

Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) Receives International Star for Quality Award in Geneva



On the 29th and 30th of September where the 37th International Star for Quality Convention held in Geneva, Switzerland, the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) was honored with the ISAQ International Star Award for Quality in the Gold Category for 2012.

The International Star for Quality Convention is an episode organized every year to reward highly-qualified professionals involved in large projects, whose decisions affect millions of people around the world and EPHA was among the organizations given recognition in this year.

Ato Hailegnaw Eshete, Executive Director and Dr. Filimona Birsat, Board Member of EPHA were in attendance of the event where they proudly accepted the BID International Star for Quality

at the International Quality Convention in Geneva. Dr. Filimona stood before the international community at the 2012 International Quality convention in Geneva, sharing the achievements of EPHA, as well as its future plans and goals. Defiant in the face of the pressures of the current global economy, Dr Filimona said, EPHA strives to excel every day in quality and creating a competitive edge; a clear indication of its affirmative role. For this reason, EPHA was named a winner of the 2012 BID International Star for Quality Award in Geneva; a trophy which BID presents to those companies from around the world that best adhere to excellence and innovation in their practices, putting quality first at all levels of the organization.

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Strives to Enhance Pubic Health!!!



A Road Map towards Establishing EPHA's Research and Training Center

Alongside expanding and strengthening EPHA's research unit, recently there has been initiated the novel idea of founding a certified health research and training institute that would reinforce and increase the Association's contribution to the national health sector development. Although the idea started small, it is enriched faster given its grand vision and EPHA's level ideas and kind of interaction geared towards making the dream come true.

Indeed, the above scenario is subject to certain stipulations; mainly realizing EPHA's Research and Training Institute undoubtedly demands, above all, the collaborative efforts, commitment, passion, and team spirit from all EPHA members, staff and support from all concerned bodies. In fact, imitative is most likely to bear fruit given the current pace of EPHA's growth and projection over the next few years. It is of an encouraging achievement for EPHA that it has secured a plot of land in the middle of Addis Ababa for the construction of its headquarters, which is seen as an opportunity for accommodating the planned institute within the new building. This makes us feel that the best is yet to come and that the future is bright for EPHA.

Anyone who carefully scrutinizes EPHA's current performance can safely say that the saying holds water. Additionally, EPHA has a good record of performance in implementing various national and international projects including undertaking opera-

researches, organizing trainings and scientific conferences and has registered significant achievements towards achieving the overall goals of the health sector development program in the country.

Thus, EPHA has recognized the need for and is now planning to establish a research and training facility which can serve as a center of excellence in health related research, training and thereby contribute to improving the public health situation of the country by generating scientific and evidence-based data that can inform policy formulation, program and project development.

The envisaged EPHA Research and Training Center, which is of a strategic importance to the Association, is going to undertake various policy related researches, organize short and medium term trainings to its members and the general public and organize several platforms on which serious discussions on the important public health concerns to take place. It is also expected to become a credible source of information for those interested in the health development of the country and beyond.

We hope that this center will contribute to the development of the nation's public health sector by illustrating the value of the task-approach and thereby pointing out important thematic research areas for future enquiry. It is indeed a proud to be part of this process. Finally, worthwhile to mention that EPHA is indebted to the individuals who initiated the idea and to all who have enriched the idea for their excellent contributions.

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EPHA Gratified with International Award for Perfection, Quality and Ideal Performance



The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) has been awarded a the global prize for perfection, quality and ideal performance at the ceremony that took place on the 19th of November 2012 in Rome, Italy. This global award has been presented to EPHA in recognition of its achievements, innovation, quality of service and excellence of performances as information, polls and voting demonstrated to the global community. The award was given by other ways Management Association club-parts.

It was learnt that the selection committee decided to award this prestigious trophy to the Ethiopian Public Health Association with the objective of encouraging and supporting its services and enhance its active role in the global health environment.

Consular and diplomatic corps of various countries, business people from more than 40 countries were in attendance of the awarding ceremony, adding color to atmosphere of the occasion.

This international award is organized every year by the Association Other Ways Management and Consulting and takes place in Europe rewarding firms from all over the world, that have distinguished themselves for their remarkable achievements with respect to Quality and Excellence. The award winners thus represent the best in their respective field.

