

REPORT OF THE 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN AFRICA



Ibadan, Nigeria

September 6, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA) was held in conjunction with the 2nd African Federation of Public Health Association (AFPFA) and the 3rd Society for Public Health Professionals of Nigeria (SPHPN) Conference from September 5-9, 2016 at the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The ASPHA meeting brought together thirteen (13) delegates from five (5) different countries (Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and United Kingdom). The theme for the conference was “Public Health in Africa and Sustainable Development Goals.”

The ASPHA meeting commenced at 5:00pm on 6th September, 2016 with a welcome address by Prof. B.S.C. Uzochukwu, executive member of ASPHA. He then apologized on behalf of the President, Prof. Sharon Fonn for her inability to join us for the meeting. This was followed by a brief self-introduction by delegates. Prof. Oladepo then gave a brief history of ASPHA and what we aim to achieve.

Main Business

- **World Federation of Academic Institutions for Global Health (WFAIGH)**

Prof. Adongo gave a report of the last meeting of the WFAIGH. He explained that it was a round table discussion on three main topics where he spoke on: “What is the value of education in Global Health for students in low, middle and high income countries?” on behalf of ASPHA and the African region as a whole. A report of the presentations were drafted which they intend to publish with ASPHA’s name on it. We were also informed that the WFAIGH would want to have a representative from ASPHA to take an executive position. It was then suggested we nominate Prof. Philip Adongo to represent us since he has already been doing that by attending their meetings and making presentations on our behalf. Dr. Flavia Senkubuge was also nominated to represent us since She is also young and influential. It was then decided that the executives decide on one of them to represent ASPHA at the upcoming meeting in Berlin during the World Health Summit from 9th – 11th October, 2016.

- **Next ASPHA AGM**

It was recommended that the next ASPHA meeting be held with that of the African Federation of Public Health Associations (AFPHA) to strengthen our partnership. This would be in February at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. At this meeting, an academic session was proposed on the theme: “Public Health Learning and Assessment in Africa” with two sub theme (“Global Health Competencies” and “Relevance and Appropriateness of the Public Health Curriculum”). A call was to be made for members to present abstracts. The deadline for Abstract submission was proposed to be 30th November, 2016.

Any Other Business

- **Representatives from United Kingdom (UK) Public Health**

We had in-attendance, representatives from UK Public Health (Faculty of Public Health [FPH] and Public Health England [PHE]) which was led by Prof. Aliko Ahmed, Dr. Victor Joseph and Mr. Ian Rufus. We had a dialogue with them that focused on strengthening Public Health systems workforce in Africa through collaborative partnership. ASPHA together with them is to develop a draft proposal on how we would strengthen Human resource for health in Africa with emphasis on Public Health (PH) Professionals training. We are also to assess the current PH Professionals capacity, numbers, identify the gaps and devise mechanisms to respond to the challenges. Strengthening public health systems has become a growing concern for delivering health services in Africa. This concern is deeply shared by governments and development partners across the African continent. The UK Public Health Team, in deliberations with AFPHA, ASPHA and the West African College of Physicians (WACP) also during the conference recognized the importance of developing health human resources as part of achieving universal health coverage in Africa. They all then resolved to help strengthen African health systems for better health outcomes for people through collaborative efforts in key sections such as human resource training, establishment of a coherent and collective African voice and knowledge transfer and exchange.

Action Points

- Secretariat to follow up on the Core competencies paper and update members.
- Secretariat to include members only section on the website which will benefit only ASPHA members
- Member institutions are to include discussions on ASPHA in their School, Faculty or departments agenda to ensure continuity by new leaders.
- Secretariat to ensure the ASPHA website is active again so member institutions can link ASPHA to their website.
- Secretariat to send invoice to member institutions to pay their dues.
- Country coordinators are to help strengthen ASPHA by being active and engaging all the member institutions in their country.
- Marian to continue the communication on the proposed collaboration with the UK team to strengthen Public health institutions so they can produce dedicated professional for health.
- Country coordinators are to speak with the heads and deans of public health institutions in their countries, collate their email address and send them to the secretariat.
- Sharon to have a conference call with the country coordinators and urge them to work.
- Prof. Aliko Ahmed to send a draft proposal to Marian on the Public Health Human resource strengthening.

Conclusion

The general meeting came to a close at 6:20pm with a group picture.

7TH ASPHA AGM - IBADAN, NIGERIA

6TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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