

**THE 1ST AFRICA REGION BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS AND HEALTHCARE
TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2023**

Organized by:

**The Association of Medical Engineering of Kenya in conjunction with The International
Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering Africa Region (IFMBE)**

Held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi-Kenya from 6th to 8th September 2023



FROM LEFT, Eng, Millicent Aloooh (AMEK, Secretary General), Eng. Martin Owino (Head Medical Engineering and Technologies Unit, Afya House), Prof. Ratko (President IFMBE), Hon. Symon Mbakah (AMEK Chairman), Prof. Ernesto Iadanza (IFMBE Official), George Boadu (IFMBE Africa Region Sec, Gen), Dr, June Madete (Kenyatta University) Philip Anyango (Chaiman Conference Organizing Committee)

THEME:

**Healthcare Technology Management and Emerging Technologies Post Covid-19 Pandemic
on Africa and Beyond**



**Association of Medical
Engineering of Kenya**



Summary

The 1st Africa Region Biomedical Engineers and Healthcare Technology Conference and Exhibition 2023 that was organized by AMEK in conjunction with IFMBE was held in Nairobi at Safari Park Hotel from 6th to 8th September 2023. The conference went into books of history as the most ever attended event organized by AMEK since its inception. The 3-day event witnessed a maximum attendance of 189 in persons and another over 20 in virtual attendance. The conference had representations from 20 countries including Kenya(host), Tanzania, Uganda, Somali, Rwanda, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia, Benin, DRC Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Liberia, South Africa, The UK, Italy, Belgium and Croatia. The sponsors of the event included AMEK, IFMBE, Mindray, Crown healthcare, Nest360, Global Clinical Engineering Alliance, Tripple Biovitals, Amotech Africa, Hewatele, Build Health International, MinFound, and Wee Centre. The event was one of a kind because it was held in Kenya for the first time.

ACTIVITIES

- Both physical and virtual presence
- Presentations
- Exhibition booths for various exhibitors
- Panel discussions

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The 3-day event was attended by more than 200 delegates both physical and virtually from 20 nations. The Chief Guest, Dr. Susan Nakhumicha, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health was represented by Dr. Rebecca Kitui.



PRESENTATIONS

More than 57 presentations were made; 20 presentations were well researched to provide solutions in the health sector, inspire, educate and inform the biomedical engineers.

EXHIBITIONS

In addition, more than 10 presentations by the exhibitors were made consisting of Crown Healthcare Limited, Oxygen Alliance, Minfound Medical Systems, Triple Biovitals, Hatch Technologies, Amotech Africa, Wee Centre and Mindray.



EXHIBITION BOOTH

PANEL DISCUSSION

Brian Matovo

He acknowledged that 40% of African countries don't have regulations of medical devices while 28% are not aware

Challenges for Innovation

- Insufficient funding
- Inadequate technical expert



- Confusing regulatory landscape
- Bureaucracy
- Delayed feedback from regulators
- Varying of medical devices classes across African countries

Innovative Pathways

Standardization of innovation

Regional and international harmonization innovative pathways to be provided.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

1. Pro. Ratko Magjarevic (President, IFMBE)



The IFMBE President Pro. Ratko Magjarevic pointed out that the biomedical engineering is projected to be the first growing occupation in the economy. He acknowledged IFMBE is the largest biomedical engineering organization in the world based on national and international society membership.

IFMBE seeks to be;

A leader in representing the international community of medical and biomedical engineers

- Foster the creation and application of medical and biological engineering knowledge and management of technology for improved health and quality of life
- Promote the development of medical and biological professional and the recognition and awareness of profession by the public
- Advance collaboration between national and transnational societies including governments and NGOS
- Recommend policies and provide guidelines for appropriate professional, educational and ethical areas.

The president encouraged societies and individuals to join IFMBE because of its benefits including

Individual Benefits

- Access to IFMBE publications
- Reduced registration fees to IFMBE co-sponsored conferences
- Participation in IFMBE Awards program
- Participation to Travell Fellowship

Benefits to Affiliated Societies

- International networking
- Inclusion in IFMBE activities
- Increased visibility of the society
- Support to awards programs for young researchers and early career scientists
- Availability of nominations for numerous IFMBE awards

2. Martha Tusabe (WHO-AFRO) WHO Medical Device and HTM Initiatives



Martha noted that E-EDL; Laboratory testing provides a list of laboratory devices required to run tests. Apart from the provision of training videos for respiratory equipment, WHO provides an opportunity for innovative proposal submissions where the best candidates are rewarded. Afro Region has failed to make effective use of the available medical devices and as a result, surveys are being done to assist in building biomed in Afro region. WHO needs biomed expertise to ensure that medical devices are appropriate, safe and effective.

