



2nd African
Conference on
Emerging
Infectious Diseases
Lagos.

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Lagos State Ministry of Health

Save the date!!

2nd African Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity.

Venue: Lagos Eko Hotel Conference Facility.

Date: July 27th to 29th 2016.

This is the concept note and outline of the 2nd African Voices and Leadership Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Background:

It is critically important that Africa hosts its own indigenous academic and policy meetings. This will help address response mechanism to biological threats and increasing incidences of Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) from a Continental perspective and align these with the evolving Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and the "One Health" paradigms developed by the WHO, OIE and FAO. Institutions on the continent that govern prevention, early detection and containment of public health crises caused by Emerging Infectious diseases or other biological threats are weak. The regulatory issues relating to sample biosecurity is a major concern.

GET is partnering with West African Task Force for Emerging and Re-emerging Infections Disease Outbreaks (WATER), to create the platform to raise National, Regional and Continental awareness and create opportunities to strengthen capacity development and to empower indigenous response mechanisms.

At the highly successful and productive first African Voices and Leadership EBOLA meeting organized by the same partnership on the 18th January 2015 in Dakar, the ***DAKAR DECLARATION and RESOLUTIONS*** were developed. Many of the resolutions have been acted upon since that meeting driving a systematic agenda in the sub-Region. Essentially the Declaration outlined the severe lack of infrastructure and technical capacity for an indigenous response mechanism to contain a biological threat from a highly infectious pathogen. This also explains our almost complete dependence on the developed world for support. This creates an opportunity loss to address our own issues, gain experience and derive biotechnological sustainable capacity, knowledge and intellectual property. The 2nd meeting will have much to report on the progress made.

This planned **2nd African Ebola and EID conference** meeting scheduled to take place in Lagos Nigeria on the 27th to 29th of July 2016, is being hosted by the Lagos State Government Ministry of Health and conference organizers Mothergold. The conference will revisit the Dakar Declaration and focus on some key deficiencies outlined in the Declaration which are Biobanking, Biodata, Biosafety, Biosecurity, Public Learning and understanding of Science and create a platform to debate a vaccine strategy for the Ebola belt.

Participation:

1. The conference aims to attract the key drivers from the ECOWAS countries involved with policy issues in the following sectors: human health, animal health, security, agriculture, curriculum development in Medicine and Veterinary Schools, biosafety containment facilities and biobanking.
2. This means at least five (5) participants per ECOWAS country need to be invited and sponsored. Since there are sixteen (16) ECOWAS countries we would have a total of eighty (80) participants.
3. Six (6) to Eight (8) Representatives from the five (5) African regions representing key sectors and institutions making an additional thirty(30) and forty(40) sponsored persons.
4. Key international Stakeholders. WHO, UN, OIE, AFRO, GPP, GHSA, Security Agencies, Academics, Vaccine industry, Blood and Pharmaceutical Industry, Ethicists, Anthropologists, Legislators, Civil Society, Bio Threat reduction experts and National Agencies involved with surveillance and early response mechanism.

Concepts:

Based on the turn of events in the year following the last Ebola meeting in Dakar, the following key themes have emerged that require attention:

1. Topics revolving around EID as an accelerating phenomenon and the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak with the following sub themes:
 - a. Survivors and survivor welfare
 - b. Plasma and a Plasmapheresis agenda for West Africa
 - c. New EID trends Lassa, Zika, MERS, SARS and Influenza.
2. Biosecurity and Biothreat Reduction: Biobanking, Bioinformatics, Biosafety, Biosecurity and Bioethics concerns in the aftermath of the largest Ebola outbreak known to man. To be called "The B5 Session", will address:
 - a. GHSA
 - b. Public health crises management
 - c. International biosecurity Conventions: BWC and 1540
 - d. IHR and PVS
 - e. Infrastructure
3. Public Learning and Understanding of Science (PLUS) and Science Communication (SC):
 - a. Use of PLUS as a major containment strategy for EID. The Lagos State and West African experience
 - b. An African Model.
 - c. The African EID book commissioning.
4. The need for a Vaccine strategy for the Ebola belt of Africa.
 - a. Leading vaccine contenders
 - b. Safety Profile
 - c. SAVI proposal

General Objective of the Conference:

To accelerate regional and continental political and public awareness of biological threats; and align these with international efforts to address such events (IHR and PVS) and the One Health Paradigm. Provide the impetus for adaptation of policies and practices that will minimize the evolution of EID and the spillover of zoonotic diseases from animals to human populations.

1. Focused Objectives:

- 1) Share experiences, best practices, and challenges in addressing Zoonotic Disease in both the animal and human sectors in Africa.
- 2) Identify regional and international opportunities for collaboration in support of zoonotic disease prevention and control.
- 3) Fast track a harmonised African Strategy to address the plethora of globally dispersed and regional Ebola related samples and data currently not thoroughly inventoried.
- 4) Opportunity to present the latest breaking research activity and Collaborations from this Ebola outbreak.
- 5) Advance the discussion on a Vaccine Strategy for the Ebola belt of Africa
- 6) Open a discussion on Science communication and its role in preventing and curtailing opportunities for public health crises emanating from EID.

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