EPHA’s House Launched

FMOH Pledged to Provide Substantial Resources for the Construction of the EPHA House

A cornerstone for the construction of the EPHA house was laid on September 14, 2013 by H.E. Dr Kesetebirhan Admassu, Minister of FMOH and Chief Patron of the project and Dr Tewabech Bishaw, President of the Association, on the plot of land received from the municipality of Addis Ababa, located around Kebena area.

Estimated to cost 100 million Birr, the actual construction of the house will soon be commenced over a total of 885m2 piece of land acquired through a competitive lease bid in June 2011.

The final architectural work, soil taste and issues related to permits of the construction have already been finalized; however a tender for the physical construction of a 2 basements and 7 storey complex building, as designed by MH Engineering is yet to be announced for potential competitors recently.

The EPHA House is expected to serve as a center of excellence for learning, research and development, training, and publications and an open place for public health professionals and sister organizations to network themselves, deliberate and exchange information and thoughts of having public health significance.

“EPHA is a proven long time partner to the FMOH. We have a lot of projects together. The project that stands out, among others, is the Field Epidemiology Training Program which is designed to strengthen the surveillance system in order to respond to public health emergencies in the country. The EPHA has been supporting our strategies in different ways, particularly in terms of developing the skills of health professionals. We will, thus,

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The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) has been awarded a global prize for perfection, quality, and ideal performance at the ceremony that took place on the 19th of November 2012 in Rome, Italy. This global award has been presented to EPHA in recognition of its achievements, innovation, quality of service, and excellence of performances as demonstrated to the global community. The award was given to EPHA "for the organization’s unique vision, success in governance, innovation, and success in its programmatic areas of work." EPHA, which serves as the national umbrella organization for health professionals, currently has 22,000 members.

Consular and diplomatic corps of various countries, business people from more than 40 countries were in attendance of the awarding ceremony, adding color to atmosphere of the occasion. This international award is organized every year by the Association Other Ways Management and Consulting and takes place in Europe rewarding firms from all over the world, that have distinguished themselves for their remarkable achievements with respect to quality and excellence. The award winners thus represent the best in their respective field.

The Association Other Ways Management and Consulting, which was formed with the aim of establishing a tie among companies around the globe is professionally connected to more than 7,100 organizations whose products and services help position them leaders in 160 countries.

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) and MH Engineering signed a memorandum of understanding on October 03, 2012 to launch the design work of the association’s long anticipated building complex. The signing ceremony of the agreement took place on the occasion of EPHA staff retreat program in Sodere Resort. Dr Tewabech Bishaw, President of EPHA and Dr Mesele Haile, General Manager of MH Engineering signed the agreement on behalf of the two organizations.

During the signing of the agreement, Dr Mesele unveiled that his company is amused upon receiving such a great responsibility from an organization which has been engaged working on social development programs; which according to his articulation is in line with the organizational value and principle of his company. He underscored that his company will try its level best to execute the task at a relatively measurable cost and faster while maintaining the highest quality standard.

Dr Tewabech, for her part, congratulated MH for being selected, based on the merit of its technical preparedness and level of competency by competing with eight similar firms which had submitted bid documents to EPHA.

The tender for the design work of the EPHA building complex was floated for interested and potential firms to compete for, as per the rule of the Public Procurement Agency (PPA), it was learnt.

It was said that EPHA went through a long journey in order to secure the deed title of the 875 m² plot of land, around Kebena on competitive lease bid.

Representatives of WHO, EPHA, EHNRI and ASLM, who delivered speech during the HIV drug resistance strategy and protocol development workshop.

Partial view of EPHA’S House launching ceremony
Text Book of Reproductive and Child Health Published

Text Book of Reproductive and Child Health with Focus on Ethiopia and other Developing Countries was launched on the occasion of the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) convened in the African Union on 12th of 2012, in the presence of authors, reviewers, delegates representing School of Public Health Addis Ababa University, Gates Institute, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University and the Ethiopia Public Health Association and other invited guests.

