Minutes of the founding assembly

On the September 8th 2007, the founding assembly of the African Dental Education Association AfDEA was held in Dublin Castle (Ireland) under the auspices of the International Federation of Dental Educators and Association (IFDEA).

The meeting, which was chaired by Dr. Patrick Ferrillo Jr. (the incumbent IFDEA President), began at 2 pm. It was attended by 16 delegates from 10 African countries (see annexed list) and Mr Joshua Mintz involved in the development of the IFDEA website.

The following documents were made readily available as groundwork for the foundation of an African association of dental (Oral health) educators:

1. A draft schedule proposed by Professor Tshepo Gugushe for the course of this current meeting incorporating some suggestions set aside to make it successful.
2. A document from Professor Eyitope Ogunbodede in preparation for the founding assembly of the AfDEA. This document included also a draft constitution and attendant bylaws modified from the version already available in the African Oral Health Education Association (AOHEA) website (http://www.dentedafrique.org).
3. A report summary of the consultative meeting held in Cape Town (South Africa) from 23rd to 26th April 2002 under the aegis of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Oral Health.

Dr. Patrick Ferrillo, Jr. (President of IFDEA for the next 2 years) introduced the meeting and suggested some adjustments to the draft schedule proposed by Prof. Tshepo Gugushe. The newly proposed agenda was:

   1) Presentation of the Website template
   2) Name of the new Organization
   3) Discussion of the Constitution
   4) Election of Executive committee
   5) Linkage with IFDEA and African Divisions of IADR

This latter suggestion was unanimously approved by the assembly.
I. PRESENTATION OF THE NEW WEBSITE

Mr Joshua Mintz presented the template of the new organization Web page. It is hosted by www.IFDEA.org, and is currently titled AfDEA but will take up his definitive name from this meeting.

II. NAME OF THE NEW ORGANISATION

Dr. Patrick Ferrillo, Jr. suggested that the assembly debate and choose a name for the African association for dental educators to be created.

Four name proposals were readily available from the draft website disclosed by Mr Joshua Mintz and the above-mentioned documents. These were:

- African Oral health Education Association (AOHEA)
- African Dental Education (Educators) Association (AfDEA)
- African Oral and Dental Health Medicine Association
- African Dental and Oral Health Education Association (AFRODEA)

Dr. Ibrahim NGOM suggested retaining the acronym AfDEA for African Dental Educators Association already present in the draft website as it also matched the new name and vision of IFDEA. This view was also shared by Prof Jelili Akinwande and Dr. Makonnen Neway who, in addition, pointed out the relevance of individual memberships in term of commitment for the smooth running of the association. An agreement was quickly reached on the acronym AfDEA as a name for the association.

Then followed a debate as to what the “E” in the acronym should stand for -Education or Educators. Prof. Tshepo Gugushe emphasized the importance of the institutions and preferred the term Education. This idea was also shared by Prof. Eyitope Ogunbode who went on to point out the difficulties that the association could encounter to gather the fees if individual members were to be considered.

The word “Education” was overwhelmingly preferred to “Educators” following a vote by a show of hand (13 votes compared to 2).

*Finally, the assembly adopted the Acronym AfDEA for African Dental Education Association as the name of the association.*
III. DISCUSSION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Talking about a second point, Dr. Patrick Ferrillo proposed that the assembly discuss the constitution and bylaws of the Association. The draft constitution and accompanying bylaws proposed by Prof. Ogunbodede served as a framework and is hereinafter referred to as the constitution. The following discussion resulted in some amendments to the constitution and its accompanying bylaws.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The latter can be classified under 2 basic headings: general and specific amendments.

a. GENERAL AMENDMENT

A motion to approve constitution now with the name change was proposed by Prof. Rachid Essop, seconded by Prof. Jelili Akinwande.

All were in favor of the name change.

