WORDS FROM ZIEH PRESIDENT

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide specific Environmental Health information to Environmental Health practitioners and important stakeholders within Zambia and abroad.

As a profession we have so much untapped potential which can be leveraged upon to scale the Environmental Health challenges in an ever-changing world.

This edition is dedicated to covering the World Environmental Health Day commemoration on 26th September 2019 and the visits of the President of the International Federation of Environmental Health, Dr. Selva Mudaly and the Chairperson of the African International Federation of Environmental Health, Mr. Jeremiah Chaka’s visit to Zambia to specifically grace the momentous occasion of awarding the Republican President of Zambia Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu with an honorary membership to the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health.

The honorary award was meant to acknowledge the commitment of the Zambian Republican President’s contribution to enhancing the role of the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health in the country.
Zambia’s Participation in the World Environmental Health Day On 26th September 2019

The Zambia Institute of Environmental Health managed to organize and commemorate the World Environmental Health Day on 26th September 2019 in Lusaka Zambia under the theme: ‘Climate Change challenges: Time for Global Environmental Health to Act in Unison’.

The event was officially graced by the Vice President of Zambia, Mrs. Inonge Mutukwa Wina. The event saw Environmental Health practitioners from all over Zambia in attendance. The event also saw several organisations exhibiting in line with their role in the fight against climate change effects.

This was the first time Zambia was commemorating the Environmental Health Day at national level. It was a major milestone for the noble Environmental Health profession. Those who were unable to be in attendance were able to follow the event on the Ministry of Health Facebook page.

In her Presidential keynote speech, the Vice President reaffirmed government’s support for the Environmental Health profession and combatting the negative effects of climate change.

She further mentioned that government has developed a policy document on climate change as one of the proactive measures in responding to its negative effects.

“Strengthening environmental health will catalyse the attainment of the sustainable development goals. It is now time for all environmental health practitioners to act in unison in addressing climate change.”

-Mrs Inonge Mutukwa Wina, Vice President, Zambia
During the World Environmental Health Day event, Vice President Inonge Mutukwa Wina expressed gratitude to the Children’s Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF) for its successful implementation of lead elimination campaign in the interest of protecting the health of children in Zambia.

The Government of Zambia has awarded the CEHF for their role in campaigning elimination of lead. The Children’s Environmental Health Foundation Chairperson, Mr. Michael Musenga (ZIEH National Trustee) expressed gratitude to the government of Zambia for the recognition and award.

Mr. Musenga highlighted the fact that in 2018, the CEHF received a certificate of gratitude from the World Health Organisation (WHO) for successfully conducting the 2018 International Lead Poisoning Week of Action.

“The environmental health profession in Zambia is committed to work in unison with government and other stakeholders in promoting climate change resilience related activities, prevention of diseases and promotion of health services in the country.”

-Mr. Kennedy Chishimba, ZIEH President
Dr. Selva Mudaly is the current President of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) 2018-2020. We were privileged as the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health to warmly receive him at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka Zambia at exactly 15:20 PM on 23rd October 2019.

It was indeed a great day for Environmental Health in Zambia to have such a distinguished guest amongst us.

On the same day, Dr. Mudaly was introduced to the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health executive members. The interaction was beneficial in the sense that the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health was able to learn from experiences of the South African Institute of Environmental Health (SAIEH) in moving the Environmental Health agenda forward.

The Zambia Institute of Environmental Health was also able to outline the strength, successes, weaknesses and challenges that they face in representing the Environmental Health profession in Zambia.
On 24th October 2019, the IFEH President visited the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health water project in Katoba, a large rural area 65 km from the capital Lusaka in Zambia. The project has resulted in provision of water to a primary school and a clinic with a maternity unit.

The project was sponsored by the Water For Kids, an Organisation based in United Kingdom (UK). The project was commenced in 2013. Water for Kids work with the local Environmental Health practitioners in the areas where the projects are implemented.

The IFEH President was able to interact with the School head teacher at the school and the Environmental Health personnel at the clinic. The school head teacher expressed gratitude for the water reticulation project as it has helped the school to water their lawn. The school has a beautiful green environment.

