

IFMBE WORKING GROUP ON AFRICA ACTIVITIES (WGAA)



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BACKGROUND



- The idea for creating the Africa BME Federation began almost a decade ago.
- In October 2015 - Africa BME Professional Associations Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa
- 14 National Associations from Africa participated.
- In October 2016 - Abuja called off due to logistics challenges
- March 2018 - IFMBE Africa BME Forum in Ethiopia
- WGAA was confirmed at the IFMBE General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic in May 2018.

IFMBE WGAA MEMBERSHIP



- **Core Members Countries and Contact Person**
 - Ashenafi Hussein, Ethiopia
 - George Boadu, Ghana
 - Prince M. O. Mbah, Nigeria
 - Sudesh Sivarasu, South Africa
 - Edward Matekwa and Salome Mwaura, Kenya
 - Laleye O. H. Roland, Benin
 - Sam Byamukama, Uganda

- **Non-Core Member Countries and Contact Person**
 - Bertha Kavishe, Tanzania
 - Arnaud Mekendi Mwamba and Prince Verhoustraeten, DR Congo
 - Nzeyimana Dieudonne, Burundi
 - Aldjauma Kelly, Mali
 - Didace Foro, Baukina Faso
 - Emmanuel Musiwa, Zambia

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE IFMBE WGAA



- Provide advice and support in the implementation BME activities in Africa
- Promotion of IFMBE and IFMBE Working Group on Africa Activity (WGAA) plan
- To promote mutual cooperation between Biomedical Engineering Societies in Africa, focusing on professional activities, teaching, training and Research and Development; and involve professional at all levels of Biomedical Engineering and University faculty.
- To encourage more African countries to set up national societies and become members of IFMBE.
- Propose the organization and decide on the location of a three yearly African regional conference.
- Work in collaboration with other groups within IFMBE and affiliates of IFMBE, like IUPESM

IFMBE WGAA Short Term Plan



■ ***Networking***

- E-Meeting
- Online meeting include Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp, Telegram
- Facebook platform
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/191429861475403/>)
- Open Working Space on IFMBE Webpages
- Contents from Africa Societies
- National Societies should create a website and add a link to direct members to the IFMBE and WGAA web pages.
- Continuous networking to facilitate sharing through electronic media

IFMBE WGAA Long Term Plan (2019-2021)



- ***Action Point 1:***
- **Topic Specific Workshops to solve real problems:**
 - Focus on Technology innovation cycle, Health Technology management education, Manufacturing
 - Brainstorming/Think-tank about education, best practices and research
 - Regional Conferences
 - Networking with relevant stakeholders:
 - Inter-ministerial engagement and collaboration with ministries of Health, Science, Technology and Innovation and Education in Africa
- ***Action Point 2: Education***
- **Survey of BME Programs in Africa**
 - Curricula Development and Harmonization for universities offering Biomedical Engineering training in Africa
 - Training of Trainers (ToT) with collaboration from IFMBE

IFMBE WGAA Long Term Plan (2019-2021)



- ***Action Point 3: Research and Innovation***
- **Prototyping and designing for local needs**
 - National and Regional innovative design competition, prototype and development
 - Create a Center of Excellence (COE) recognized by International organizations
- ***Action Point 5: Practical***
- **Collection of Country Profile of BME Societies in Africa**
 - **Measuring Indicators** include Number of data collected per country
 - Update and publish society information with contact info and focal point

SUCCESS STORIES



The THET Africa BME Societies Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa (2015)



SUCCESS STORIES



Creation of the IFMBE WGAA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



SUCCESS STORIES



WGAA Participation at the 2018 IFMBE General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic

IFMBE International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
A member of the International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM)

Election: New members

Statements by the representatives of New Membership applicants

1.	Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)
2.	Ethiopian Society of Biomedical Engineers and Technologists (ESBME)
3.	Biomedical Engineering Society in Vietnam (BMES-VN)
4.	Thai Biomedical Engineering Association (ThaiBME)
5.	Association of Medical Engineering of Kenya (AMEK)
6.	Association of Biomedical Engineering Technologists of Benin (ATGBB)
7.	Ghana Society of Biomedical Engineers (GSBE)
8.	Uganda National Association for Medical and Hospital Engineering (UNAMHE)
9.	Association of Biomedical Engineers of El Salvador (ACIBES)
10.	



SUCCESS STORIES



WGAA Participation at the 2018 East African Conference in Uganda



SUCCESS STORIES



WGAA Participation at the European Parliament Interest Group Meeting in Brussels, Belgium



SUCCESS STORIES



WGAA Participation at the European Parliament Interest Group Meeting in Brussels, Belgium



CHALLENGES



- Funding
- Members participation at meetings is low
- No Representation from the North Africa Region

CONCLUSION



- Together we can overcome our challenges and gain better recognition for our noble profession
- Let us join hands to develop BME practice in Africa to solve our continent's health needs as we build ties with global community

THANK YOU
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