The Association Other Ways Management and Consulting, which was formed with the aim of establishing a tie among companies around the globe is professionally connected to more 7,100 organizations whose products and services help in positioning them leaders in 160 countries.



EPHA, MH Engineering Signs MoU on the Design Work of the Association's Future Headquarters.

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) and MH Engineering signed a memorandum of understanding on October 03, 2012 to launch the design work of the association's long anticipated building complex. The signing ceremony of the agreement took place on the occasion of EPHA staff retreat program in Sodere Resort. Dr Tewabech Bishaw, President of EPHA and Dr Mesele Haile, General Manager of MH Engineering signed the agreement on behalf of the two organizations.

During the signing of the agreement, Dr Mesele unveiled that his company is amused upon receiving such a great responsibility from an organization which has been engaged working on social development programs; which according to his articulation is in line with the organizational value and principle of his company. He underscored that his company will try its level best to execute the task at a relatively measurable cost and faster while maintaining the highest quality standard.

Dr Tewabech, for her part, congratulated MH for being selected, based on the merit of its technical preparedness and level of competency by competing with eight similar firms which had submitted bid documents to EPHA.

The tender for the design work of the EPHA building complex was floated for interested and potential firms to compete for, as per the rule of the Public Procurement Agency (PPA), it was learnt.

It was said that EPHA went through a long journey in order to secure the deed title of the 875 m2 plot of land, around Kebena on competitive lease bid.



EPHA, WHO, FHAPCO and UNAIDS, Jointly Conducting a National Triangulation and Synthesis of the HIV /AIDS Epidemiological and Behavioral Data in Ethiopia

Based on a memorandum of understanding reached among EPHA, WHO, FHAPCO, and UNAIDS, a triangulation and synthesis of different sources of the HIV/ AIDS Epidemiological and Behavioral data is being carried out to identify key population groups and associated factors, program areas and interventions for the design of appropriate strategies and programs towards the achievement of the MDG-6.

The objective of the project is mainly to triangulate and synthesize the epidemiological and behavioral data in such a way that the synthesized final

data would provide strategic information that guides the multi-sectoral response to HIV/ AIDS in Ethiopia. The findings to be obtained from this collaborative research undertaking are, thus, expected to be used in the prioritization of interventions and revision of SPM II and related strategic documents.

Though there are different data sources which is received as a very positive development, some data sources are presented without any reference to the other sources, and with limited explanations of the meanings behind the figures, it was learnt. For instance, the decline in HIV

prevalence in the country is presented in both the ANC and DHS data. However, the biological and behavioral data are neither triangulated nor synthesized as stated in the project document.

A technical working group is formed to follow up and review the progress of the project and is composed of organizations such as the Federal HIV Prevention and Control Office (FHAPCO), Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Institute (EHNRI), Centre for Disease Control (CDC), WHO and UNAIDS. This grant research work is being carried out by the Addis Continental School of P.H.

A Consultative Workshop Held on the Preparation of a Reference Book on Reproductive and Child Health in Ethiopia



Held on October 15, 2012, the Half-day long consultative workshop, organized by EPHA with financial support from John Hopkins University, has enlightened a new path to produce the first of its kind comprehensive reference book on reproductive and child health in Ethiopia.

Professor Misganaw Fantahun, who first initiated the idea and is assigned to work as one of the editors of the book, announced that the main objective of the project is to produce a comprehensive reference book for the purpose of training in RH/MCH field of

studies, which according to him, can only be realized by pulling together specialized experts from diverse professional backgrounds. He said all what have been made so far are quite appreciable but lack integration and are extremely fragmented.

In addressing her welcome to participants of the workshop, Dr Tewabech Bishaw, President of EPHA first expressed her heartfelt joy for seeing EPHA taking such a big assignment as the main coordinating body responsible for the production of the reference book on reproductive and child health in Ethiopia that is to be used as a reference material at the national level.

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Enhancing the Joint and Organized Efforts of Professional Associations in the National Response against HIV and AIDS Global Fund Support Project – through FHAPCO

A project entitled "Enhancing the Joint and Organized Efforts of Professional Associations in the National Response against HIV and AIDS" has been operational since May 2012. The main goal of the project is to enhance the role and participation of Professional Associations (PAs) in the national multi-sectoral response against HIV and AIDS. The project briefly reviewed the organizational status/ capacity and level of participation of the major professional associations in the overall HIV and AIDS response and tried to develop draft strategies to strengthen their capacity and thereby enhance their organized role and participation in the national response. Accordingly, three major activities were planned with the above objectives in mind namely; stock taking, rapid assessment and consultation/ dissemination workshop. The first two have already implemented.

