MEPI Impact

The second day of the symposium was as engaging and exciting as the first. The first session, MEPI Landscape Year 4, was about reviewing the impact of MEPI on students and faculty.

One of the speakers said MEPI provides hope for African medical schools after the turbulent times that most of Africa went through. MEPI’s qualitative impact was illustrated in the ways in which students and faculty have improved their research capabilities, grant writing and project management.

The MEPI communities of practice were presented at three levels which are: core, intermediate and global communities of practice. The components include technical working groups, site visits, the annual symposium, MEPI journal, website, newsletter and webinars.

Experiences

The second plenary, Sharing Experiences and Learning together for Sustainability, focused on partnerships in the different institutions.

This included experiences of the Asian Pacific Network on Health Professional Educational Reforms, partnerships for New Medical Schools with emphasis on the increase of MEPI medical schools from 13 to 33. During the third plenary, the health education supplement was launched.

The spirit of the symposium, which is sharing experiences, was well captured in the panel discussion which had speakers such as Fitzhugh Mullan, Zoe Mullan, David Sklar and James Tumwine. Participants were hopeful that, through the work done by MEPI-sponsored institutions, Africa will one day achieve an HIV-free generation and other health goals.

Quality, leadership

The last plenary was about quality assurance and regulation. Among the speakers was Katumba Sentongo from the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council.

Sentongo said one way of improving the quality and use of data is by creating awareness about its importance. He added that data can be used to identify skills and geographical gaps.

Margaret Mungherera, the president of the World Medical Association told members that Africa has enough road maps and policies. “What is needed now is implementation,” she said.

Oluwabunmi Olapade told the meeting that AMSA has been resuscitated with the help of WHO AFRO. AMSA hopes to hold a symposium in 2015.

Break-out sessions

The first breakout session was sharing innovations in e-Learning in three MEPI schools.

The second breakout was on building capacity for medical education. Other areas of focus were equipping students for leadership, enhancing the learning environment in medical education, sharing of student perspectives, and presentations on linked awards.