Latest news from the Institutes project to provide practical physics training to Ethiopian teachers: by retired Industrial Physicist Dr Bill Poole.

A second teacher training session was conducted in July 2010 to demonstrate a range of equipment to Ethiopian physics teachers and the equipment was subsequently donated to the participating schools.

The training was led by Christine Cleave (Head of Physics, Derby High School) who was supported by Bill and one of the Ethiopian teachers, Endale Bogale, who had received training during 2008. The involvement of Endale was a step towards making the project self-sustaining and indicated ownership by the Ethiopian Ministry of Education. A Derby High school student also took part in the training sessions on wave demonstrations using a slinky. This allowed the student to obtain a perception of physics education in a third world country and the Ethiopian teachers to appreciate the level to which British students work.

In response to the request by teachers who took part in the 2008 training sessions, a draft training manual was produced to assist teachers in using the equipment back at their schools.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Education is in the process of developing training centres for physics teachers. The July training had representative teachers from the 4 main regions of the country and it is planned to have workshop/training centres in these regions along with an overseeing centre based in Addis Ababa. The Ministry has already requested that each regional Education Bureaux provide a budget for the setting up of the centres.

The Institutes contribution to the development of practical physics for schools in Ethiopia will continue by supporting the development of the training and workshop centres.