



The Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN) in collaboration with local and International organisations will be holding their 2009 Spring Meeting.

Theme: “Strategies in Mobilising Resources” with specific focus on “Sharing Knowledge and Mobilising action to support Projects in Low Income Countries”.

Place: United Nations Palais des Nations Geneva, Room XXVII

Date: Thursday 30th April, 2009

Time: 12:30 – 17:30 CET.

Background

The Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN) is a non-governmental and not for profit organisation with a strong vision of helping to improve the quality of life for people living in low-income countries especially Sub-Saharan Africa.

This vision includes AEMRN serving as a knowledge network wherein active professionals from such disciplines as education, health, finance, engineering, international, non-governmental and faith-based organizations and civil society, can interact through virtual discussions to promote the exchange of skills, experience and expertise for addressing challenging issues in low-income countries. In addition, regular virtual education sessions are offered to enable our proactive community to benefit from the knowledge and experience of experts around the world.

We use simple low resolution technology to link individuals across countries willing to learn from each other and share their knowledge so that together we can address our challenges and improve the work that we do in our countries.

AEMRN members strive to contribute their knowledge and experience to improve the quality of their work so that the people they interact with benefit from improved performance irrespective of race, creed, beliefs, faith and social affiliation.

Justification

Achieving the above goals needs effective team work to mobilise individuals across the world to share our vision and actively participate in our community. Together we can through sharing knowledge strive to make a difference. We can acknowledge our successes and debate our challenges. Together we are a powerful force for change. But to be effective this process needs to certain extent to be planned as we must create opportunities for sharing experience, but at the same time we must find and share existing knowledge and resources. We need to create a common strategy that improves access to information and much needed resources, as highlighted by participants at AEMRN 2008 symposium in Bern, Switzerland

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to create knowledge to practice strategy that will support the growth of AEMRN and expand its reach to many more members. Together we will exchange our experience on creating and managing knowledge networks and identify our synergies. We will then work together to formulate a strategy that can help the AEMRN move more effectively towards its vision.

Objectives

- To review the success and challenges of managing knowledge networks
- To identify knowledge management and/or networking synergies and common areas of interest
- To support AEMRN create a knowledge management strategy to improve access to information, resources and support knowledge networking.

Methodology

The meeting is informal, but will be opened by three short key note addresses that will set the scene for a brain storming session in which participants will work in groups to share what they are currently doing to support knowledge management strategies and knowledge networks. Participants will use this discussion as an opportunity to identify possibly synergies that could help AEMRN to enhance their activities.

After a short feedback session, participants will again break into three groups to respond to specific strategic questions. These will be collated during a plenary feedback session, key activities will be prioritized and key issues discussed, such as management and resource mobilization.

The secretariat will prepare the final strategy and highlights of the meeting, which will be shared with all participants.

Participants:

- NGOs especially in Geneva and other parts Switzerland
- Community based organisations.
- Faith based organisations.
- Representatives from low income countries Embassies and consulates.
- AEMRN collaborators and country representatives.
- United Nations organisations including WHO etc.
- Other international organisations such as IOM, UNESCO etc.