

# Preface and Acknowledgement

Modern Ethiopia is undergoing rapid urban transformation. The pace of change in cities and towns is unprecedented indeed; many international and local organizations have also endorsed the same statistic. Besides the amazing changes and growth which are taking place, cities in Ethiopia are faced with multifarious and complex challenges.

Previous studies sanction the veracity of the huge gap that exists between the supply and their persisting demand for urban infrastructure and services in the urban centres of Ethiopia; supplies further fail to amalgamate concurrent concerns such as environmental sustainability, employment generation, poverty eradication, gender, and partnerships with the community and private sector. It was also realized that there is a wide capacity gap among public servants, who are responsible for the policymaking and execution of the projects and programmes related to the urban infrastructure sector.

Urban Management Masters Programme (UMMP), at Ethiopian Civil Service University, Addis Ababa, is an ambitious capacity building programme for urban professionals working in the public sector. While working as a course coordinator at this academic programme, I realized that the participants of UMMP have ended with pertinent and vital research projects from different parts of urban Ethiopia covering a range of topics related to urban infrastructure and services; however, the findings of these projects have remained unpublished. This point motivated me to conduct a review for the broader academic and professional community, who have some sort of curiosity regarding contemporary urban issues of the global south in general and especially in the low income countries like Ethiopia.

I believe that this book will set an agenda of research for urban infrastructure researchers in Ethiopia. I am extremely thankful to all my students at the Ethiopian Civil Service University, who hold intense thrust for the development of Ethiopia as research investigators.

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