The preparation of the book was primarily motivated by the lack of a comprehensive reference material for the training of graduate public health students in reproductive health /maternal and child health (RH/MCH) in Ethiopia.

The book is expected to be widely used for training of different types of undergraduate and graduate students taking RH/MCH courses. According to the editors of the book, such a comprehensive reference book would be of vital importance for professionals working in reproductive and child health and related fields.

The book contains 18 chapters co-authored by 45 highly experienced trainers and experts in the field. The preparation and publication of the book was financially supported by funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The agreement to produce this text book was signed between Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Ethiopian Public Health Association in October 2012.
Dr Tekletsewn Woldemariam Seife was born in 1935 EC at Geja Woreda, West Shoa of Ethiopia. He attended elementary school in Atse Gelawdios, Nazareth, 1945-1953 and the then HaileSelassie Secondary School of Addis Ababa from 1954-1959. He received his BSc degree from American University of Beirut 1964 and his Medical Doctorate in Haileselassie I University in Addis Ababa in 1968.

He continued his training in residency in pediatrics at the Toronto Children’s Hospital from 1973-1975. He is a registered specialist in G.M.P and specialist in Pediatrics-Imperial from Ethiopian Government Ministry of Health in 1975. From 1969 -1994, Dr Tekletsewn started his career working as a lecturer in pediatrics and child health in Haileselassie University Medical School. Later ,he also served as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health (1975-1983). He was one of the prominent figures who played a key role in the foundation of the Jimma Institute of Health (the now Jimma University). Due to his immense role, he is considered as the founding father of the Jimma University by his fellow professionals. He served the institute in the administration and academic. For his outstanding contribution in the process of the foundation of the Jimma University, he has received awards of recognition from local and international institutes.

Beyond the classroom, his professional contribution was demonstrated while working for different institutions outside of the academic circle of life. Thus, Dr Tekletsewn was a secretary and president of the Ethiopian Medical Association and Chairman of the Red Cross Society of Jimma zone. He has also served as the member of the Ethiopian Pediatrics and Child Health Association and as a member of the National Board of Ethiopian Red Cross since 1988 and 2000, respectively.

Dr Tekletsewn has significantly contributed for the Essential Drug Program in Ethiopia. Additionally, he is the author of different scientific papers and has been contributing to the journal of pediatrics and journal of infectious diseases. Dr Tekletsewn has received numerous awards and certificates from various organizations in and outside of the country.
The 15th Annual Review Meeting (ARM) was convened from October 09 to 11, 2013 in Mekele, the Tigray Regional State. As the part of this year’s ARM, field visits were made to selected districts of the region where visitors witnessed the unbeaten health service delivery practices carried out by the Health Extension Workers (HEW) at the grassroots community level.

Organized by the FMoH, the Annual Review Meeting was officially launched with the opening speech addressed by H. E Ato Abay Woldu, president of the Tigray Regional State and H.E Dr Kesetebirhan Admassu, Minister of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

On the occasion, awards of recognition were given to individuals who made outstanding contributions to the health sector development of the nation at the various state apparatuses.

Policy and Plan Directorate of the Ministry, Ato Noh Elias presented the annual performance reports wherein; he discussed that the wide range of activities accomplished during the reporting year towards addressing the major strategic objectives of HSDP IV. He particularly emphasized maternal and newborn health services, child health services, national nutrition programs, prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), public health emergency preparedness and response as successful areas of accomplishment. Deliveries at the health facilities with the support of skilled birth attendants have been increasing over time, implying a significant contribution to reducing maternal mortality at the national level.

In terms of health infrastructure and resource management, it was also noted that the scope of work towards expanding essential infrastructures, human resources of different disciplines as well as procurement of pharmaceutical supplies and medical equipment have been managed properly.

