

EPHA Celebrates its Silver Jubilee Anniversary with a Range of Activities and Programs



The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) has colorfully celebrated its silver jubilee anniversary and the 25th annual conference of the Association with over 1500 participants from various corners of the country and abroad in the African Union Conference Center.

Lasted from 20 to 22 of February 2014, the conference discussed a total of 289 scientific papers, of which 149 were oral and the remaining 140 poster presentations. The thematic areas included HIV/TB, Outbreaks, Nutrition, Maternal Health, Environmental Health, Mental Health and Non-Communicable Diseases, Child Health, Health Care Financing, Adolescent Health, Malaria, and Lab-based studies.

Keynote addresses were made by Dr Mengistu Asnake on behalf of Mr Jim Chauvin, President of WFPHA, Professor Mengesha Admassu, President of University of Gondar, Dr Jeffrey Hanson, Country Director of CDC Ethiopia, and Ms

Yemsrach Belayneh, Country Representative for David, Lucile and Packard Foundation Ethiopia Office, accenting on the real meanings of their partnership with EPHA.

While delivering an opening speech, his Excellency Dr Kesetebirhan Admassu, Minister of Health and Chief Patron for the EPHA House appreciated the achievements made by EPHA in the health sector development of the nation during the past 25 years.

Dr Kesetebirhan disclosed that the FMOH will further build upon and expand its existing strong partnership with EPHA to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Ethiopia by generating and implementing evidence-based health policies, strategies, programs and plans.

While talking about the country's health sector development over the past decades, the minister said 'in September last year, a joint UN and World Bank estimate has shown that Ethiopia has achieved MDG four, three years

Inside this issue

News	1,5...
Role Model	2,3
Health Matters	4
Upcoming Events	10
Photo News	11

Strives to Enhance Pubic Health!!!

EPHA Honors Outstanding Public Health Professionals and Institutions



At the opening ceremony of the 25th Annual Conference and Silver Jubilee Anniversary of EPHA that was attended by over 1500 participants on February 20, 2014, the Ethiopian Public Health Association honored three public health professionals and an institution with distinctive categories of long serving public health professional, senior research, junior research and institutional awards. Hence, Professor Melkie Idris, who has long been serving in the university of Gondar as a teacher and researcher, has been honored the prize for long serving public health professional.

Similarly, Dr Almaz Abebe from Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Ato Eshetu Girma from Jimma University and the

Consortium Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA) have received the senior, junior public health research and institutional awards, respectively.

The awards were handed over to honoraries by his Excellency Dr Kesetebirhan Admassu, Minister of the Federal Ministry of Health.

These awarding categories are traditionally delivered to public health professionals and institutions every year during the annual conference of EPHA to recognize the outstanding contributions made to the improvement of public health situations in the country in research and other public health care services.

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Role Model



Senior Public Health Service Award

Prof. Melkie Edris

This awardee started his career as a traditional weaver in a country side at the age of ten, and became a driver at the age of sixteen. Then he was employed as a driver by the then Gondar Public Health College and Training Center in 1961.

After three years of services, the college allowed him to join primary school during his spare time. He used to work at night and attend classes during the day. In doing so, he completed primary and secondary education in 1971. In 1971-2 he joined the college to take a health officer course and graduated in 1977 with a BSc degree in Public Health.

Soon after graduation he was assigned in one of the health centers under the Ministry of Health and served for one year. Then he was employed by the Ministry of State Farm and served for two and half years. In 1982 he returned to Gondar and he was employed by the Gondar College of Medical Sciences as an instructor with academic rank of graduate assistant. In 1991 he obtained an MSc degree in Applied Human Nutrition from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Since then he has been lecturing in nutrition to students of medicine, health officer, nursing, environmental health technicians, midwifery, postgraduate students MPH and MSc students. He has also served the college as Vice Dean for about five years and acting Dean for six months. At present his academic rank is full professor. He has reached his present educational status and academic rank through hard ways. The National and Regional mass media considered his achievements to be good examples for many people who had no chance of attending classes during their childhood.

He has authored and co-authored more than 25 scientific papers in peer reviewed journals.

Senior Public Health Research Award

Dr. Almaz Abebe

This awardee was born in Addis Ababa and had elementary and secondary schooling at Menilik II School. The awardee obtained a Bsc degree in Biology from Addis Ababa University.

