



**2nd African
Conference on
Emerging
Infectious Diseases**
Lagos.

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Lagos State Ministry of Health

Save the date!!

July 27th to 29th 2016.

2nd African Voices and Leadership Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity.

Venue: Eko Hotels & Suites Plot 1415 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria

Background:

It is critical that Africa hosts indigenous academic and policy meetings to help develop the continent's own response mechanisms to biological threats and increasing incidence of Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID). These home-grown responses will be aligned with the evolving Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) and the "One Health" paradigms developed by the WHO, OIE and FAO. Institutional strategies that govern prevention, early detection and containment of public health crises caused by EIDs or other biological threats are weak in most African Union member states. Of greater concern is the fact that regulatory mechanisms relating to sample biosecurity at the national levels are non-existing. Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET) is partnering with the 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.

The first African Voices and Leadership EBOLA meeting organized by the same partnership on the 18th January 2015 in Dakar, Senegal was impactful and came up with the **DAKAR DECLARATION and RESOLUTIONS** that aimed at initiating a systematic agenda in the sub-Region. Since that meeting, many of the resolutions have been implemented. The Declaration outlined the severe lack of infrastructure and technical capacity for an indigenous response to contain a biological threat from a highly infectious pathogen, resulting in almost complete dependence on the developed world for support. This scenario creates an opportunity for the continent to address issues, gain experience and derive biotechnological sustainable capacity, knowledge and intellectual property.

This planned **2nd African Voices and Leadership Conference on EID and Biosecurity** is 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 needs and gaps outlined in the Declaration, which include

Biobanking, Biodata, Biosafety, Biosecurity, Public Learning and understanding of Science and create a platform to debate a vaccine strategy for the Ebola belt.

General Objectives of the Conference:

Focused Objectives:

- 1) Share experiences, best practices, and challenges in addressing Zoonotic Disease.
- 2) Identify regional and international opportunities for collaboration towards the management, prevention and control of zoonotic disease.
- 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
- 7) Advance discussions on a harmonized indigenous data collection platform and present latest developments in global data gathering, sharing, and security.

Issues to be addressed:

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 UNSC RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)
 - 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. GAVI proposal

Target Groups:

1. The conference aims to attract the key drivers from the ECOWAS countries involved with policy issues (policy makers) and scientists in the following sectors: human health, animal health, security, agriculture, curriculum development in Medicine and Veterinary Schools, biosafety containment facilities and biobanking.
2. A number of relevant participants from ECOWAS, Africa Union and Regional Economic Community Member States will be invited and sponsored.
3. Other participants are representatives of key regional and international Stakeholders, including. Africa Union, NEPAD Agency, WHO, UN, OIE, AFRO, ECOWAS, WAHO, 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.

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Lagos State Ministry of Health



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AFRICAN GONG
The Pan-African Network for the Popularization of
Science & Technology and Science Communication