Martha Tusabe

3. Hon Symon Mbakah (AMEK CHAIRPERSON)



Hon Symon Mbakah

Hon Symon Mbakah welcomed the Chief Guest Dr. Rebecca Kitui who represented Dr. Susan Nakhumicha, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Health. He introduced the AMEK Council, IFMBE Committee and recognized the heads of associations in Africa for various countries. He further took the Opportunity to Thank IFMBE President for Considering Kenya to be the First country to host IFME conference in Africa under His leadership

4. Hon. Millicent Alooh, HSC (AMEK SEC, GENERAL)



Hon Millicent Alooh

Hon. Millicent Alooh thanked the Chief Guest and all the participants for gracing the event. She acknowledged that AMEK was proud of the great job being undertaken by the Ministry of Health and promised their commitment towards the enhancing of quality healthcare in Kenya. The theme of the conference

“Healthcare Technology Management and Emerging Technologies Post Covid-19 Pandemic on Africa and Beyond” was to provide a framework for future planning purposes that seek to provide possible achievable solutions on what next after the pandemic. Hon. Millicent Alooh emphasized on the need of having a regulatory body which forms a fundamental part of promoting service delivery and the realization of the ministry’s core mandate of provision of quality, accessible and cost-effective health services. Also, she lauded for the need of collaboration between biomedical engineering professions and the Ministry of Health.

She pointed out the challenges facing the biomedical engineering field as follows;

- Lack of adequate training
- Unemployment
- Lack of internship
- Lack of regulatory body
- Poor working environment
- Inadequate working tools and implementation of the Medical Device Policy

Hon. Millicent Alooh requested the government through the Chief Guest to address the following issues affecting medical device management in the country;

- Implementation of Medical Device Policy that was launched more than a year ago
- Set up better workshops for the Biomedical engineers
- Need for a clear guidance on equipment disposal as this is environmental hazardous
- Employ biomedical engineers

The conference was important because the topics discussed would aid in addressing the underlying issues in the healthcare sector and the management of medical equipment. She acknowledged that both the Ministry of Health and County Governments have heavily invested on medical equipment such as ICU, Oxygen Plants, Cold chain Equipment and Managed Equipment Service Project. Therefore, the conference provided the participants with a platform to share individual experiences and be equipped with best practices and the emerging technologies in the health sector.

5. CHIEF GUEST (REPRESENTING THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR HEALTH SUSAN NAKHUMICHA)



Dr. Rebecca Kitui

Dr. Rebecca Kitui who represented Dr. Susan Nakhumicha, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Health officially opened the conference. She acknowledged the importance of the lively discussions at the exhibition booths and presentations during the conference. Dr. Rebecca encouraged biomedical engineers to value themselves

Besides, she pointed out that biomedical engineers need to move with speed and change/upgrade their knowledge to be update with the current technology and world occurrences.

In her official opening remarks, Dr. Rebecca Kitui applauded AMEK leadership for successfully hosting the 1st Africa Region Biomedical Engineers and Healthcare Technology Conference and Exhibition 2023. She also thanked the leadership of IFMBE for choosing Kenya as the host. Dr. Rebecca Kitui urged other countries to follow Kenya's example.

Biomedicals were encouraged to think of capacity building and training for future sustainability

The conference acted as a critical aspect to various

Healthcare technology is essential in ensuring quality care and there is need to select appropriate technology

The outcome of the conference were practical in realizing the solutions in the healthcare

The participants were challenged to;

- Make use of the knowledge acquired during the conference to foster quality healthcare inventions.
- Focus on primary healthcare/universal healthcare to enhance maintenance and availability of medical equipment
- Integrate digital innovations into health digital pathways
- Local manufacturers to be self sufficient
- Foster collaboration among various stakeholders and partners

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

- There is need to harmonize and regulate programs and professional trainings for Biomedical engineering profession in Africa.
- Advocacy for countries to adhere to WHO staffing norms for Biomedical Engineering in Africa
- Promote translation of local innovations/inventions to market level in African countries
- Strengthening health technology management, Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and regulations of medical devices in African countries.

CLOSING REMARKS

In his closing remarks, Engineer Martin Owino thanked AMEK for the tremendous growth since its inception and for organizing a successful event. He emphasized on the need for medical



equipment management from prototype, commercialization and disposal. He pointed out that there was need for professional regulation and the integration and harmonization of medical equipment. Engineer Martin Owino officially closed the conference and it was declared that the next Eastern African Conference 2024 will be held in Tanzania.

PHOTO GALLERY





PARTNERS



Association of Medical Engineering of Kenya



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CROWN
HEALTHCARE

mindray
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