After graduation, she joined the then National Research Institute of Health (NRIH), now Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) as assistance researcher and served the institute for some time as a young researcher before she got a chance to continue her education at Karolinska Institute, University of Stockholm, Sweden, and graduated with Msc. degree, in Virology. For the 2nd time, she has got a chance from her Institute to continue her education with a higher level at Academic Medical Centre (AMC), University of Amsterdam, Holland where she obtained a PhD degree in Virology.

In addition to the basic academic educations, she took different short-term trainings during her long-term service. These accumulative academic leanings and long time management experiences helped her to take the different responsibilities and activities at different levels within the Institute and its prime partners. Currently, she is serving EPHI as a Senior Scientific Advisor position.





Young Public Health Research Award

Eshetu Girma Kidane

This awardee was born on September 11/1983 GC in Dire Dawa where he attended a primary and secondary school. In 2004, he joined Jimma University for higher education and completed a BSc degree with Health Education and Health Promotion in 2007.

In the same year he joined Jimma University, Department of Health Education and Behavioral Sciences as graduate Assistant. After one year of service, he joined MPH training in Health Education and Health Promotion and completed in 2009. From June 2009 to March 2012 he served as a Lecturer in the same department. As of March 2012 to date, he is serving as an Assistant Professor in the same department. Since September 2012, he is attending a PhD course in International Health and Medical Research in Center for International Health, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Germany.

He has published more than 20 manuscripts in local and international scientific peer reviewed journals. He has received best researcher of the year award during undergraduate research in 2007 in the Department of Health Education and Behavioral sciences, Faculty of Public Health; Jimma University. He has also been awarded the German Association for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (DGPPN) and the German Alliance for mental Health, in association with the foundation for mental health and the anti-stigma association-open the doors award for De-stigmatizing mental disorders on the occasion of the 2012 DGPPN congress in Berlin, Germany.

Institutional Award

CCRDA

This is an indigenous non-profit umbrella organization which is engaged in various development activities including agricultural development and food security, rural and urban development, HIV/AIDS prevention and control, environmental protection and gender mainstreaming. The idea of creating CRDA was initially conceived in 1973 when a group of few organizations agreed to exchange information and coordinate their response to the grave humanitarian disaster of the time inflicted by drought, famine and displacement. As the intensity of the crisis deepened, a bank account was opened and the Christian Relief Fund was established to mobilize resources. It is an association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engaged in relief, rehabilitation, and diverse developmental activities focusing on poverty alleviation. It is the first legally registered Association of NGOs/CSOs operating in Ethiopia and serves as a forum for collective vision and action. It facilitates resource mobilization and the sharing of experiences for effective and sustained impact. It builds capacity to ensure efficiency and quality are met, efforts are not duplicated and lessons can be learnt. All these are geared towards championing societal transformation through increased engagements of NGOs/CSOs.

Currently, this association has 348 member organizations of which 73% (254) are Ethiopian Residents Charities, and 27% (94) are Foreign Charities.

Its vision is to see vibrant Charities and Societies that contribute to the development and prosperity of Ethiopia.

It has a mission of facilitating and enhancing the contribution of members to the national development endeavors through harmonization of members' efforts, enhanced collective learning and capacity building supports in the expanded operational space.



በዓይነቱ የመጀመሪያ የሆነው አገር አቀፍ የጤና ልማት ንቅናቄ ኮንፈረንስ የአቋም መግለጫ በማውጣት ተጠናቀቀ።

(የአቋም መግለጫ)

