

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Betsha Tizazu Abreham received his Ph.D. from the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taiwan, in 2020 and his M.Sc. in Industrial Engineering (production engineering and management) from Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia, in 2013. His research interests include human robot collaboration ergonomics, biomechanics, human-machine interactions, performance of virtual and augmented environments, innovation management, sustainability, and optimization. Currently, he is an assistant professor of industrial engineering and production system engineering chair holder.

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Seminar topic:

Bridging Innovation Gaps: Defining the Role of Universities in Africa's Innovation Landscape

A b s t r a c t

Innovation in Africa remains in its infancy, facing numerous challenges that hinder progress and economic development. For instance, Ethiopia ranks among the lowest in the global innovation index, positioned just ahead of three countries out of 133 and ranked eighth among ten low-income nations. According to various innovation models, universities and higher education institutions are critical players in fostering innovation. However, African universities have yet to effectively leverage their potential to enhance innovation and contribute meaningfully to economic growth. This presentation aims to define the role of universities in Africa's innovation landscape, emphasizing the urgent need for them to strive for innovation. We will explore key solutions, including increased investment in research and infrastructure, strengthening partnerships with industries, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, and enhancing community engagement. By addressing these areas, universities can play a transformative role in bridging innovation gaps and driving sustainable development across the continent.

Key Words: Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Africa, Higher Education, Economic Development