The inventory of existing professional associations within the country was taken. From this, the PAs which were believed to be relevant for the intervention were selected and briefly assessed by focusing on their constituency base and membership, and scope of work.

The second important activity

conducted was a review of their involvement in the national multi-sectoral response against HIV and AIDS. Consequently, a qualitative research approach through Rapid Assessment Process (RAP) was employed. Document review and Key Informant Interview (KII) were used to collect data from purposefully selected PAs and then the data analyzed based on thematic areas identified. The findings showed that the constituency base touches all sectors of the socio-economy while their scope of work mainly focuses on promoting and enhancing the professional capacity of their members, advocacy for their sectors and direct service provision. Regarding their role in HIV and AIDS related interventions, though limited, the major areas include capacity building, awareness creation, research and publication dissemination, program evaluation policy and advocacy and workplace policy program development.

Along with enhancing the current interventions, improvement of quality of care and sectoral HIV and AIDS program development were seen as potential intervention areas by capitalizing on their wide membership base and existing partnership and networks. Major

gaps and challenges identified include resource constraints, low level of prioritization for HIV and AIDS interventions, duplication of efforts and lack of comprehensiveness and follow-up, as well as fund/donor dependency and the slow growth of PAs.

In general, the rapid assessment has shown that Professional Associations have a great potential to play a role in the national response to HIV AIDS despite the fact that actions need to be taken to coordinate their efforts and build their capacity. Some of their major gaps and challenges along with enhancing their potential intervention areas and capacity have been identified. Currently, the project is on its final stage of preparation for the planned consultative/ dissemination workshop to be conducted in order to finalize the draft joint plan of action and disseminate the results of the rapid assessment. The participants will be from Pas that were included in the assessment and other key stakeholders of the project such as HAPCO, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science and Technology and others.

*Contributed by Abreham Gizaw,
Monitorin and Evaluation Officer EPHA,*

AIDS 2012 Ignites Momentum for the Beginning of the End of the AIDS Epidemic Scientific, Political and Community Leaders Call for Collaborative Partnerships and Investments in Research, Treatment and Prevention to Turn the Tide on HIV

The 2011 High Level Meeting on AIDS was a watershed in the global AIDS response. As United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated in his report to the UN General Assembly, .

UN Member States unanimously endorsed the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and its new targets- by 2015 to reduce sexual transmission of HIV and HIV infection among people who inject drugs by half, to increase the number of people on treatment to 15 million, to halve TB-related deaths in people living with HIV, and to eliminate new HIV infections among children.

This year, there is a similar development witnessed. The global AIDS community concluded its biennial conference with a clear sense that the end of the AIDS epidemic is possible with sustained financial, political and scientific commitment. The conference was the most important global gathering in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS as well as a unique opportunity for science, community, governments and leadership from around the world to advance the response to the epidemic.

During the conference, important data on the leading HIV/AIDS issues and allow for sharing of lessons learned

“Bold decisions must be taken to dramatically reshape the AIDS response to reach zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths”

among developing and developed countries that will assist in bringing and supporting effective treatment and prevention program to communities around the world were presented and displayed.

As delegates and organizers depart Washington, D.C., where the conference held from 22 July to 27,2012 under the theme Turning the Tide Together, they understand that though a vaccine or cure is still necessary, scaling up resources and the tools available today has the potential to save millions of lives. Only with coordinated efforts to expand HIV prevention and treatment initiatives, integrate HIV

programs into broader health services, maintain funding, and improve human rights across vulnerable populations will the international community begin to end the AIDS epidemic. “AIDS 2012 has brought delegates together from around the world to Washington, D.C. – with one aim in mind to turn the tide on the HIV epidemic AIDS 2012 drew nearly 24,000 participants from 183 countries. The week-long program featured 194 sessions covering science, community and leadership. “

At the Closing Session, U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said, “The International AIDS Conference is focused on solutions, care, and a cure, bringing together experts, policy makers, and people living with HIV around a single goal: ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic once and for all.

