Latest news from the Institute’s project in Ethiopia

The IOP project in Ethiopia is progressing with plans to set up Workshop and Information and Training Centres (WITC). The first centre will be in the capital Addis Ababa and will have oversight of four regional Centres. The Afar, Somali, Benshangul Gumuz, Diredowa and Harari regions will be linked to the four regional centres as indicated below:

At this stage of the co-operation the emphasis will be on setting up the Central WITC in Addis Ababa. In February 8 sets of equipment were shipped to Addis Ababa of which 5 sets will be used in the WITC and 3 will be distributed to participating schools at the 2010 training sessions.

Bole Senior Secondary and Preparatory school was visited during February. This school had sent 2 teachers to the 2008 IOP course and they had not received a review visit since the training.
The teachers completed a questionnaire relating to the use of the IOP equipment. Since 2008 they state that they have trained 13 of their colleagues in how to use the equipment which is in regular use. The Van de Graaff generator, multi-meters and slinky are listed as equipment of particular interest to the students. An operating and maintenance manual would be beneficial for the teachers and technician and it was noted that batteries for the meters were difficult to obtain locally.

A visit was made to one of the Bole Physics classes where students expressed interest in optics and in astro-physics.

The ITC centre based in the Lambaret library has now been operational for about 1 year and students from Bole school are able to access course work that is installed on the laptops. This facility is greatly appreciated by the staff and users alike. A reliable Ethiopian graduate in computer science has volunteered to maintain the laptops.

Dr Bill Poole, IOP International Coordinator, Ethiopia.