Tracer Study at Addis Ababa University:
Dissemination of Results and Institutionalization

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Outline

• Relevance of tracer study to Ethiopia
• The experience at Addis Ababa University
  – Process of tracer study
  – Dissemination of results
  – Institutional support
• Challenges and opportunities
• The way forward
  – Dissemination strategies
  – Institutionalization
Relevance of tracer study to Ethiopia

• Higher education in Ethiopia
  – Expansion of higher education
  – Student massification
  – Issues of quality and relevance of study programs

• Employment opportunities
  – Government is the main employer – low wage and dissatisfaction
  – apparent mis-match between study and work

Addis Ababa University
Relevance of tracer study to Ethiopia

- Relevance to Ethiopia
  - Program and institutional accreditation
  - Input for program review and development
  - Accountability/choice to customers and stakeholders
  - Efficiency and appropriate use of skilled human resources (graduates)
The experience at Addis Ababa University

• Tracer study at AAU
  – The first institution of higher learning in Ethiopia to take part in tracer study
  
  – Process of tracer study
    • Initiated by the INCHER-Kassel
    • Not institutionalized/pilot through UNITRACE
    • Fragmented initiatives (GIZ)
The experience at Addis Ababa University

– Dissemination of results
  • Publications in peer reviewed journals
  • Meetings and discussions with university officials
  • Presentation of results in international conferences

– Institutional support
  • Encouragement of university administration to participate in UNITRACE
  • Financial support for graduate survey
Challenges and opportunities

• Challenges
  – Limited awareness of and commitment to the use of tracer study
  – Limited autonomy universities to use the results of tracer study
  – Unstable institutional setting
Challenges and opportunities

• Opportunities
  – Huge demand for program review and accreditation from the Ministry
  – Focus on quality enhancement and assurance
  – Thriving private sector of the economy and the demand for skilled graduates

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The way forward

• Dissemination strategies
  – Workshops
  – Publications including leaflets
  – Mass media and web
  – Collaboration with other Universities who are starting tracer studies
  – Use the Ministry of Education
The way forward

- **Institutionalization**
  - Raising awareness of university officials on the relevance of tracer studies
  - Inclusion of tracer study into university policies and strategic plan - program review and development, quality enhancement, career development, etc
  - Formal structure - allocation of financial and human resources

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Thank you!