HIV/AIDS is a challenge that knows no borders, and the United States must continue to invest in treatments and prevention at home, while working to restore a future of hope and health to communities around the world.”



EPHA DHSS Team Partakes at the 2nd Asian Population Association (APA) Conference in Bangkok, Thailand



A team of six experts who are working for the EPHA Demographic and Health Surveillance Sites (DHSS) participated at the 2nd Asian Population Association (APA) conference which was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 26th to 29th August 2012. The conference was organized and led by professors drawn from Mahidol University having attracted more than 650 participants including population study and health scientists from across Asia and beyond.

The conference was served as a platform to exchange and discuss prime and emerging population concerns in the Asian region wherein the EPHA team shared the activities of its university-based DHS sites and Network performance. Conversely, the EPHA team has learned the importance of Personal Digital Assistant /PDA/ for the improvement of data quality for DHSS and to establish partnership for future collaboration.

A total of two plenary and more than 100 concurrent scientific sessions were convened; where distinguished scholars presented their findings on cutting edge population and health topics of the Asian region. The most important issues raised during the conference were focused on a priority issues such as techniques of demographic analysis, mortality, longevity and health, internal and external migration, fertility, household marriage and family, data quality and accessibility.

With similar development, it is learnt that two board members and the Project Director of the association attended the APHA annual conference, in USA and the CPHA immunization conference in Canada respectively.

EPHA, Undertaking Three Operational Researches in North and South Wello Zones

EPHA is undertaking three independent operational researches, focused on Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health and Youth Friendly Services in North and South Wello Zones of the Amhara regional state.

With these operational researches, it is intended to assess and determine the underlying factors that affect the utilization of RH/ FP/ MCH and YFS in the project areas.

The operational researches are taking place in the specified project sites where the Ethiopian Public Health Association has been implementing

RH/FP project with the support of the David and Lucille Packard Foundation since 2006.

It is the project which has aimed at enhancing the knowledge of Health Extension Workers (HEWs) on family planning service provision and improves capacity of RH/FP leaders and to strengthening the link between Households and Primary Health Care Units for improved reproductive health of women and young people.

Based on the midterm evaluation made in 2010, the project has been scaled up by including new service components

such as Youth Friendly Service (YFS), enhancing the limited knowledge and skill of HEWs in providing long acting FP method, and enhancing referral linkages.

The in-house research capacity of EPHA has recently been making rapid progress, as its research, publication and training unit has been diligently engaged in conducting large scale qualitative and quantitative researches of varying nature for organizations which are working in different public health sectors.

Cohort 8th of LSI Trainees Graduated



At the graduation ceremony held on December 29, 2012 in the Intercontinental hotel, Addis Ababa, seventeen trainees of the eighth cohort of Leadership in Strategic Information (LSI) program presented and defended their projects, which were focused on the different HIV/AIDS and STIs sub thematic areas, in the presence of Ato Hailegnaw Eshete, Executive Director of EPHA, Nwando

Diallo, CDC representative and other invited guests. Of the 25 public health experts enrolled into the program, 17 of them received certificate awards from the guest of honor, Nwando Diallo of CDC, fulfilling the course standards. It was learnt that the trainees graduated having completed the three successive modules of the training program along with effectively undertaking their respective research projects with the use of secondary data on HIV/AIDS and related topics.

Congratulating the graduates in his opening speech, Ato Hailegnaw Eshete, Executive Director of EPHA disclosed to the participants that researches synthesized with the use of secondary data are vital for decision making at various levels.

According to Dr Fikire Enquelasie, from AAU; School of Public Health, the combination of trainees of the 8th cohort in terms of regional and gender composition was of excellent. The graduates were consisted of health professional drawn from health

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4th Global Health Summit in Ghana

To be hosted by the Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA). The theme is "POLICY AND HEALTH SYSTEM RESEARCH – THE CONTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH" To be held on December 10th, 2012 at La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra.

South East Asia Regional Public Health Conference & 57th Annual Conference of IPHA

South East Asia Regional Public Health Conference & 57th Annual Conference of IPHA will be hosted from 1st to 3rd February 2013 at the prestigious Science City in Kolkata. The focus will be on "Strengthening Partnerships towards excellence in public health - One Vision, One Voice".

