



The Training and Accreditation Partnership Programme

Introduction

Health care delivery through its structures, processes and outcomes, is a fundamental human right of every individual, and it is incumbent on governments to provide a minimum level of such care, which has to be affordable, accessible and accountable.

Central to the delivery of health care are the providers with their different roles and grades, and there is a moral, legal and professional imperative on regulatory bodies and educational institutions to ensure a high level of competent personnel, that conform with international standards, while sympathetic to their own environments.

The Sudan, in years gone by, has been a pioneer in the medical field at a national and regional level, but certain factors (which are beyond this document to discuss) have played significant roles in ebbing any development in these fields, and resulted in Sudan lagging behind, felt by all, now more so than from the medical fraternity itself.

Over the years, there has been a continuous brain drain from the Sudan, to different parts of the world, that has resulted in depletion of human medical resources, and whom have acquired a wealth of knowledge and skills, both at clinical and managerial levels. A significant number of those in the Diaspora have engaged in different initiatives, some on individual basis while others as part of an organisation. Many of these initiatives are continuing today but many more have ended prematurely.

These initiatives have had a considerable positive impact, but unfortunately in many instances, were no more than a one off venture only, leaving those on the receiving end only momentarily better off but anticipating for more. These initiatives have failed mainly in providing a continuous source of support for those in the Sudan to depend on as a major tool for change.

The Sudan as an autonomous nation is entitled, and rightly so, to develop its own programmes. Two giant institutions with well

documented histories and track records, namely, the Sudan Medical Council (SMC) and the Sudanese Medical Specialisation Board (SMSB), have embarked on ambitious programmes to modernise the Medical education process.

The Sudanese Doctors Union in the United Kingdom and Ireland (SDU-UK&I), has been engaged in constant dialogue with the Sudan Medical Council (SMC) and the Sudan Medical Specialisation Board (SMSB) lately, to find ways, through a coordinated partnership programmes, to stream line such efforts. More recently at our spring conference in April 2010, we have reaffirmed our commitment through our contacts and resources to this partnership.

We strongly believe that a coordinated partnership approach that would effectively channel all efforts from the Diaspora to deliver continuous, sustainable and reliable programmes with the aim of supporting the education and accreditation process for all levels and types of healthcare workers is much needed.

The Way Forward

The Training and Accreditation conference hosted by the SDU-UK & I at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Chessington, Surrey on 17th and 18th April 2010 was attended by Prof. Zein Al-Abdeen Karrar, the president of SMC and Prof. Osman Mohamed Taha, the president of SMSB. We had extremely useful and interesting presentations by both presidents elaborating on the structure, process and outcomes of both bodies followed by valuable contribution by the delegates. This was followed by a third brain storming session which raised issues of concern and identified areas that need to be addressed. It culminated in a number of recommendations that led to a partnership framework, the Training and Accreditation Partnership Programme (TAPP).

TAPP is designed to facilitate and coordinate the training in all the medical specialities and subspecialties in Sudan identified by the two bodies. It will act in partnership with them to coordinate the training activities needed.

The programme includes two limbs:

Sudan Limb:

Participants from the UK&I to travel to Sudan and deliver programmed activities that include:

- Mentorships

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Assessments and examinations
- Basic skills provision
- Master classes provision

UK and Ireland Limb:

- To identify through the Union's Specialists Associations the resources and skills available and coordinate the above work.
- To accommodate delegates from Sudan in Fellowship type programmes as an end of training fine tuning activity.
- To organise through the Royal Colleges paid training programmes / posts.
- To work with the GMC and PMETBs in supporting and advancing the training programmes in Sudan.

The Union has already been engaged in talks and negotiations with the different colleges and education bodies to deliver on TAPP. We are also committed to provide the necessary data base of the interested individuals from the UK and Ireland who are keen to take part in the above activities.

We would like to invite you today to renew your commitment to the union and urge you to participate in this partnership programme that is crucial in improving the training of our colleagues and essential for a better health care system in our beloved country, Sudan.