



ACE II

Eastern and Southern Africa
Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project



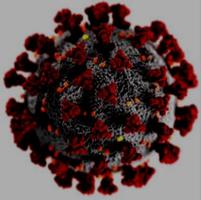
THE WORLD BANK

ACEIDHA *Newsletter*

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Project Communication

July - September 2020



COVID-19 Is Real



**National Management Steering Committee
Inspects ACEIDHA and CBU ACE-SM**



VISION:

To become a leading Centre for generating knowledge and skills for infectious disease prevention and control.

MISSION:

To conduct high level training through cutting-edge research.

CORE VALUES:

- Excellence,
- Innovativeness,
- Integrity,
- Collegiality,
- Transparency and
- Equity.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Prof. Bernard Hang'ombe

Dr Andrew Phiri

Mrs Marjorie Phiri

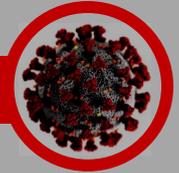
Mr Damaseke Chibale

Mrs Patricia Sakala

Mr Habeenzu Mulunda



COVID-19 Is Real



NATIONAL MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE ASSESSES ACEIDHA & CBU-ACESM

By Damaseke Chibale

The National Management Steering Committee that is mandated to supervise the performance of the two Africa Centres of Excellence in Zambia met to assess their operations from 6th to 7th August 2020 at Twangale Park in Lusaka. The said Committee is headed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Higher Education, Mrs Kayula Siame.

The two Centres are Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) at the University of Zambia and the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining (CBU-ACESM) at the Copperbelt University.

On the first day of the review, Mrs Siame and her team visited laboratories supported and used by ACEIDHA. These laboratory facilities are used by postgraduate students sponsored ACEIDHA and others in the School of Veterinary Medicine. This was followed by preliminary presentation by ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe.

On the second day, the Committee sat to review performance reports of ACEIDHA and CBU-ACESM. Thereafter, the National Management Steering Committee provided guidance and recommendation of the way forward for the two ACEs.



The National Management Steering Committee Chairperson, Mrs Kayula Siame (middle) with UNZA Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tamala Kambikambi (right) and Copperbelt University Vice-Chancellor, Prof Naison Ngoma (left) pose for a group photo.



Prof Musso Munyeme (right) explains the functions & use of one of the laboratory equipment to the National Management Steering Committee during the tour of the laboratory facilities.

DIGITAL STUDIO WORKSHOP: PROMOTING QUALITY POSTGRADUATE TRAINING



By Damaseke Chibale

The Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) and Fostering Quality Graduate & Postgraduate Training & Research Through Enhanced Academic Collaboration and Mutual Student Exchange (FORTECASE) embarked on an ambitious business of improving the quality of postgraduate training by developing the PhD curriculum and accredit all the courses.

On the side line of the Digital Studio Workshop in Kabwe on Thursday, 23rd July 2020, ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe said that the partnership with FORTECASE was focused on improving the delivery of postgraduate training for students sponsored by Centre. He said that FORTECASE had the expertise in course development while ACEIDHA had the capacity to admit and sponsor students at postgraduate levels. This, he said, would assist in implementing quality assurance and improve the quality of output.

And FORTECASE Principal Investigator for Zambia, Prof John Bwalya Muma, said that this partnership would promote postgraduate training by blended approach of teaching through e-learning and face-to-face lecturing. Prof Muma said that this kind of approach would bring the following benefits:

- a) improve the quality of postgraduate training
- b) ease access to e-learning education materials by students
- c) Support the traditional face-to-face lecturing
- d) enhance the ability to understand learning materials through repeated watching of recorded lectures
- e) free some time for lecturers for research, consultancy and community services
- f) and ultimately increase admission rate because training would be easy.

ACEIDHA and FORTECASE assembled a team to develop PhD Curriculum and record lectures for blended learning at Musiku Lodge in Kabwe.



ACEIDHA and FORTECASE organised a digital studio workshop in Kabwe at Musiku Lodge whose main objective was to improve the quality of postgraduate training from 19th to 25th July 2020.

ZNPFI GRATEFUL FOR ACEIDHA SUPPORT

By Damaseke Chibale

The Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) team visited Chirundu Border station to be part of the training of local COVID-19 sensitisation task force by the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPFI) from 26th July 2020 to 1st August 2020.

