



The Uganda National Association for Medical and Hospital Engineering (UNAMHE)

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UNAMHE REPORT TO IFHE COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 2016

- 1. About UNAMHE.** Formed in 1993, UNAMHE stands for The Uganda National Association for Medical and Hospital Engineering. Membership is open to individuals and companies or organizations that are active in HTM for example *architects, surveyors, procurement specialists, civil/electrical/mechanical engineers and technicians*, etc. Majority of the members fall in the category of *biomedical engineers and biomedical equipment technicians*.
- 2. Membership Growth.** To be realistic there has not been a considerable increment in the membership over the last couple of years. However this is something that we expect to start improving now that products from local institutions have started graduating and joining the working class.
- 3. Improving Recognition.** The level of recognition for the HTM professionals is seen to be improving going by the adverts and recruitment patterns being observed in national trends within both the public and private sector. Notably colleagues in the profession are being involved by management more and more in matters of planning and acquisition, for example developing equipment specifications as opposed to the notion of being only maintenance guys.
- 4. HTM firm wins top award.** An engineering and architectural consulting firm and member of UNAMHE, has emerged the overall winner of the *2015/16 Top 100 mid-sized company survey*.
The purpose of the competitive annual "Top 100" Survey is to identify Uganda's fastest growing medium-sized companies with a view to showcase their business excellence and highlight their most successful entrepreneurship stories.
The firm, called JOADAH CONSULT, is currently supervising renovation and expansion works at Mulago National Referral Hospital - the biggest hospital in Uganda - and also happens to be represented at this event IFHE2016. For a full news article about the award please visit <http://www.monitor.co.ug/Business/Markets/Top-100-mid-sized-survey-building-brands-borders/-/688606/2966948/-/7x6lcnz/-/index.html>
- 5. Regional Cooperation.** The interaction between national HTM Associations among member countries in the East African community has continued at a steady pace. It is regularly punctuated by a rotating two-yearly regional conference, of which the 6th round shall take place this year in Kenya. Much as it was the turn of Burundi, unfortunately this country is now not in position to host due to the instability and political turbulence that they have been facing since last year.
- 6. Pan-African Cooperation.** In October 2015 UNAMHE was represented at a workshop in Johannesburg, S. Africa that was organised by the Tropical Health & Education Trust (THET), sponsored by the GE Foundation and supported by WHO and IFMBE. The workshop brought together participants from 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa to discuss their successes and barriers to success. Among the outcomes of coming together are the efforts now underway to create a Pan-African HTM grouping now referred to as *The African Federation of Biomedical Engineering*.

More updates next time → → →

Presented by Sam S.B. Wanda, President – UNAMHE, April 2016