



# Makerere University Environmental Health Students' Association

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## School of Public Health

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### REPORT FOLLOWING THE WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY 2017 CELEBRATIONS

Every year on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, Uganda joins the world to honor the World Environmental Health Day. These celebrations started in Uganda there years ago, thanks to the efforts of MUEHSA members.

The World Environmental Health Day was launched by the International Federation of Environmental Health Council in 2011. Since then, the environmental health professional comes together to celebrate environmental health day and with an annual theme to promote and raise awareness on different public health concerns.

The theme of this year's celebration: **'indoor and outdoor air quality, make all places safe for children'** is very relevant because Director General Margaret Chan on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at WHO launched a worldwide campaign to tackle air pollution as the "major public health issue of our generation" affecting more than 80% of the world's population.

MUEHSA successfully organized it with support from different organisations with the interest of creating awareness about the air quality in Uganda.

The organizations which took part in the celebrations included the following:

- Makerere University School of Public Health (MUSPH) staff and students
- Makerere University Environmental Health Students Association members
- Cook stove Project Mukono
- Uganda Institute of Allied Health and Management sciences.
- School of Hygiene Mbale.
- Cavendish university Uganda students
- Environmental health workers association of Uganda
- Ministry of Health (MOH) staff

The celebrations were preceded by a week of activities tailored to increase awareness of the public towards the environmental health day celebrations these included:

- Primary and Secondary school essay writing competitions on indoor and outdoor air quality, in which several schools participated.
- Public lecture at the Davis Lecture Theatre on theme where we had our **key note speaker Dr. Bruce Kirenga Director Makerere university lung institute** who presented about the state of ambient air quality. He also showed from research that Africa's particulate matter is 8% more

than that of the whole world this is because of the uncontrolled and unplanned continuous construction of industries and urbanization.

- We also had a presentation from Mr. Africana Byaruhanga on behalf of the cook stove project in mukono. They are aiming at preventing deaths and diseases that result from cooking through training Village Health Teams (VHTs) and other people how to make safe cook stoves made out of local material.
- Also a presentation on microbial air contamination in relation to TB by the Integrated Community Health Initiative Organization (ICHIO) which is a student led project.



- Tour of projects aimed at curbing indoor and outdoor air pollution in which there was a visit to the cook stove project at Mukono. Over 40 Students managed to take this trip had a good experience while there seeing how we can prevent indoor air pollution which results from cooking. They witnessed and engaged in the making of stoves from cheap and available raw material.



**Right:** Measurements are key prior to construction works while **left:** One of the cooking stoves constructed by the students during their practical session.

Finally the celebrations were crowned on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 at Mulago nursing and midwifery school grounds where we had our beloved Dean of School of Public Health Prof. Wanyeza Rhoda who was happy to be part of MUEHSA activities and encouraged students to engage in writing of articles , come up with ideas and innovations related to health. She promised to keep in touch and offer support to MUEHSA activities.

- Awarding of prizes to essay competitions triumphant schools which had outstanding essays. The best in primary was Akello Sandra and secondary were Eri Mercy and Ayeerwet Hope from St Marys College Aboke. These were handed over to the school representatives by the Dean.



- The guest of honour giving prizes to the best essays during the function.



Speech from Mrs. Ruth Mubeezi patron (MUEHSA) and Dr. Musoke David Secretary African chapter International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)



Speech from the Dean Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze who was also our guest of honour during the function

- **MUEHSA recognized during the inaugural annual WEHD dinner**  
A Dinner at Sheraton hotel where MUEHSA was awarded with a prize from the Environmental Health Workers Association for its continuous efforts towards the promotion and development of the Environmental Health profession in the country.



**RIGHT.** President MUEHSA Mr.Eyomu Silver receiving an award from the Guest of Honour, Mr.Okot Alfred Okidi PS Ministry of Water and Environment who represented the Prime Minister as the EHWAU president Mr. Mbaha looks on while **LEFT:** MUEHSA executive members and former MUEHSA presidents take on a group photo with the IFEH secretary for African chapter Dr. David Musoke with the Accolade received.

### **Conclusion**

As MUEHSA we would love to extend the vote of thanks to all partners and support organizations that saw us succeed in creating awareness on the “indoor and outdoor air pollution” in all the planned activities which were successfully conducted given that it was a hectic political week in our country. The active participation of the public when it needed you most, we look forward to keeping the celebrations on for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in Uganda. Thank you

**For health, prevention is our priority.**

**NB: WATCH OUT FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.**

- Namuongo hygiene and sanitation improvement project.
- Smile for refugee urban project in partnership with UNHCR.
- MUEHSA annual scientific conference

### **Acknowledgements**

1. Makerere University School of public health (Deans office)
2. Department of Disease Control and Environmental health.
3. Environmental Health workers association of Uganda
4. Makerere university environmental health students association .
5. Integrated Community Health Initiative Organization
6. Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery