



# Bahir Dar University STEM Center

*nearly complete, November 2013*



The motto of Bahir Dar University (BDU) is: “Wisdom at the Source of the Blue Nile.” The university was formerly known as the Ethiopian Polytechnic University. University president Dr. Bayle Damtie, a specialist in space electromagnetic weather, continues the university’s reputation as one of the best technical institutions in the nation. Bahir Dar is a unique planned city, and is the capital of the Amhara regional state, located in northwest Ethiopia.

Given the pedigree of Bahir Dar University (BDU), it’s easy to see why BDU-STEM-Center would be our largest undertaking to date. Our experience with BDU as an early adopter of the Ethiopian national University STEM Outreach program made obvious their keen interest in promoting STEM education.

BDU maintained a large available field on campus that would make a perfect site to build the STEM Center. The location is within sight of the banks of the Blue Nile River (known in Ethiopia as the Abai River). The location is also enhanced by the great river’s nearby source, which is Lake Tana, the largest lake in the country.

There was a Primary School teaching facility already in operation at the edge of the building site. We extended our STEM Center plans to include the capacity for Secondary School science teacher lab training. Thus a specialized school lab teaching wing came was added to BDU-STEM-Center.

One challenge was that the local soil did not contain proper composition of clay, thus preventing the manufacture of Hydraform stacking bricks near the site. This was solved by paying the expense of trucking the bricks from the ESPBC factory in Bishoftu,

The BDU staff insisted that the construction materials would be of a very high quality.

The following pictures illustrate the beautiful construction of BDU-STEM-Center.

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Main entrance of BDU-STEM-Center



Typical wet lab, for chemical- and bio- engineering



From the auditorium doorway, looking down the hallway between the ten labs. The main entrance is to the right. The Secondary School teaching lab wing is to the left.



Auditorium for science talks, science fairs, etc. Shown is ½ of width of the width auditorium.