Executive Courses at the Graduate Institute

The Graduate Institute organizes an Executive Course on Intellectual Property, Diplomacy and Global Public Health (13 to 15 February 2013) and an Executive Course on Global Health Diplomacy (1 - 5 July 2013). The courses will take place at The Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland.

Global Conference on Health Promotion 2013

The 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion (8GCHP) - Helsinki, Finland, June 10-14 2013. The conference is co-organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland.

21st IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion

The IUHPE has been organizing a World Conference on Health Promotion every three years since 1951. This unique international event aims to contribute to the development of equity and social justice across the globe by offering a unique platform for dialogue on the "Best Investments for Health" between participants from various sectors from all over the world. To be held in Pattaya, Thailand on 25 – 29 August 2013.

27th International Population Conference

At the kind invitation of the Korean Government, the XXVII IUSSP International Population Conference will be held at the BEXCO Conference Centre in Busan, Korea, from 26 Aug to 31 Aug, 2013.

4th Asia Pacific Conference on Public Health

The Asia Pacific Conference on Public Health is convened annually. In 2013, the Vietnam Public Health Association (VPHA) will be the host of the 4th Asia Pacific Conference on Public Health from 17 – 18 October, 2013 in Nha Trang. The theme for the Conference is "Climate change - Population Health".

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Opinions Piled-up from Participants of the Technical Update Training on Spectrum Models, Organized by Futures Groups and EPHA, 15th to 25th August 2012, Health Policy Project



Group Pic. Participants, Trainers and Organizers of the Spectrum Model Training

I have got Spectrum an excellent tool particularly to the works of the Central Statistics Authority in many ways. We are very pleased for we have received the training the moment we are aggressively working on the national inter-census activity. And I am quite sure we will use Demproj in our inter-census work in order to make population projection over the various demographic parameters. I had very little knowledge on some of the spectrum models but this training gives me a very practical, comprehensive, and in-depth knowledge on how to use every model in circumstances where I can access basic national baseline data.

Abebaw Andarge, from CSA

We were very much enthusiastic to get the training on the spectrum model. It was really a golden opportunity for us to explore fresh knowledge and acquire the essential skills that would empower us to stand confident before our students in the university and transfer to them the knowledge. Since the launch of the Department of Population Studies two years ago, Spectrum has been well considered as a course within the curriculum despite the fact that there has been no one fully equipped with the knowledge and practical applicability of the model. That has been highly worrying us. We were planning to find resources and get a capacity building training somewhere in the country or abroad. That's why I affirmed that the training has been a great deal of opportunity for us. We have also a plan to cascade the training to regional sectoral organizations so as to enable them make scientific projection within their own sectoral and geographical jurisdictions.

Nega Mihret, from Gondar University Head Population Studies Department

We came here basically to learn and practice RAPID model which is more relevant to MoFED's interest than the rest. In our annual activity plan, it is stated to produce an informative booklet using the Spectrum model in general and RAPID software in particular. However no one was there who had gone through the process applying the software successfully. The training was up to our expectation and met our point of interest. I can confidently say that I am already equipped with the necessary expertise on the use and applications of the spectrum model. Now we are sure we can do it. In case we need additional technical support, we will contact the future groups.

Getu Gesso, From MoFED

I am working in a consortium that works on population, health and environment in Ethiopia which endeavors dealing with integrated efforts rather than a sectoral approach to development. Nowadays, different fields have their own specific model supported software applications. In Ethiopia much has not been done on software models particularly in relation to demographic data to health, agriculture and education. It is a breakthrough for me to have had such practical applications based models. I am really impressed with the models which I have acquired for the last four days on Demproj, Famplan, LIST and RAPID.

Wondimu Chifra, from PHE

The goal of the training was not only to complete the courses and know the application procedures of the spectrum models and go back to our routines but importantly it was to apply the models in order to generate strategic information for macro level decision makers of the various respective organizations that sent participants to the training.

As the spectrum model requires the synergy of efforts of various sector organization and integration among them, am very much delighted to see participants drawn from various organizations namely of CSA, MoFED, Academic sectors, Professional associations...and the like. These organizations can play a pivotal role in the development endeavors and are very appropriate for the training.

Ato Gebeyehu, from USAID



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