


Dear colleagues and associates.

The year 2020 has come and is almost gone. This will be one of the years that will linger in our minds and thoughts for many more years to come. Our young organisation, AfrIPEN, was not spared from the realities of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. A lot of the health workers who are members of the organisation had to renegotiate with their workspaces, some within the frontline of the pandemic while others involved with transforming education systems. The lessons learnt from this year, truly support the value of teamwork within health sciences education and in clinical practice. No one single profession, professional or individual could have made it this far, we are in this together.

This communication intends to share with you some of the activities that AfrIPEN has been involved in and what the immediate future looks like for our organisation. This year saw an expansion in our partnerships within the African continent with even more potential for further partnerships. In partnership with the African Interdisciplinary Health Conference (AfIHC) - AfrIPEN co-hosted the 3rd Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference which was scheduled to be held in Cape Town but was eventually hosted online. AfrIPEN is now working closely with the African Forum for Primary Health Care (AfroPHC) and the South African Association for Health Educationalists (SAAHE). In the latter AfrIPEN drives the IPE special interest group and will soon drive the IPE agenda at the SAAHE conference in 2021.

Through the capacity development working group, AfrIPEN managed to host several webinars related to IPE and burnout. These webinars were driven by experts from Australia, South Africa, and Kenya and were attended by delegates from more than 10 African countries. The communications and marketing lead has worked flat out to market all these webinars, and other events related to our organisation through our various social media platforms. This has been a commendable stride as some of our events are streamed live.

Looking into the future, what is planned for AfrIPEN in 2021 and possibly beyond? Through the work of the “membership committee” – another strategic arm of our organisation, the following are pegged for 2021;

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- A new IPE student chapter with thrilling engagement activities for all health care and social sciences students in the African continent;
 - Active expansion of partners, including universities and other specialised organisations in Africa;
 - Research hubs, led by experts in IPE in the continent to drive a South-South partnership and enhance the IPECP research agenda for the continent;
 - Position the AfrIPEN website as the “go to” site for all IPE related activities, especially in the African continent;
 - Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice workshop at the SAAHE conference in 2021;
 - Continued webinars on IPECP from various role players; and
 - The 3rd Interprofessional education and collaborative practice for Africa conference (a hybrid conference) to be held in September 2021.

These are some of the thrilling activities planned for 2021. Keep on the look-out for these activities and how you can be involved. You can also contact the AfrIPEN team for further discussion and involvement <https://afripen.org/people/>.

I can only imagine how exhausted you are - this year was tough. As the year ends, I hope you can find time to relax, unwind, and refresh with your loved ones. I sincerely hope that you stay safe and can join us on our exciting adventures for 2021.

Kind regards,

Champion Nyoni

AfrIPEN Facilitator & Chair