1. **IHY Ethiopia Conference & Workshops** (jointly sponsored by NASA/IHY)

HMI EPO Lead Deborah Scherrer attended the IHY-Africa Space Weather Science and Education Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10-16 November 2007. Associated with the conference, Scherrer and colleagues from UCLA and Rice University gave a full-day Educators Workshop to about 70 Ethiopian high school science teachers from around the country. The goal of the workshop was to help develop the next generation of African space scientists. Only then will the research infrastructure of Africa improve. The topic was fundamental physics concepts relevant to space weather including solar activity, magnetism, spectroscopy, and the electromagnetic spectrum, as well as discussion of the educational differences between the US and Ethiopia. All secondary education in Ethiopia is taught in English. The typical high school physics teacher has four classes of 60 students per day with no laboratory or demonstration equipment. Of the 70 teachers attending, only 6 were female. Although most of the teachers had access to computers through their schools, few had an internet connection. (Those that did complained bitterly about the poor bandwidth.) Starting teachers in Ethiopia earn the equivalent of $100US per month. Curiously, they all had cell phones.

Scherrer also had brought with her a collection of SID monitors for distribution throughout Africa. Enthusiasm for receiving the instruments was very high! During the

\[1\] This month’s report primarily highlights the Ethiopian conference and workshop attendance by HMI’s Deborah Scherrer. Subsequent reports will feature activities from other teams.
conference Scherrer gave a 2 hour workshop to about 50 African researchers on the SID installation and use. Once all the requests for instruments are filled, we should have a network of over 60 monitors on the African continent.

Scherrer was also able to tour Kotobe Teacher College in Addis Ababa. Educators in Ethiopia receive 2 years of general and education training and are then sent into the field to teach elementary and secondary schools. Educators wishing to teach high school must continue with another 2 years of training. Science is not emphasized in these teacher training settings, and even the library provided access to very few science texts.

Of the 60 students, only 2 were female. Ethiopian women in theory have equal rights, but reality does not yet reflect this.
Education in Ethiopia is (now) universal and highly valued. Children are taught English from the earliest years, and all classes from grades 7 up are taught in English. When we queried young people about their professional ambitions, they all shouted “Doctor … Chemist … Engineer … Scientist … Physicist!”

Education, and the internet, is their future!

Internet cafe, Ethiopian-style

Future SDO EPO Events:
An SDO Team Meeting is being scheduled for March 25-28 in Napa, California. SDO education and public outreach plans will be discussed on the first day of the meeting.