EPHA was represented in the meeting by Dr Tewabech Bishaw (President) and Ato Hailegnaw Eshete (ED) and both of whom expressed their deep appreciations to the efforts made by the government of Ethiopia (health sector) along with others involved in improving the health sector as it was pointed out in the reporting. A wide range of issues were discussed during the conference whereby participants indicated that still much remains to be done in improving the quality of health care services and in fulfilling shortfalls in human resources at different levels. Attention should be given to strategically mobilize and efficiently and effectively utilize the available resources by creating an enabling environment and other means to retain and motivate health care personnel. Hence, special consideration and attention should be given to intensify and improve maternal health services in all regions of the country. In addition, it was underscored that emphasis should be given to improve the status and good code of conduct to protect the public from malpractices.

New formalization of polices and guidelines are also expected to broadly address retention of human resources in the public sector, promotion of e-health, standardization of services at the different level, procurement and management of logistics and biomedical equipment, ratification of tobacco convention, non communicable diseases and improving ambulatory services among others.
Board Members Make Financial Contribution for the Construction of the EPHA House

Board members of the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) vowed to provide ETB 20,000 each, for the construction of the EPHA house. The board members agreed on this subsequent to briefly deliberating during their regular meeting called at the EPHA office on November 22, 2013. In this, they have taken the exemplary action to the realization of the EPHA house which would be expected to serve as meeting place for its multidisciplinary members and public health professionals at large to find public health significant information, to exchange thoughts and share experiences that would eventually contribute towards improving the health of Ethiopian people.

In a similar development, the EPHA management team members and the staff have pledged to contribute one month of their salary for the same cause. Additionally, some senior members of EPHA have demonstrated their sense of responsibility and commitment by making some financial contributions for the construction of the house.

The resource mobilization effort is under way and is bearing some fruits towards the realization of the EPHA house.

The construction work of the EPHA house will soon be commenced.

Reflections made by the Chief of Patron and Patrons of EPHA House during the launching ceremony

Ato Eyesuswork Zafu received the invitation to serve as patron for the construction of this house. He commented something like this commitment. This is something like this because it can be the smallest drop into the ocean. It is a way of renaissance for me to be involved in the better and quality of public health for the people of this country. That perhaps is my duty that is to support. A drop of water can do a lot. I really feel honored to be here today. The Ethiopian Public Health Association is not something that can be done. It is something that is being done. Everyone is trying something. Ato Eyesuswork Zafu, as he said, he is a man who has been given by other ways Management and Patrons of EPHA House, demonstrated to the global community. The award was presented to EPHA in recognition of its achievements, in innovation, quality of service and leadership. The award was presented on the occasion of EPHA staff retreat standing on October 03, 2012 to launch the design Future Headquarters.
The construction work of the EPHA house will soon be commenced. Towards the realization of the EPHA house, the resource mobilization effort is under way and is bearing some fruits. Additionally, some senior members of EPHA have demonstrated their sense of responsibility to the realization of the EPHA house. The staff have pledged to contribute one month of their salary for the same cause. The belief is that a drop of contribution of all of us can do more than constructing the EPHA house.

In fact, the first public speaking role I had in the Ministry of Health was at the annual conference of the Ethiopian Public Health Association held in Harar. EPHA is a proven partner to the government of Ethiopia. We have been undertaking a lot of projects together with EPHA.

Probably one project that stands out is the Field Epidemiology program. This program is designed to strengthen the public health emergency surveillance system in Ethiopia.

I am really delighted and honored when the EPHA executive board members requested me to serve as a chief patron to the construction of the EPHA house. I took it as a recognition to the ministry of health for its continues support for the Ethiopian Public Health Association.

I really feel honored to be here today. The Ethiopian Public Health Association is not something we are going to chose among many choices. Sometimes there is only one choice; that is to support. A drop of water can do a lot.

We are together great. We can be great together. A drop of contribution of all of us can do more than constructing the EPHA house.