ZNPFI Director, Prof Victor Mukonka, praised ACEIDHA for the financial support rendered to national COVID-19 strategies to combat the outbreak in Zambia. He said the donated funds would be put to good use.

Prof Mukonka also called for multi-sectoral approach and surveillance as a means to manage and control outbreaks of infectious diseases. Prof Mukonka said this during the official opening of the training on Wednesday, 29th July 2020 in Chirundu.

And Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, Prof King Nalubamba, who was leading the ACEIDHA team in Chirundu, said that it was an honour to partner with ZNPFI in the fight against COVID-19. Prof Nalubamba indicated that ACEIDHA was flagship to building capacity of scientists and researchers through training and research.

Meanwhile, ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe, said that the Centre was pleased to associate with ZNPFI in the fight against the novel coronavirus. He said that ACEIDHA would continue to contribute to national and global efforts to investigate emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases through training and research.

Recently, ACEIDHA, through the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, contributed US \$200,000 to national COVID-19 efforts. The funds, which were sourced from ACEIDHA partner in the United States, Skolls Foundation of California, were to be used to support sample testing and real time transmission of data or results from the field to Ministry of Health Headquarters.

And part of the funds were used to procure mobile phone handsets to be used by local task force members to transmit information from the field to the ZNPFI centres.



ZNPFI Director, Prof Victor Mukonka (3rd right), Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, Prof King Nalubamba (3rd left), ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe (2nd right) and ACEIDHA One Health Coordinator, Prof Musso Munyeme pose for a group photo in Chirundu.



ACEIDHA's Dr Andrew Phiri follows the proceedings of the training keenly.



ZNPFI conducts training on how to handle COVID-19 transmission in Chirundu with support from ACEIDHA.

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DEAN APPLAUDS ACEIDHA & FORTCASE SUPPORT



Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, Prof King Nalubamba (left), ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe (centre) and FORTECASE Principal Investigator for Zambia, Prof John Bwalya Muma at the 2nd Digital Studio Workshop in Kabwe from 9th to 15th August 2020.



ABOVE & BELOW: Group photos taken on two different days of the workshop in Kabwe.



By Habeenzu Mulunda

Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, Prof King Nalubamba has commended the Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) and Fostering Quality Graduate & Postgraduate Training & Research Through Enhanced Academic Collaboration and Mutual Student Exchange (FORTCASE) projects for supporting the University of Zambia in promoting e-learning through video recordings of lectures for postgraduate studies.

Speaking when he officially opened the workshop on “*PhD Curriculum Development and Development of Materials for E-learning*” held in Kabwe which commenced from 9th through to 15th August 2020, Prof Nalubamba said the workshop was timely as it was a good platform to devise new modes of lecturing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the outbreak of COVID-19 was an opportunity to frame new strategic direction in the academia and that e-learning was an ultimate go in delivering content to the students.

And ACEIDHA Center Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe said developing e-learning materials was a strategic focus the Centre and FORTECASE had taken to reach out to students enrolled in ACEIDHA programmes. He said the various programmes devised by the ACEIDHA and FORTECASE were already attracting interest all over the world as it was evident from several international students who have shown willingness to enroll.

FORTECASE at the University of Zambia is being headed by Principal Investigator for Zambia, Prof John Bwalya Muma, who said that the partnership with ACEIDHA would promote the development of the PhD curriculum, design programmes and courses in order to enhance blended learning.

The workshop was intended to achieve the following objectives:

- a) Drafting of the PhD curriculum for the School of Veterinary Medicine
- b) Record video lectures (Ecological Public Health, Tropical Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses).
- c) Update course materials on the Moodle e-learning platform as well as to
- d) Prepare worksheets for assignments, prepare questions and discussions forums.

ACEIDHA PHOTO FOCUS





BRIEF PROFILE

The Africa Centre of Excellence of Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animal (ACEIDHA) was launched on 25th April 2018 by Minister of Higher Education, in order to increase capacity to tackle increasing challenges of emerging infectious diseases affecting both humans and animals. This was formed through the World Bank loan to the Republic of Zambia. The Centre is anchored at the University of Zambia in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

ACEIDHA's main objective is to develop research capacity and improve training of academic staff and students with the focus centred on research into infectious diseases which affect both humans and animals, such as bird flu, Ebola, tapeworms, Brucellosis, Anthrax and others.



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ACEIDHA — Excellence in Research & Training