



Press Release

For Immediate Release

15 Years of Quality Nursing Education and Healthcare in East Africa

STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

November 10, 2016: The Aga Khan University (AKU), the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust (Trust) and over 200 local and international health professionals kicked off a three-day conference focused on delivering quality health care in East Africa. The conference, held at the Nairobi Safari Park Hotel, also celebrated the University's 15 years in East Africa, and the 15-year partnership between AKU, AKDN and the Trust to enhance nursing education.

The conference addresses the need for systematic approaches to quality improvement across health care systems – from research to education, from community-based care to hospitals – and the impact that focusing on health systems and quality can have on achieving the targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. Pacifica Onyancha, Deputy Director Medical Services who was representing Dr. Nicholas Muraguri, Principle Secretary of the Kenya Ministry of Health and Chief Guest at the conference launch, commended AKU and the AKDN for the immense contribution they have made to health, education and civil society institutions in East Africa. She urged them and their partners to continue collaborating with public health systems to achieve health for all.

“The Government of Kenya is well aware of the commitment His Highness the Aga Khan has made towards the advancement of quality health care in East Africa – a commitment made over 100 years ago that continues today. That you are also celebrating the first 15 years of the Aga Khan University in East Africa is equally important – 15 years is a short period of time for a university to have the kind of impact you display, and for that, I commend you.” She added.

“The Government is also aware of the challenges in the health sector, and I must commend you further for putting some of these challenges at the forefront of your discussions for the next three days,” Dr. Onyancha added. “Matters of reproductive and maternal health, newborn and child mortality and morbidity, adolescent health issues, emerging and re-emerging diseases are among the thematic areas you will be focusing on. This is indeed encouraging and a challenge to us as a Government to renew our commitment towards supporting the efforts displayed by institutions such as yourselves.”

Noting the importance of partnerships, Mr. Al-Karim Haji, Vice President and Chief Financial



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Officer of AKU, thanked the Trust for cosponsoring the conference and for its enduring support of the University's School of Nursing and Midwifery in East Africa.

“For the last 15 years, the Trust has supported AKU's School of Nursing and Midwifery in East Africa,” he said. “Almost 90 percent of our more than 2,100 nursing graduates have received support from the Trust, and more than 100 of them hold leadership positions in East Africa.”

Mr. Haji noted that together with Global Affairs Canada and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), AKU and the Aga Khan Health Services will be working with nearly 100 government health facilities to improve care for over 600,000 mothers and children in Kilifi and Kisii in Kenya and Mwanza in Tanzania.

“Through the University's Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health in East Africa, AKU will be conducting implementation research that bridges the gap between academia, service providers and policymakers, and contributes to achieving the SDGs,” Mr. Haji added. “The Aga Khan University Hospital is also planning to construct a Children's Hospital within the main hospital that will provide high quality specialty paediatric care together with specialty medical and nursing training programmes in child health.”

The partnership between the Trust and AKU can be seen in the impact it has had on clinical care, leadership, nursing education and the overall health system, as well as in the recognition its alumni have received wherever they have gone.

“We first came together in 2001, with the first nursing scholarships in East Africa,” said Frank Welvaert, Managing Director of the Trust. “Investing in the education and training of nurses and midwives means that better health care can be provided to more people and local health care systems can become stronger. Since then, over 2,000 nurses have graduated from the AKU and 90 percent remain in the region, with many in leadership positions, helping to empower others and transform health systems.”

“We are also committed to supporting and championing the people on the front lines who are at the heart of delivering care,” he added. “As such, we are delighted to be co-hosting this conference with AKU to make a long-lasting impact on human health in line with the Johnson & Johnson Global Community Impact mission.” He added.

The conference is the first in a series of annual conferences on strengthening health systems in East Africa that AKU will organize.

Notes to the editor:



About Aga Khan University

The Aga Khan University (AKU) was established in 1983 as an internationally accredited and chartered,

not-for-profit, non-denominational, multi-campus, research-led university with a main campus in Karachi, Pakistan. In 2000, it expanded to East Africa, where Aga Khan educational institutions have been present for more than a century. Since establishment, AKU has remained committed to the development of human capacities through the discovery, dissemination and application of knowledge. AKU operates on the core principles of quality, relevance, impact and access. The University has campuses and programmes in six countries on three continents, including Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and operates seven hospitals and 220 medical outreach centres. AKU has approximately 2,500 students and more than 13,000 alumni.

Academic programmes in East Africa include:

- ❖ School of Nursing and Midwifery in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
- ❖ Postgraduate Medical Education in Kenya and Tanzania
- ❖ Institute for Educational Development in Tanzania (educating school teachers and administrators from across East Africa)
- ❖ Graduate School of Media and Communication in Kenya (educating journalists from East Africa and beyond)
- ❖ Institute for Human Development in Kenya (focusing on collaborative interdisciplinary work on human development across East Africa)
- ❖ East African Institute in Kenya (focusing on research and dialogue that informs the development of public policy across East Africa)

AKU prepares promising young men and women to succeed in the global knowledge economy and to lead change in their societies. The University is devoted to creating new knowledge with the potential to save and enhance millions of lives, particularly in low-income and marginalized communities. The faculty includes scholars with worldwide reputations, and AKU alumni have gone on to collaborate with and work and study at some of the most prestigious institutions around the world. AKU and its partners and supporters work closely with the East African governments to enhance public and private-sector service provision. At AKU, students flourish in a supportive environment that embraces pluralism, encourages excellence and fosters leadership. Admission is based on merit.

About Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust

The mission of the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust (Trust) is to make sustainable, long-term differences in human health. It does this by investing in strategic partnerships and innovative solutions that add value to society and impact people's lives.



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The Trust was founded in 2007 to manage the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region. The Trust is an independent organization that reflects the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies' commitment to improve the quality of life of the communities that its employees live and work in. It is a Company limited by guarantee and a registered Scottish charity (SC0 17977). For more information about the Trust, its programs and activities in the EMEA region, please visit www.jjct.org or contact us via email: csreamea@its.jnj.com.

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For conference information visit: <http://www.aku.edu/hcqc-conf>