In addition, nearby communities can access the water, particularly in the dry season when most of the boreholes in the area dry up. There are 4 other water and sanitation projects in Zambia which have been supported by Water for Kids (Mwanjabanthu, Fumbelo, Chipapa and Nkonje Primary School)
Overhead water tank at Katoba School

Dr. Mudaly with the EHP at Katoba Clinic, Mr. Courage Chipasha (In white sneakers)
On 24th October 2019, a meeting was held to discuss national and global Environmental Health issues. The meeting saw Environmental Health practitioners from universities, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Local Government.

Several pertinent issues were discussed such as the momentous event of awarding the Zambian President, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu with an honorary membership in the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health (ZIEH), the career progression of the Environmental Health profession in Zambia and the need to vigorously improve the profession by evidence based interventions. This can only happen by heavily investing in research. The Zambia Institute of Environmental Health has that unique advantage of fostering a research based Environmental Health practice.

The Zambia Institute of Environmental Health was challenged to participate in the global Environmental Health meetings. The Environmental Health practitioners were strongly encouraged to prepare and attend the International Federation of Environmental Health conference to be held in Malaysia in 2020. The conference will draw Environmental Health practitioners from all over the world.
The Zambia Institute of Environmental Health honorary membership award was given to His Excellency, Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu the President of Zambia on 19th December 2019 at State House in Lusaka Zambia.

The President of Zambia was awarded the honorary membership for promoting the values of the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health in the following specific areas:

1. Re-launching and active participation in the ‘Make Zambia Clean, Green and Healthy Campaign’.
2. Banning of plastic packaging below 30 microns
4. Enactment of the Solid Waste Regulation and Management Act No. 20 of 2018
5. Robust advocacy in the prevention of non-communicable diseases evidenced by regular morning jogging and aerobic exercises.

The award giving event was graced by Mr. Jeremiah Chaka, the chairperson of the African International Federation of Environmental Health. Mr. Chaka also awarded the President with the International Federation of Environmental Health shield. This was the first shield to be awarded to a Head of state. This was indeed a landmark for global Environmental Health.
Honorary Membership award to His Excellency Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the President of Zambia

The award giving ceremony also had the Minister of Health, Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, Minister of Local Government, Dr. Charles Banda. The Ministry of Health permanent Secretary, Technical Services, Dr. Kennedy Malama and the Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection

The two ministries represented during the event are the major employers of Environmental Health Practitioners in Zambia.

Mr. Jeremiah Chaka gave a speech on behalf of the International Federation of Environmental Health.

“Our fight against communicable diseases can only be won if we made use of professionals such as Environmental Health Practitioners”

-Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President, Zambia
Another highlight of the 2019, was the awarding of 13 exceptional Environmental Health practitioners from all over Zambia. The awards were given in recognition of those Environmental Health practitioners who have greatly contributed to the noble profession. It was gratifying to see the unity of purpose exhibited by the number of Environmental Health practitioners who attended the colourful event. The following Environmental Health Practitioners were awarded: -

1. Mrs. Christabel Malijani
2. Mr. Alfred Malijani
3. Mrs. Josphine M Mulenga
4. Mrs Cheleka Kaziya Mulenga
5. Mr. Fordson Nyirenda
6. Mr. Allan Mbewe
7. Mrs Benedict Mumba
8. Mr. Amos Musonda
9. Mr. Michael Musenge
10. Mr. Yorum Siulapwa
11. Mr. Grayford Katchikoti Banda
12. Mr. Fortune Chanda
13. Mr. Kennedy Nduna
Other Notable Events in 2019

1. ZIEH participated in the World Environment Day on 5th June 2019.

2. ZIEH successfully organized and participated in the World Food Safety Day on 7th June 2019.

3. ZIEH successfully held consultative meetings with learning institutions which train Environmental Health practitioners.

4. ZIEH, as a representative of the Environmental Health profession, went to parliament to make submissions to the Health Committee on the Food Safety bill on 3rd July 2019.

5. ZIEH also participated in the Global handwashing Day on 10th October 2019.

6. ZIEH participated in the ‘Make Zambia Clean, Green and Healthy’ campaign and mobilized all EHPs in the country to actively participate in this nation-wide event.

7. ZIEH is positioned to participate in the International Federation of Environmental Health Malaysia conference in 2020.

8. ZIEH participated in an International meeting via ZOOM with the IFEH members.
Consultative meetings with training Institutions and Awards to Best performing Environmental Health Students
Food Safety Day, 7th June 2019 in pictures

Theme: “Food Safety is Everyone’s Business”
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