የኢ.ፌ.ዴ.ሪ የጤና ጥበቃ ሚኒስቴርና በጤናው ዘርፍ የሚሰሩ የሙያ ማህበራት በጋራ ያዘጋጁት የምክክር ኮንፍረንስ ከሚያዝያ 30 እስከ ግንቦት 2 ቀን 2006 ዓ.ም ለሶስት ቀናት በአዲስ አበባ የተባበሩት መንግስታት አዳራሽ ተካሂዷል። በዚህ በጋራ የምክክር ጉባኤ ላይ በጤናው ዘርፍ ልማት ባለፉት 20 ዓመታት የተመዘገቡ ውጤቶች እንዲሁም በዘርፉ የሚታዩ ተግዳሮቶችና የወደፊት አቅጣጫ ላይ በከቡር ሚኒስትር ዶ/ር ከሰተ ብርሃን አድማሱ የቀረበውን መነሻ ጽሑፍ መሰረት በማድረግ ለሁለት ቀናት ጥልቀት ያለው ውይይት ተደርጓል። በተጨማሪም የሙያ ማህበራት በኩል በዘርፉ ልማት የጤና ሙያ ማህበራት የነበራቸውን አስተዋጽኦና በቀጣይ የዘርፉ ልማት ላይ በጋራ ለመስራት የሚያስችል መግባባት ተፈጥሯል። እኛ በዚህ ጉባኤ በርካታ ጠቃሚ ጉዳዮችን ማግኘታችንን እያረጋገጥንና ለወደፊትም ከሚኒስቴር መስሪያ ቤቱ ጋር ተመሳሳይ የምክክር መድረኮች እንደሚቀጥሉ ያለንን እምነት በመግለጽ ከዚህ በታች የቀረበውን ባለ 6 ነጥብ የአቋም መግለጫ አስተላልፈናል።

1. ባለፉት 20 አመታት በጤናው ዘርፍ ልማት ለተመዘገቡ እምርታዊ ውጤቶች ያለንን አድናቆት እየገለጽን ለቀጣይም በዘርፉ የተያዙ ግቦች በተሟላ ሁኔታ እንዲሳኩ ከሚኒስቴር መስሪያ ቤቱ ጋር ከወትሮው በላይ ደረጃ በጋራ ለመስራት ቃል እንገባለን።
2. ባለፉት አመታት መንግስት የጤና ተቋማትን በማስፋፋት የአገልግሎት ሽፋን ከማሳደግ አኳያ መጠነ ሰፊ ስራዎች መስራቱ የሚበረታታ ሲሆን በአገልግሎት አሰጣጥ ጥራት ዙሪያ የሚታዩ ጉድለቶችን በመቅረፍ የህዝባችንን የጤና አገልግሎት ፍላጎት ለማርካት ከመቻሉም ጊዜ የበለጠ በጋራ ለመስራት ቃል እንገባለን።
3. የጤና ባለሙያውን በስፋት በየማህበራቱ በማሳተፍና ተከታታይ የአቋም ግንባታ ስራዎች በመስራት በዘርፉ መልካም የሙያ ስነ ምግባርና የሙያ ክህሎት ለማጎልበት ተግተን እንሰራለን።
4. የጤናውን ዘርፍ ልማት የሚደግፉና ለፖሊሲ ምክረ ሃሳብ የሚረዱ የጥናትና ምርምር ስራዎች ጉዳዩ ከሚመለከታቸው የመንግስት አካላት ጋር ተቀናጅተን በመስራት ለቀጣይ አመታት የዘርፉ ዕቅድ ግቦች ስኬት ጉልህ አስተዋጽኦ ለማድረግ የሚጠበቅብንን ሁሉ እናድርጋለን።
5. በተለያዩ የጤና ሙያ ዘርፎች የተደራጀ የሙያ ማህበራት በተናጠል ከመጓዝ ይልቅ ሁሉም የሙያ ማህበራት በጋራ የሚሰሩበት ጥምረት ለመመስረት ተግተን እንሰራለን።
6. በመጨረሻም የሙያ ማህበራት ያሉባቸውን ችግሮች ለመፍታት የመንግስት ድጋፍ በእጅጉ አስፈላጊ በመሆኑ ሚኒስቴር መስሪያ ቤቱ የሙያ ማህበራት ጋር የጀመረውን ውይይት አጠናክሮ እንዲቀጥልና ከሌሎች የመንግስት አካላት ለምንፈልጋቸው ድጋፎችም የሚኒስቴሩ እገዛ እንዳይለየን በዚህ አጋጣሚ ጥያቄያችንን እናቀርባለን።

“ለጤና አገልግሎት ጥራት መሻሻል በጋራ እንስራ!!!”
 ግንቦት 02 ቀን 2006 ዓ.ም
 የተባበሩት መንግስታት ድርጅት የሰብሰባ አዳራሽ
 አዲስ አበባ



Ethiopian Nurses
 Association



EPHA Raises Climate Change as a Matter of Public Health Agenda



EPHA has raised climate change as one of the most identified public health agenda and priority focus area for its future interventions. This was said at a research capacity building workshop held in Addis Ababa on the prime global topic of climate change with special attention to climate variability and changes and implications for malaria control and elimination in Africa, from April 28 to 30, 2014 at the Siyonat hotel.

