

News from the IAEH

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Declaration of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire) on Strengthening Links between Researchers, Practitioners, and Policy-makers

We, participants of the **first African regional conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health** and the **second African research meeting on Ecosystem Approaches and Human Health**, assembled on 1st–3rd October 2013 in Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire),

Are convinced that:

- Sustainable development needs to take into account the ecological and social aspects through institution and individual capacity building for behavioral change, social equity, and inclusion of all stakeholders in decision-making;
- To pursue this, scientific research plays a key role in being open, integrated, and inter- and trans-disciplinary;
- Within the field of health, “Ecohealth” and “One Health” concepts have shown sustainable evidence that must be exploited in a converging manner.

Given the emergency of these problems and the need for scientific results to deal with these, it is important to consider or reconsider the collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers to transform their results into genuine development tools.

Communications presented during the conference have demonstrated:

- ***On Health Care (including all aspects according to WHO) in the context of global change:***
 - It is important to encourage and facilitate innovation and research collaborations within a secure environ-

ment that takes into account the economic, environmental, political, and social aspects;

- Health and demographic surveillance systems provide opportunities for the validation and applications of current methodological innovation.

- ***Moving towards Integrated Approaches (“Ecohealth,” “One Health,” and others):***

- The great challenges of global health require new technology, good governance including stakeholders capacity building and skills transfer, as well as effective community participation, in the search for sustainable and cost-effective solutions
- Assuring in addition food security contributes towards improved human physical and mental health, better food quality, and increased income that in turn promotes improved access to health care.

- ***On the Relationship between population, researchers, and policy-makers:***

- Researchers need to focus more attention on the research needs expressed by policymakers and communities;
- Researchers and practitioners becoming policymakers themselves should be the key to drive forward the research findings implementation.
- Researcher should systematically translate the research findings into a digest language for both policymakers and the public.

Convinced of the mentioned issues, we, active researchers and practitioners within African countries, urge that African governments revitalize their commitment to all the international declarations and agreements on the links between health and the environment, in particular “The

Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa (2008).”

Researchers and practitioners on health social and ecological system are engaging in the following to:

- Actively contribute to promote the aforementioned declarations;
- Further develop strategies for a coherent synergy in research and output within health and the environment, including the consideration of local (traditional) knowledge;
- Foster the emergence of new generation able to overcome the challenges in innovation for health and environment;
- Strengthen national, sub-regional, and regional capacities in inter- and trans-disciplinary research to ensure better prevent health problems related to environment;
- Promote and enhance scientific findings in the frame of “Ecohealth” and “One Health” concepts;
- Encourage the promotion of young scientists to ensure a succession in quality and quantity in “Ecohealth” and “One Health” domains;
- Develop partnerships for more policymakers awareness in Ecohealth research
- Call academic institutions and evaluation councils for the creation of new research chairs to promote research addressing solutions to social problem.

A committee comprising key actors of the conference will be established by the organizing committee of the conference Africa 2013 to follow-up on the declaration until Montréal 2014 and the second regional African conference.

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Created in Grand-Bassam on 3rd October 2013

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Published online: February 1, 2014