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Executive Director, ORDA

Acceptance Speech

European Society for Quality Research's (ESQR) Quality Choice Prize 2016 Ceremony

December 12, 2016.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning!!!!

Thank you, Dr. A. Arista, Executive Director of ESQR, and the entire ESQRSTAFF for both this distinctive honor as well as for promoting the advancement of quality THROUGH OUT THE WORLD.

It is my privilege to be here today to represent **Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara, Ethiopia,(ORDA)**including: our 32 INGO Donor partner organizations; more than 1.7 million community members whom we serve; and the 1,200 employees at ORDA caring for and serving our PEOPLE.



Dr. Amlaku Asres while receiving the Global Award in Berlin, Germany

As you might well know, Ethiopia is an ancient country whose unique cultural heritage, rich history and remarkable biodiversity are reflected in a record of nine UNISCO world heritage sites- more than any other country in Africa. Ethiopia is well known for being - the Land of Origins - it is indeed:

- Origin of Humankind
- Origin of the Blue Nile – the origin of civilization
- Origin of Coffee- our gift to the world.

The organization that I represent, ORDA, is one of the largest Local NGO in Ethiopia, established in 1984. It has more than 32 years rehabilitation and holistic development experience in Amhara Region of Ethiopia. Its ultimate objective is to contribute for the overall efforts of ensuring food, livelihood and environmental security of the government that realizes sustainable development and social transformation.

ORDA is a stable and persistently growing organization conferred with marvelous development achievements in its areas of specialties: *Natural resources development, water resources development, food security and agriculture development programs along with mainstreaming of Gender, HIV/AIDS, Nutrition, Disability, and Youth development.*

As a result, ORDA has contributed 8% of the plantation forestry in the region by planting more than 604.6 million forest seedlings; Rehabilitated 737,710 hectare of degraded land by biophysical soil and water conservation and area closures; protected 82,000 hectares of lowland natural forests (biodiversity) by establishing community groups; Contributed about 14% of the regional potable water coverage by constructing 5350 safe water supply schemes that benefit 2.27 million people. Constructed 275 small scale irrigation schemes having the capacity to irrigate 17,385 hectares of land and benefited 122,522 households; The food security program of ORDA helped 500,000 chronically food insecure (CFI) people (25% of the regional CFI people) in terms of knowledge, inputs and technology & greatly contributed to graduation of households from food insecurity in the region.

For the excellence performance it made, ORDA RECEIVED a number of Recognitions, among others are:

- Recognized for **excellence in Greening** (afforestation program) and **Water, Hygiene&Sanitation (WASH) program implementation** (received National & Regional awards in 2007, 2009 and 2015);
- Recognized as **charity of choice** for growing number of donors (100% major donor growth and budget since 2009);
- Recognized as **partner of choice** for major INGOs and Bilateral organizations (USAID, EU, , DFID, IFAD, GAC, SIDA, GAA, CARE, WVE, SNV, etc);
- Recognized for **excellence in program quality** and received **the 1st Level Ethiopian Quality Award 2014/15** after a rigorous verification of institutional systems in ensuring

effective leadership, policy and strategies, resource and process management, customer satisfaction, business process and social impact criteria's.

- Recognized for **excellence in financial transparency** (Unqualified audit report since 2007); and we are now
- Candidate for **European Society for Quality Research (ESQR) Quality Choice Prize 2016**.

The above recognitions are the outcome of proven capacity of ORDA in implementing projects at a required quality level and record changes in improvement of community livelihoods.

Like every organization assembled and represented here, ORDA has a passion for what we do, and a deep desire to do it better. For us, that means delivering rural development services to the people with a level of quality that drives innovation, improves wellbeing, and enables us to be distinctive in the NGO sector, while providing our beneficiaries (clients) with value, innovation and results.

We're delighted that we are selected the "Quality" criteria as a foundation for our operating model; and while we are delighted to receive this honor, we recognize that this is just a milestone along a long continuum to constantly evolve and improve our quality in order to build our brand, relevance and impact in providing rural development services to our people.

Like my fellow recipients, I accept the 2016 ESQR's Quality Choice Prize with a real sense of pride and accomplishment, but also with a sense of obligation to continue our journey of quality improvement, uphold the standards of this award, and assist other organizations in improving their own quality.

Finally, I would like to say Congratulations to all of you here. You are role models par excellence.

Thank you.