

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In this volume, and as we had promised, we first present a special issue based on select papers delivered at the Somali Studies Congress, in Helsinki, Finland, in August, 2015. We are delighted to have this part of the volume led by our distinguished guest editors. Their brief introduction guides our readers. We are grateful to Marja Tiilikainen, Outi Fingerroos, and Abdirashid A. Ismail for their professionalism, exemplary patience, and collaborative spirit. We originally planned to release the volume early in this past summer, but were detained by an urgent and unexpected assignment in Somaliland. Consequently, we apologize to our guest editors and authors for the delay.

The second part of this volume offers two articles on two important topics. The first, by Brandon Cannon, explores the new relationship between Turkey and Somalia (not Somaliland). This could very well be a pioneering meditation on a new actor in the Horn of Africa. Thus, we expect the piece to trigger new debate on the role of Turkey in the Somali territories. The last essay, by Abdirashid Jabane, addresses an old but perennial topic—pastoralism, development and the state in northeastern Kenya. Here, the reflections focus on a moving collision between the primal but environmentally adaptive livelihood of the pastoralist and a distant, centralized and state-driven agenda.

Finally, I had an opportunity to witness the convening of the 9th anniversary of the Hargeisa, Somaliland, International Book Fair. Held at the commodious Guuleed Hotel, it was a most exhilarating affair, attended by over 10,000, predominantly young and stylish people, during the six days and evenings. This year's theme was *Leadership and Creativity*. The keynote was delivered by the highly respected, now *eminence grise* of Somali Studies, Professor Hussein Adam (the pivotal figure in the creation of the Somali Studies International Association, almost forty years ago!) of the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Massachusetts. As is the practice of the International Book Fair, the 2016 guest African country was Senegal. This annual event exemplifies the multiple and glorious efforts of the people of Somaliland to not only build their country, in the wake of the dissolution of the union with Somalia more than 25 years ago, but to offer the denizens of the Horn of Africa and beyond an ambience where peace and order, freedom of expression, intellectual imagination, and democratic politics are a lived experience. This is no small feat in a country otherwise confronted by the durable challenges of material wellbeing and haunted

by much vaunted but elusive international recognition. We congratulate the organizers of the Hargeisa International Book Fair, particularly its director, Jama Muse Jama, for another highly successful proceeding. Anticipations have already started with regard to the theme and arrangements for the tenth anniversary, next year.