

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME REVIEW

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- Your Excellency Dr. Adanetch Kidane Mariam, Minister of Health,
- Your Excellencies Higher Ranking Authorities of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia,
- Distinguished guests from governmental and non-governmental organizations,
- Dear EPHA members,
- Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I am honored first of all to welcome you all to our workshop discussion on an important and timely issue of the health aspects of repatriation in Ethiopia.

As stated in the constitution of the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA), one of the major responsibilities of the secretariat for enhancing the profession is to organize forums where its members discuss relevant topics and forward feasible and beneficial recommendations to the government for the necessary actions.

To this effect the EPHA had actively been involved in the past in coordinating the first and second annual scientific conferences and similarly the necessary preparatory work is under way for the third annual scientific conference to be held in August 1992.

In addition to the scientific conferences, our association has for the first time (in collaboration with the Department of Community Health (DCH), Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa University) organized a continuing education program to be held on March 6, 1992, on Health Research Methods. It is hoped that a great deal of knowledge and beneficial experiences will be obtained from the Programme.

With the aim of expanding study and research, these and other activities of the association are conducted with the help of concerned government and public organizations. We are privileged indeed to organize the present workshop, with assistance from the McGill-Ethiopia Community Health Project, on a very important topic, which I think may concern not only health professionals but a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Prior to selecting this topic a number of other areas were suggested for consideration and were discussed by the executive committee of the EPHA.

However, considering the living conditions and standard of living of the vast majority of the Ethiopian population and the ongoing transmigration process throughout the country, the executive committee of EPHA felt "health aspects of repatriation in Ethiopia" would be an appropriate topic to address and perhaps would become an increasingly important issue even in the future. This is because population movement and transmigration, in general, have been observed to affect the Epidemiology of many diseases. A number of studies, particularly on the impact of human population, the transmission of tropical diseases, dynamics of socio-economic and environmental conditions and their distribution patterns of diseases in transmigration population (along with the problems of drug resistances) have been well documented.

Finally, the Organizing Committee expresses its gratefulness to the McGill-Ethiopia Community Health Project for its financial and technical assistance, which enables us to run this workshop smoothly and efficiently. The active participation of the Department of Community Health in providing the workshop with secretarial assistance and office facilities have also been appreciated.

May I, on behalf of the EPHA, thank the chairperson, the speakers, rapporteur and invited guests for accepting our invitations without hesitation to participate in these deliberations.

Thank you very much.

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