



NATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

ANNOUNCING THE 2009 NIGERIA NATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE, 8-10 JUNE: TO FOCUS ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Dear All,

The second Nigeria National Health Conference (NHC2009), will hold on **8-10 June 2009**, at the **Le' Meriden Ibom Hotel and Resort, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria**

Organised by the NHC2009 National Steering Committee (NSC), comprising the Senate Health Committee, Akwa Ibom State Government, Federal Ministry of Health, Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON), Development Partners, Professional Organisations in the health and development sector, and other stakeholders in the health in Nigeria, the National health Conferences (NHCs) are held to continuously review the country's health sector and proffer strategies for further progress. Each conference creates a forum for interactions among stakeholders in Nigeria's Health Sector including The Presidency, National Assembly, State governments, Federal and State Health and Line Ministries, Community representatives, Women groups, Bilateral and Multilateral Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs, Civil Society/Faith based Organisations, Professional Bodies, Businesses, among others.

The NHC2009 seeks to support the critical focus of **His Excellency President Umaru Ya'Adua's** government on Human Development as espoused in the administration's 7-point agenda. It is aimed at ensuring better health and human development of Nigerians, and enhances the country's chances of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially the health-related ones. Already, the government of **His Excellency, Chief Godswill Akpabio**, Governor of Akwa Ibom State, has graciously accepted to co-host the NHC2009.

The theme for the NHC2009 is **Primary Health Care in Nigeria - 30 Years after 'Alma Ata'**; in commemoration of the International Conference on Primary Health care held in Alma Ata, former Soviet Union, in 1978; during which the global community decided to promote PHC as the cornerstone of Health Care around the world, especially in resource-poor countries like Nigeria. In 1986, Nigeria adopted PHC as the cornerstone of its healthcare system. The NHC2009 will receive and discuss papers from locally and internationally renowned/eminent persons and institutions under the following subthemes:

- I. Effective Interventions to Achieve Health Related MDGs in Nigeria
- II. Governance and Legislation (Stewardship) for PHC
- III. Resources for Effective PHC Services
- IV. Other Determinants of Health

Topics to be covered during under these subthemes include:

1. PHC in Nigeria: 30 Years after Alma -Ata
2. Delivery of an Effective Maternal & Child Health Services in Nigeria
3. Transforming Health Systems to Improve the lives of Women and New born babies
4. Challenges in Control and Eradication of Malaria in Nigeria.

5. Effective control of HIV/AIDs and TB in Achieving the Goal of National development
6. Implementing the National Health Act to achieve the MDGs
7. Strengthening National Health Information Management Systems: Bottom-top Approach For PHC services
8. "Challenges of Health Care in Federal System- Roles and responsibilities " for 3 levels of Government
9. Financing and Infrastructure for Efficient, Effective and Qualitative PHC services in Nigeria
10. Tackling the Crisis in Human Resources for PHC Services in Nigeria
11. The Challenges of making quality essential drugs and supply available for PHC services in Nigeria
12. Roles of Water and Sanitation in achieving PHC Objectives in Nigeria
13. Social-Cultural Factors Influencing PHC Services in Nigeria
14. The need for an Effective Health Promotion for achieving the Goal of PHC in Nigeria.
15. Roles of Community Participation in PHC Services in Nigeria

Activities lined up for the conference also include Opening Ceremony, Keynote speech, Paper presentations, Breakout/discussion sessions, Special sessions by Federal and Akwa Ibom State Governments, Special Group meetings, Interactive Sessions and Exhibitions. Eminent personalities from the stakeholders have been selected as Key Note and Paper presenters.

The NHC2009 will contribute to the realization of the following in Nigerian Health and Development Sectors:

- i. Effective Primary Health Care systems
- ii. Better and appropriate health services and health-seeking behaviours within the population
- iii. Improved health indices for the population
- iv. Better health outcomes
- v. Enhanced human development
- vi. Increased general life expectancy

The report of the last edition (NHC2006) which was held 28-29 November 2006 in Abuja, under the theme ***'Health in Nigeria in the 21st Century - Sustaining the Reforms Beyond 2007'***, is available at

http://www.herfon.org/docs/NHC2006_Details_of_Proceedings.pdf.

All persons, business concerns, organisations and governments interested in promoting better health in Nigeria are invited to participate and support this Conference.

Effective, accessible and affordable PHC is our collective responsibility!

Welcome!

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