

Vocational training team shares expertise with Aga Khan University faculty in Uganda

By Dan Nixon

Rotary International News -- 9 July 2012

Members of a vocational training team shared their expertise in nursing education with faculty at Aga Khan University's School of Nursing and Midwifery recently.

The training team, the first funded by a Rotary Foundation [packaged grant](#), visited the campus in Kampala, Uganda, 27 February-12 March. Led by physician and Past District Governor Matthias Oladeinde Shoga, the three nurse educators from Nigeria trained their counterparts in teaching practices that promote student learning and improve effectiveness in education.

The training covered research techniques, the use of anatomical models, simulated classroom situations, and how to assess students' attitudes through body language.

"To demonstrate their acquired experience, the faculty conducted classes for students with the team in attendance as observers," says Shoga. "The [VTT] experience was enriching for both the team and the university, as we had things to learn from each other."



Top: Dr. Yasmin Amarsi, dean of Aga Khan University's School of Nursing and Midwifery, welcomes VTT leader Matthias Oladeinde Shoga to the university's campus in Kampala, Uganda. *Photo by Jan Damery* Bottom: The team meets staff from the Mpigi Health Center near Kampala. *Photo courtesy of Matthias Oladeinde Shoga*

Maternal and child health

The Foundation entered a strategic partnership with [Aga Khan University](#) last year, creating new opportunities for Rotarians to serve in the maternal and child health area of focus. Packaged grants are available under the Foundation's [Future Vision](#) grant model.

The team also met Dr. Yasmin Amarsi, dean of the school, who describes the launch of the partnership between the university and The Rotary Foundation through the VTT as a "history-making

opportunity” to help improve maternal and child health in East Africa. She notes that it was particularly significant that the first VTT came to the university from another African country to forge stronger continental links and to learn from each other’s experiences.

Team members also participated in a community service project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Muyenga, assisting the treatment of patients at a health clinic in Kassamu Kyali. The clinic is part of a large, sustainable Foundation grant project active in three areas of focus. It has established a clean water system, a bakery, a goat-breeding program, a vocational center where women sew dresses and uniforms for orphans and free mosquito bed nets for the community, and a solar-powered cold-chain facility that stores vaccines. The effort is sponsored by the Muyenga club and the Rotary Club of Genk-Noord, Belgium.

“This was a revelation -- to see a single project touching so many areas of the lives of the inhabitants,” says Shoga.

In addition, team members conducted a prenatal and health education clinic at the Mpigi Health Center, which serves about 120,000 people in an area near Kampala.

Understanding Rotary

As a result of the VTT, team members say they have gained a better understanding of Rotary and have since become involved in service projects with their sponsor clubs.

“One of the team members has shown interest in joining her sponsor club,” says Shoga. “All have been invited to join the Rotary Foundation alumni association [and] are enthusiastic about joining.”

As for future contacts between the VTT and Aga Khan University, Shoga says the university’s faculty are committed to continuing to improve their skills as educators and excited to be part of opportunities that offer outside assistance.

“Our findings of a survey made of students and faculty, as well as recommendations of the team, have been [provided] for future use by the faculty,” says Shoga. “The VTT plans to remain connected to the nursing education faculty at Aga Khan University.”

- Read about The Rotary Foundation's [strategic partnership with Aga Khan University](#).
- Learn more about the [Future Vision grant model](#).
- Support the work of the Foundation by making a [contribution](#) today

9 Comments:

At 11:04AM on 28 August 2012, **Rtn Bosede Olanusi** wrote:

This must ve been a wonderful experience which i will appreciate if same could be extended through my club, rotary club of ondo district 9125 to the school of nursing and midwifery in akure ondo state Nigeria

At 4:10PM on 3 August 2012, **Rtn. Liz McCartney** wrote:

Really interesting to hear about VTT in other areas of Africa. It is a wonderful scheme which makes good use of Foundation funds.

At 10:21AM on 30 July 2012, **Charlotte** wrote:

What a wonderful story to share about what Rotary can do and does do quietly and effectively all the time.

At 10:14AM on 16 July 2012, **Muhammad wajid** wrote:

it is a great step

At 9:40AM on 16 July 2012, **Amani Mohsen, RN, BSN-BC** wrote:

Reading this story has me absolutely inspired to become (more) active in the Rotary World. Though I am not a Rotarian, I was a Facilitator of RYLA 7490 and a member of the first e-Rotaract group in District 7490 as well (New Jersey, USA). I am now a Nursing Clinical Instructor in Egypt as I have a desire to use my profession in a global manner. I am looking for a club to join here in Egypt, but do not want to miss out on opportunities such as this one. If anyone who is reading this can assist me in participating in such projects, I would greatly appreciate it. In the meantime, thank you for all of the work you do. Yours In Service.

At 9:34AM on 16 July 2012, **Rot Seyi Lufadeju** wrote:

This was well articulated and presented at today's Intercity Rotary meeting in Abuja with the RI President in attendance. Well done PDG Shoga for a great job. We are very proud of you.

At 12:31PM on 13 July 2012, **Wale Adegbite** wrote:

Well done, PDG Dehinde Shoga. We in Rotary Club of Gbagada are proud of you. This story will prompt more Rotarians to look for more ways to be involved in the numerous activities of Rotary.

At 9:54AM on 12 July 2012, **Sam Olayiwola** wrote:

Wonderful involement of PDG Shoga..... more grease ...

At 8:43AM on 12 July 2012, **Jeanne Kearley, RN, BSN, FNP-C** wrote:

A treat to read this article! From June 1 to June 21, 2012, I was the team leader of the second VTT to AKU, this time to Nairobi, Kenya to their School of Nursing. My four team members, all nurse educators from San Diego, California, USA, did very similar training with the faculty from AKU as well as holding a 2 day workshop for nursing faculty from all schools of nursing in the Nairobi area. Dr Yasmin Amarsi is the Dean for all three of the East African AKU Schools of Nursing so she is well known now to all of us! It would have been a wonderful time of sharing expertise and fellowship if the two teams could have met! Our experience was very similar to that of the Nigeria team and we too are planning to continue to offer support and initiate student exchange between AKU and San Diego State University. Well done, VTT from Nigeria!

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