I always have great respect for people who chose the public health profession. My closest association with the public health community has been with those that are involved in mental health. Let me explain what I have witnessed in the last 20 years since I came back to my county. People who are involved in the mental health profession I found them the most committed individuals that I have ever met in my life. It is not time for me to concentrate more on my family and myself. There is something that I can do to the public health in Ethiopia. I will make a personal contribution to the building of this construction to the better and quality of public health for the people of this country. That perhaps can be the smallest drop into the ocean. It is a way of renaissance for me to be involved in something like this commitment.

I was telling to myself that it must be the second building EPHA constructing when I received the invitation to serve as patron for the construction of this house.

I am very proud to hear the government commitment here to support the construction of the Ethiopian Public Health Association headquarters.

I know it is a big responsibility I have received. I am sure all of us will make our own contribution in different forms.
Health Matters

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) and MH Engineering Signs MoU on Future Headquarters.

It was learnt that the selection committee given by other ways Management and Consulting, which was formed with the aim of consulting and takes place in Europe rewarding excellence of performances as well as recognizing best in quality and ideal performance. This international award is organized every year and presented to EPHA in recognition of its work of the association’s long anticipated building.

It was said that EPHA went through a long journey in order to secure the deed title of the 875 m² plot of land, around Kebena on competitive lease bid. It was learnt that the award winners thus represent the best in the field, firms from all over the world, that have distinguished themselves for their remarkable achievements with respect to quality and excellence.

Dr Tewabech Bishaw, for her part, congratulated MH for being selected, based on the merit of its technical proposals and documents to EPHA.

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) and MH Engineering signed a memorandum of understanding on the Design Work of the Association’s Future Headquarters. During the signing of the agreement, Dr Mesele stood on behalf of the two organizations. During the signing ceremony of the agreement, an impressive number of attendees were in attendance of the awarding ceremony, adding color to the atmosphere of the occasion.

The signatories are the EPHA and MH Engineering, with the other firms that had submitted bid and the辽宁省 and the Public Procurement Agency (PPA) present in the sidelines. The award winners thus represent the best in their respective countries and regions, and are among the leaders in the field. The award was given by the Ethiopian Public Health Association, which was awarded a global prize for their important contribution in positioning them leaders in 160 countries.

Dr Tewabech Bishaw, for her part, congratulated MH for being selected, based on the merit of its technical proposals and documents to EPHA. It was learnt that the selection committee given by other ways Management and Consulting, which was formed with the aim of consulting and takes place in Europe rewarding excellence of performances as well as recognizing best in quality and ideal performance. This international award is organized every year and presented to EPHA in recognition of its work of the association’s long anticipated building.

It was said that EPHA went through a long journey in order to secure the deed title of the 875 m² plot of land, around Kebena on competitive lease bid.
EPHA, MH Engineering Signs MoU on Future Headquarters

It was said that EPHA went through a long journey in Procurement Agency (PPA), it was learnt. The有两种complex was floated for interested and potential interested parties to submit their bids.

Dr Tewabech Bishaw, for her part, congratulated MH for such a great responsibility from an organization which has been engaged working on social development programs; which according to his articulation is an objective of encouraging and supporting its members to try its level best to execute the task at a relatively highest quality standard.

During the signing of the agreement, Dr Mesele Haile, General President of EPHA and Dr Mesele Haile, General Manager of MH Engineering signed the agreement on behalf of the two organizations.

The association unveiled that his company is amused upon receiving such a great responsibility from an organization that has been engaged working on social development programs.

It was learnt that the selection committee for the award was composed of representatives from the Consular and diplomatic corps of various countries, business people from more than 40 countries, and professional experts in the field. The award was presented to EPHA in recognition of its outstanding performance.

The award winners thus represent the best in firms from all over the world, that have distinguished themselves for their remarkable achievement in positioning them leaders in 160 countries.

This international award is organized every year to reward the winners of the award in recognition of their outstanding performance.

