Under the Theme: Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy in Higher Education in Sudan

It is widely acknowledged that if universities are to perform their functions effectively, then they should enjoy academic freedom and an adequate level of autonomy. However, there are many factors influence the extent to which universities enjoys these two concepts.

The system of higher education in Sudan witnessed phenomenal expansion during the last decade of the past century. These developments raise a number of pertinent questions such as: to what extent are the stakeholders, particularly academic staff and students, aware of the nature and role of the concepts of academic freedom and institutional autonomy? What measures and mechanisms need to be established to enhance academic freedom and autonomy?

The aim of this research is to investigate the different ways of viewing Academic Freedom through empirical analysis of the range of the respondents’ views. Also the research will examine the state of academic freedom in Sudan. It also studies factors affecting academic freedom which are expected to be ranging from legal, institutional, political, economical, and organizational and from internal to external factors.

Diversity of higher education in Sudan will be considered i.e. rural/urban universities, private/public universities, old, middle age, and new universities etc. quantitative and qualitative research methodologies will be applied.

Outputs Expected are:

1. Awareness of academic freedom and institutional autonomy among university community are brought to the front of discussion in the Sudanese intellectual arena.
2. Measures and mechanisms to enhancement of academic freedom and institutional autonomy are identified.
3. A book produced by locally-resident researchers is expected to serve as a reference book in various Sudanese universities, and feeding into local and national policy making.

NWG-Sudan is composed of two prominent Professors with recognizable contribution to the theme: Mohamed ElAmin Eltom (Prof.)-Sudan Research & Studies Center and Jalal El-Din Al-Tayeb (Prof.) University of Khartoum, beside Samah Hussain (Mrs) University of Gadarif, Abd El-Mageed Mohammed Yahya (PhD) University of Delenj and coordinated by Hamed Hawi (PhD) University of Juba,