

IFPW Foundation Supports Center of Excellence Launch in Rwanda

Members of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW) supported the launch of the East African Community (EAC) Regional Center of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management on March 24th in Kigali.

March 31, 2016

A health training facility was launched in Kigali last week as part of efforts to further professionalize health, immunization and related health commodity logistics management in the region of east Africa. The East African Community (EAC) Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management (RCE-VIHSCM) is based at the University of Rwanda's School of Public Health in Kicukiro District and will offer both a variety of short courses covering key subject areas as well as offering a fully-accredited Master's degree program in health supply chain management.

Members of IFPW - including AmerisourceBergen, GSK, and Imperial Health Sciences - and the IFPW Foundation staff participated in the launch ceremony which was attended by key stakeholders and top officials, including EAC Secretary General Dr. Richard Sezibera and Rwandan Health Minister Agnes Binagwaho. Dr. Sezibera commented in his opening remarks, "This center will not only train a cadre of health supply chain managers. It will also continue to harness best practices, pursue innovative supply chain spaces, both in the public and private sectors, and continue to bring

in the private sector to participate."

IFPW Foundation will be supporting the RCE-VIHSCM via curriculum development activities, mentoring programs and other initiatives which bring forth the best private sector practices and experiences from the pharmaceutical wholesale (and manufacturer) sector to the resource center. This support activity is a core part of the 3-year partnership agreement IFPW Foundation has with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to improve reach and access of vaccines in developing countries under Gavi's 2016-2020 Supply Chain Strategy. The IFPW Foundation-Gavi partnership also supports a sister center located in Benin, LOGIVAC, which serves francophone countries in west Africa.

The post-launch implementation activities will offer a variety of engagement opportunities to IFPW-member companies and other private sector stakeholders. All interested parties are invited to visit IFPW Foundation's web site at www.ifpwfoundation.org or contact IFPW's headquarters to learn about the opportunities to get involved.



Attendees are entertained by local Rwandan performers



Official opening of the EAC Center of Excellence by Rwanda's Ministry of Health



Representatives from GSK, AmerisourceBergen, IFPW and GAVI were present for the launch.



Local dignitaries, sponsors and government officials gather in Kigali to open the Regional Center of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management