The motion was approved. Thus, in all the articles of the constitution the expression “African Oral and Dental Education Association” and the corresponding acronym “AFRODEA” should read respectively “African Dental Education Association” and its corresponding acronym “AfDEA”.

b. SPECIFIC AMENDMENT

Article I of the constitution was amended by deleting the expressions and words “the African Oral and Dental Education Association” and “AFRODEA” substituting them respectively with “African Dental Education Association” and “AfDEA” to read as follows:

ARTICLE I  
Name
The name of the association is “the African Dental Education Association”, herein after referred to as “the Association” or “this Association” or “AfDEA”.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Motion was made by Prof. Jelili Akinwande to approve the Bylaws seconded by Dr. Fiona Makoni.

a. SECTION A: MEMBERSHIP

Issues related to membership (Section A of the bylaws) gave rise to many discussions and finally, this Section has been subjected to modifications.
The part 1 of this section dealing with “Categories of Membership”

which read as follows:
Category 1
   a. The university dental schools or other national oral and dental educational bodies of the countries of Africa.
   b. The national associations for oral and dental education of the countries of Africa.
   c. African associations or specialist societies concerned with or related to oral and dental education.

Was amended to read as follows:
1. Categories of Membership
Category 1
   a. The university dental schools and dental school associations of countries of Africa.

Mr Joshua Mintz suggested having a look at the privileges of all membership categories before going further in the discussion. Then, it appears clearly that the main stumbling block was the extension of the right to vote to such staff like dental hygienist, dental therapists and dental technicians. Prof. Ogunbodede emphasized the specificity of this category of staff in Africa where as a corporate they outnumber the dentists. This concern was also shared by other delegates.

Some participants cautioned the assembly against excluding this category of personnel as it would amount to loosing on potential membership (many African countries do not have University dental School.). Dr. Janet Kayitenkore gave the example of her country to illustrate this fact.

Regarding specifically the right to vote, the following has been suggested:
- Each dental school should be entitled to a single vote,
- Auxiliary schools to caucus and given a single vote,
- Corporate members no right to vote.

The discussions on the above were lengthy and inconclusive.

Dr. Elifuraha Mumghamba advised leaving to one side the issues related to the Membership and to going ahead. Finally, upon suggestion of Dr Patrick Ferrillo, and by unanimous consent, it was agreed to identify leadership who will be charged with the responsibility of continuing to work with the Bylaws.

b. SECTION D: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AfDEA

Before leadership was selected the terms of office (part 3 of this section) were looked at in case they needed to be modified.

Prof. Eyitope Ogunbodede proposed the following changes of terms, which were unanimously accepted. A staggered term of office bearers is preferred for continuity.
President elect 1 year,
Immediate past president 1 year
Executive Secretary 3 year
Treasurer 3 years
Co opted members 2 years
The terms for President (2 years) and elected members (2 years) remain unchanged.

c. **SECTION G: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

Prof. Jelili Akinwande moved the following amendment, seconded by Dr. Margaret Wandera:
Bylaws and amendments to Bylaws may be proposed at any Annual general meeting of the
 council and may be adopted at the same meeting by a vote of “SIMPLE” majority of the
members present and voting, the bylaws and amendment taking effect at the close of meeting
and not “two thirds” majority. This can be revisited at a later date if it is practical.

d. **SPECIAL AMENDMENT**

A motion to approve all Bylaws amended at this meeting except that pertaining to section A
(Membership) which will have to be determined and agreed upon by the executive committee.
This latter amendment was also adopted.

**IV. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Ferrillo laid emphasis on the fact that AfDEA should now have leadership. It was agreed to
elect a President, a Treasurer and an Executive Secretary.
Prof. Gugushe and Prof. Ogunbodede were nominated to the post of President but the latter
denied the proposal because of an overloaded timetable.
**Prof. Gugushe** was eventually elected President of the AfDEA unanimously.
**Dr. Lorna Carneiro** was nominated and elected Treasurer of the AfDEA by unanimous
decision of the assembly.
**Dr. Ibrahim Ngom** was nominated and elected Executive Secretary of the AfDEA by
unanimous decision of the assembly.

The latter point of the agenda (Linkage with IFDEA and African Divisions of IADR) was not
discussed due to time constraints.
The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.

Dr. Ibrahim NGOM
Executive Secretary
### African Dental Education Association (AfDEA)
#### African delegates

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