

“Health Diplomacy and Ebola Crisis in West Africa: Lessons Learnt and Perspectives for the Future”

Public Seminar

10.30am -12 pm, Monday 22 May 2017

UNU International Institute for Global Health

Venue: UNU-IIGH Building, UKM Medical Centre, Jalan Yaacob Latiff, Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur

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Abstract

The Ebola virus disease can be reckoned as one of the devastating diseases that greatly ravaged human society. Unlike previous outbreaks, the West African experience is the largest ever recorded in human history and differs significantly in its duration, number of people affected and geographical extent. While the use of health diplomacy in eradicating deadly diseases is not novel, the global response to Ebola crisis has been described as a failure for health diplomacy because the national and the international agencies did not respond with the required speed and expertise to this complex health emergency.

This paper, therefore, examines the responses towards the containment of the Ebola crisis at the regional and global levels. It further highlights the lessons that can be gleaned from the Ebola crisis as well as proposing options to foster health diplomacy. It concludes that health diplomacy offers great opportunity but only if it is properly managed with more concern for global health security.

Dr Benjamin Anaemene a national of Nigeria, joined UNU-IIGH in June 2015 as part of the Governance for Global Health programme.

He obtained his Ph.D. in Diplomatic History from the Department of History and Strategic Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria. Prior joining the UNU-IIGH, he has been teaching and conducting research in diplomatic history, global health governance and health diplomacy at both Redeemer's University and the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He spent some time at the WHO headquarters, Geneva conducting research on the role of the WHO in the development of Nigeria's health sector.

Dr Anaemene has carried out several studies which include the impact of health diplomacy on regional integration particularly in West Africa and the influence of health diplomacy on public policy in Nigeria. He is presently co editing a peer-reviewed edited book on Agenda 2030 and the future of Africa's Development. His research interests are mainly on global health governance, health diplomacy and south south cooperation. He has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals.



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