



Name: Dr. Joseph Amesa Omega BVM, MSc, PG Dip.

Qualifications

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM, University of Nairobi, 1988); MSc. (University of Nairobi, 1997); Post-graduate Diploma (Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Japan, 2003)

Current Position

Chairman of the Kenya Veterinary Board; Lecturer in Veterinary Microbiology, Chuka University. He is a PhD student in Animal Science, majoring in epidemiology and socioeconomic impact of Paratuberculosis in some parts of Kenya.

Work Experience

In 1988, Dr Omega was the first Veterinary Officer to be posted to the then South Horr Sub-location of Samburu District, Rift Valley Province. In 1990, he was promoted to head Lorroki Division in the same District. This exposed him to administration, project management, as well as clinical and disease control operations while working in collaboration with the various NGOs in the area that included FARM-AFRICA, OX-FAM, GTZ, SAIDIA and several Churches. These organizations were involved in training the pastoralists on animal husbandry, vaccination campaigns, herd health and local breeds' genetic improvement. He played an important role in introducing camel rearing among the Samburus in South Horr. From 1992 to 2010, he worked at the Regional Veterinary investigation Laboratory (RVIL), Kericho, within which period he studied for his MSc (1993 to 1997) at the University of Nairobi and a Post graduate diploma in Japan (2002-2003) and rose through the ranks to become Officer-in-Charge of the Station. In 2005, he was transferred to head the busier RVIL Eldoret and then to Veterinary Research Laboratories, Kabete-Nairobi. He joined Chuka University as a Lecturer in Veterinary Microbiology in January 2011.

Achievements

In his MSc thesis project, Dr Omega developed an immunodiagnostic test that could detect antigens of *Fasciola gigantica* in blood of sheep ten days after infection. He was instrumental in the establishment of the 3 year PhD course in Protozoan diseases at the Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Japan and successfully lobbied for the 11-month course on protozoan diseases be converted into a post-graduate diploma in 2003. He was among the first

members to be admitted as a consultant Parasitologist and Immuno-parasitologist by the Kenya Veterinary Board College of Veterinary Pathology in 2004. While working at RVIL Eldoret, he headed the team that confirmed presence of PPR in Kenya in July 2006. He has published several scientific papers, written articles in newspapers and was a regular contributor of feature articles in the Agrolink Magazine. Dr. Omega rose through the ranks from ordinary Committee Member in 2003 to Chairman of the Kenya Veterinary Association, Rift Valley Branch in 2006. He was the most popularly elected member of the Kenya Veterinary Board in 2008 and during his second term in the Board he was elected the first Chairman of the same Board in 2012 under the new Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Para-professionals Act 2011. As the East African Community unity takes shape, Dr. Omega is actively involved in efforts towards harmonizing the veterinary profession and protocols in the member states.