

Train Health Professionals Locally ...To Understand local Disease Conditions' By Philip FORSON

An Orthopaedic surgeon at the St. Albans City Hospital in England, Dr. Paul Ofori Atta has disproved the criticisms of training health professionals, particularly doctors abroad as unfair, but said the policy must encourage training of more basic health professionals locally to address special health needs of the country.

“Basic training must be encouraged in our own country. It means that those who are being train will understand our disease conditions better and of course going abroad to see something different can be applied in such a way that it improves what we know and also improve the world health situation of a fast growing population,” Dr. Ofori Atta disclosed in an interview on the sidelines during a training workshop for peri-operative nurses from all the ten regions in Accra.

He mentioned the need to expand the existing training institutions in the country to absorb the number of trainees to cater for the areas in the health sector that requires more and urgent assistance.

The Orthopaedic consultant, who is also the President of MOTEC Life-UK, a medical Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) comprising various specialists, advised that Ghana needs to position itself to meet the demand for a world class medical care in the health sector, as the inflow of foreign investments into the country continues to increase.

“If the world is getting smaller and people expect to have the same experience such as health care in any part of the world. How prepared are we to meet those challenges,” he queried.

The five-day training workshop for the peri-operative nurses was attended by over 102 participants from 66 hospitals across the country. It was the second in edition of an annual training programme collaborated between the Ghana Health Service, for the Peri-Operative Nurses Group – Ghana (PONG) and Motec Life – UK.

Some of the areas studied by the participants included preparing patients for theatre and theatre issues, infection control, as well as challenging practice for patients with special needs.

A facilitator from Motec, Jane Jackson, a Consultant Nurse at the Watford General Hospital also in England, observed that nurses in Ghana must be supported by their senior management, including medical doctors and the Ministry of Health in order to promote best practices in the health care delivery.

Participants were encouraged to express the difficulties they encounter when performing their duties in order to be assisted, while urging them to implement the new ideas and skills acquired during the workshop in their various hospitals.

Madam Caroline Antwi-Asare, President of Peri-Operative Nurses – Ghana (PONG) noted the essence of the workshop would deepen the knowledge and capacity of peri-operative nurses in the country. She assured that the new ideas and skills would be implemented and shared in the various participating hospitals.

The Motec team later presented patient oxygen detector machines to some of the participating hospitals, including St. John of God Hospital, Seftwi Asafo, St. Joseph's Orthopaedic Hospital, Koforidua, St. John's Hospital, Jirapa, Effia Nkwanta Regional Hospital, Sekondi Takoradi and Holy Family Hospital, Nkawkaw.

Motec Life-UK is a medical charity based in West Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom comprising volunteer and allied health professionals whose objectives are to provide educational, training and health care services to the underprivileged people of the West African region. The group has worked over the years through a co-ordinated programme of working visits to target health institutions in the sub- region, especially in Ghana. Membership is multi-disciplinary, multi-national, multi-cultural and multi-faith to reflect on the current trend of 'One Global World, One People'. The organisation is linked with the Tropical Health and Educational Trust (THET), affiliated to the World Orthopaedic Concern (UK) and supported by the International Organisation for Migration (I.O.M.) / Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA), and supported by The Ghana High Commission in London.