The primary objectives of the workshop were to showcase available information and tools to support the research community to explore the impact of climate variability and change on malaria prevalence and to elicit discussion on current needs and recommendations for improved decision-making.

The three day long workshop that was convened by the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA), School of Public Health-Addis Ababa University (SPH-AAU), the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), with funding and technical support from the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH), the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) the Colombia Global Center for Africa (CGC-Africa) and the Health climate Foundation (HCF) deliberated on how to advance the understanding of climate variability and change in relation to the malaria burden to better inform policy decisions related to current control and future elimination strategies. To this end, the workshop explored data, methodologies and tools that could inform national public health researchers on improved assessments of population vulnerability.

The Climate Predictability Tool (CPT), developed by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), to assist climatologists in making robust predictions was tested for the first time as a potential tool for the malaria research community to assess the relationship of malaria to large-scale climate processes. In addition, a multi-model malaria platform (MMMP) was developed to explore uncertainty associated with the predictability of malaria over time using a series of process-based models.

The motivation for the workshop came from an NIH funded project entitles 'Climate and Malaria in East Africa' which has as its goal that malaria researchers in affected countries in East Africa would be able to identify opportunities for improving the effectiveness of prevention, control and elimination strategies by incorporating the understanding likely short and long term changes in the climate in their analysis.

Opening remarks were made by the representatives of the three organizing institutions namely by Dr Wakgari Deressa, Dr Madeleine Thomson and Mr Hailegnaw Eshete from SPH-AAU, IRI and EPHA respectively.

Dr Wakgari said that compared to the pre-intervention period 2005, malaria cases and deaths in recent years have declined by >50%. The aim of the malaria control program in Ethiopia is towards elimination. Despite these important gains, malaria transmission is highly heterogeneous across the different parts of the country. .

According to the most recent World Malaria Report malaria in East Africa has declined substantially since the turn of the century, when the Millennium Goals were first established, Madeleine Thomson, from the International Research Institute for Climate and Society mentioned this in her speech to participants of the workshop.

Ato Hailegnaw Eshete, Executive Director of EPHA on his part said EPHA is pleased to collaborate working on one of our priority of public health issue of climate change and further has interest to continue its collaboration with other institutions for the successful implementation and expansion of Health and Climate initiatives across the region.

In Ethiopia, malaria continues to be a major public health concern with an estimated two-thirds of the national population at risk for transmission.

The poster/paper emerging from this workshop will be submitted to the Healthy Futures conference on Climate Change and Vector Borne Diseases: Past, Present and Future to be held in Kigali, Rwanda from November 18 to 21, 2014.

New Executive Board Members Elected



S/r Fekerte Belete

Three new board members were elected by the general assembly of the Ethiopian Public Health Association during the business meeting of the 25th annual conference convened on the 22nd of February 2014, in the African Union Conference Center. The board members were elected from among eight contenders through a fair and transparent voting system. The election was conducted in accordance with the memorandum of the Association to substitute Dr Tewabech Bishaw, president, Dr Assefa Sime and S/r Workinesh Kereta who ardently served in the executive board of EPHA for successive four years and finished their terms of office in February 2014.

Hence Professor Afework Kassu from the University of Gondar, Sister Fekerte Belete and Dr Takele Geresu have been elected as new board constituents of the Association for the subsequent office term.



Dr Takele Geresu

In a similar development, it was announced that Dr Filimona Bisrat, who had served EPHA as a vice president of the Association has been appointed as president for the coming one year and Sister Fekerte Belete as vice board chair and vice president of EPHA.

It was learned that the newly elected board members are academically qualified, with extensive experiences working in different health sectors and institutions of the country and are renowned for their active roles and significant contributions in public health.



Prof Afework Kassu

Executive Board Members of EPHA

Dr Filimona Bisrat	President
S/r Fekerte Belete	Vice President
W/ro Hiwot Mengistu	Member
Ato Seyifu Hagos	Member
Dr Alemayehu Mekonnen	Member
Dr Takele Geresu	Member
Prof Afework Kassu	Member
Ato Hailegnaw Eshete	Executive Director (EPHA)

Dr Mengistu Asnake Elected as the President of WFPHA

Dr Mengistu Asnake, has been elected as president of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) at the 48th Session of its general assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland May 18, 2014.

