

INCLLEN-Africa endorses its constitution, showcases researches on regional health issues

On October 16, 2001, the long awaited INCLLEN-Africa (IA) Constitution was endorsed by the Council in Alexandria Egypt, during the VIIth IA Regional Meeting. It was a moment where all those present in the room had glowing and smiling faces while the INCLLEN-Africa

Council endorsed the constitution in front of flashing cameras. In INCLLEN-Africa, the constitution is viewed to be an extremely important memorandum of understanding that will enable the regional network to forge ahead according to clearly stipulated guidelines. The new IA office bearers were also welcomed: Chair,

Dr. Amr Hassan; Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Charles Karamagi and Secretary General, Dr. William Macharia.

The INCLLEN-Africa VII Meeting held in Alexandria, Egypt on October 15-16, 2001, with participants from six out of the seven IA member countries: Egypt, Kenya,

Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Cameroon. Dr. Ronald Lett, Director of the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS), and representatives from the Public Health Schools Without Walls (PHSWOW) were among the active partners of INCLLEN-Africa who were present. Our colleagues from Ethiopia were unfortunately not able to attend.

The scientific meeting was opened by the Dean of Suez Canal University Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Adel Abd El-Kafy. The scientific presentations covered a wide spectrum of health issues that are currently facing the continent, ranging from infectious and chronic diseases to maternal and child health. The high quality and relevance of the scientific sessions were hallmarks of the IA Meeting VII.

At the IA Leadership and Management Program meeting that was held on October 17, those in attendance exchanged views on setbacks that discourage young scientists from conducting research. Some of the reasons cited included lack of adequate funds to conduct, present, and publish research. Repackaging of research proposals to suit donor requirements was suggested to be often necessary in order to attract funding. There is a need for CEUs to complete proposals in different research and capacity building fields so as to meet deadlines when announcements for grants arise. Most important is the need for individual and CEU commitment to the mission of INCLLEN-Africa, where each party fulfills its role to sustain a team spirit.

*William M. Macharia
Secretary General,
INCLLEN-Africa
AfricaCLEN members at work*