The award winners thus represent the best in firms from all over the world, that have distinguished themselves for their remarkable achievement.
HIV Drug Resistance Strategy and Protocol Development Consultative Meeting Held in Addis Ababa

The HIV Drug Resistance Strategy and Protocol Development Consultative meeting was jointly organized by the WHO, EPHA, EHNRI and the African Society of Laboratory Medicine from June 25 to 27; where 52 leading public health professionals from 10 countries shared their most up-to-date knowledge and experiences on HIV drug resistance, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In her keynote address to participants of the workshop, Dr Tewabech Bishaw, President of EPHA, mentioned that local professionals would use the opportunity to share and highlight Ethiopia’s valuable knowledge and experience on HIV drug resistance.

She noted that the Ethiopian Public Health Association is honored and privileged to partner with WHO, ASLM and EHNRI in organizing the consultative workshop to address the issues on HIV Drug Resistance which is Africa’s most critical public health challenge of the time.

According to the WHO report, global antiretroviral therapy (ART) scale-up has brought about impressive declines in HIV-related morbidity and mortality in resource-limited settings (RLS) over the past decade. Despite the obvious benefits of ART scale-up, the potential for widespread emergence and transmission of HIV drug resistance (HIVDR) to antiretrovirals (ARVs) has been a major ongoing concern of public health experts.

The purpose of the workshop on the implementation and sustainability of HIV Drug Resistance Surveillance in Africa at large is to support future implementation of a harmonized and quality controlled HIVDR surveillance and to provide guidance to WHO on the development of a technical agenda to support it.

In order to fulfill the goals of the 2012 HIVDR strategy, WHO and its partners have, thus, developed conceptual briefs which outline protocols for surveillance of transmitted HIVDR, HIVDR in pre-treatment populations and HIVDR in populations receiving ART. This new protocol is expected to provide nationally representative results and provide solutions for HIVDR surveillance in low-prevalence and intense epidemics. WHO organized this consultative workshop in Addis Ababa with the aim to collect feedback and technical input from countries about the usefulness of the anticipated data, feasibility of implementation, and country data analysis needs.

one or more element of the WHO global HIVDR prevention and assessment strategy has been implemented in 64 low and middle-income countries in Africa, Asia, North America and the Caribbean since December 2012, it was disclosed during the consultative workshop.

Dr Silvia Bertagnolio WHO HQ /Representative for her part said that so far her organization has made significant progress in the region in expanding access to HIV treatment and care. However, drug resistance can roll back years of collective effort and investments. The primary objective of the three-day workshop according to Silvia was, therefore, to review and discuss ways to improve national and regional systems to monitor the emergence and transmission of HIV drug resistance.

While discussing the feasibility of the consultative process Dr Silvia said that they have already presented the new methods at 3 other workshops, in Asia, Latin America, and one for Francophone countries in Africa. According to her, the one they have organized in Addis Ababa is a plan to conclude these consultative process with the two coming workshops for Anglophone countries in Africa.

Taking part in the workshop were; ART program managers, regional experts in HIVDR surveillance, Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA), African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI), Partner organizations [Pharm Access African Studies to Evaluate Resistance (PASER), United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AiGHD), WHO/AFRO.
do everything possible including financial support to construct the House “Dr Kesetebirhan affirmed to the invited guests.

He underscored that the FMoH would like to support the construction of the EPHA House for three reasons: EPHA’s past credibility, the recent directive of the Ministry issued on continuing professional development program and the role EPHA is expected to continue to play in policy making in terms of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of government’s health sector strategies and programs.

Upon the conclusion of his speech, Dr Kesetebirhan has pledged that the FMoH will provide a substantial amount of resources for the construction of the EPHA House and will announce the specific figure after having consulted with his management team.
The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) would like to express its deepest condolences on the death of Nelson Mandela, the father of democracy. Mandela has been a great leader with his love and respect to all humanity. Africa is blessed to have had Mandela’s unbeaten personality who guided South Africa from the dark ages of apartheid to a democratic state setting himself as a good lesson to the rest of the world in promoting the culture of peace and reconciliation.

May His Soul Rest in peace
EPHA