While accepting his new responsibility as the president of WFPHA, he vowed to work with everyone and expressed his determination and passion to step forward the Federation to another level of achievement in course of his office term.

Dr Mengistu noted that "his election to the presidency comes at a very important period when extensive consultations are taking place all over the world to accelerate the progress towards achieving the health related MDGs and to planning the fundamental role of health in the post 2015 development agenda and the future sustainable development goals."

He reportedly said he would work tirelessly to strengthen the various committees of WFPHA and intend to establish a new focus area that would deal with women and children matters.

Dr Mengistu Asnake is a public health specialist with over 25 years of professional experience in the areas of reproductive health, primary health care, child survival, community health services, program management, training, operational research, and clinical service delivery. Currently he is the chief of party for the Integrated Family Planning

Program (IFHP), and Country Representative of Pathfinder International- Ethiopia. Dr Mengistu also served as the President of the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) from 2006 to 2009.

Dr James Chauvin of Canada, who was elected as the president of the WFPHA on the occasion of the 13th world congress in Addis Ababa and led the Federation from 2012 to 2014, was highly appreciated for his commitment and excellent leadership demonstrated during his tenure.

According to the press statement sent to EPHA, Dr Michael Moore, former minister of health of Australia and current Chief Executive Officer of the Australia Public Health Association has also been elected as vice president of the Federation.



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EPHA Partakes at the Continental Health Conference Organized by US Doctors for Africa and People to People in AU

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) entrusted twenty-five of its members to the continental conference held in the African Union Conference Center from May 21-23, 2014 where delegates represented by EPHA reflected professional and scientific views in response to the 21st century health challenges of the continent of Africa.

Officially opened by the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, His Excellency Dr Mulatu Teshome and the Secretary General of African Union, the conference deliberated on major public health agendas of the continent dealing towards mobilizing efforts for the health sector development of Africa through triangulation among government, Diaspora and non-governmental organizations.

Such a triangulation effort was caused by the main reason to tackle emerging and traditional public health problems in Africa those including infectious disease, non-communicable diseases maternal and child health issues.

To result in successful health sector development, African governments are responsible to enable the environment attractive for public health investment and the Diaspora group and nongovernmental organizations are expected to support governments initiative in order to reduce over expectation and unnecessary burden on governments.

It was said that African natives Diaspora in Europe and North America are surprisingly large in number and are engaged in different professional services. These people are equipped with special skill that can benefit their continent; hence it was underscored that it is a high time to pool these rich resource to respond to African health problems.

Special health care service for the African people in the form of Tele -medicine, mobile clinic and skill transfer were suggested to be initiated as the most practical methods in saving the lives of the poor African people.

Lastly US Doctors for Africa, People to People and different delegates represented from various organizations came together and formed a Pan African Health Care Association which is responsible to improve the well-being of the people of the continent.



Upcomming Events



APHA's I42nd Annual Meeting and Exposition

Saturday 15

November 2014 - Wednesday 19 November 2014

APHA's I41st Annual Meeting and Exposition was a resounding success, and we're already looking ahead to our I42nd Annual Meeting (Nov. 15-19, 2014). on Healthography: How where you live affects your health and well-being. Registration and housing for the 2014 Annual Meeting will open on June 3. Register by August 28 for maximum savings!

Information, programme and registration are available on http://www.eupha.org/site/upcoming_conference.php



7th European Public health Conference

Wednesday

19 November 2014 - Saturday 22 November 2014

The EPH Conference aims to contribute to the improvement of public health in Europe by offering a means for exchanging information and a platform for debate to researchers, policy makers, and practitioners in the field of public health and health services research as well as public health training and education in Europe.

Information, programme and registration are available on http://www.eupha.org/site/upcoming_conference.php



14th World Congress on Public Health

Wednesday 11 February 2015 - Sunday 15 February 2015

The World Federation of Public Health Associations and the Indian Public Health Association have the pleasure to invite public health professionals to the 14th World Congress on Public Health in Kolkata, India, from 11-15 February 2015.

The Congress aims towards fostering the promotion of "Healthy People – Healthy Environment" and will bring together thousands of participants from a wide range of public health disciplines from many countries around the world.

The Call for Abstracts, International Online Registration and

Listen to Zaren Lenege

Every Friday 7:30pm

On Fana Broadcasting Corporate



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