

ARTICLE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDA AND DEVELOPMENT FUND EVENT GRANT RECEIVER IN THE 53rd IPSF WORLD CONGRESS, 6th – 16th August 2007, Taipei, Taiwan, China

My experience and utility of the IPSF Congress for my country

First of all, I would like to thank the organising committee of the Pharmaceutical Students' Association of Taiwan (PSA-Taiwan) for the wonderful hotel in which we were accommodated, The Grand Hotel



The new executive committee, from left to right: Karen McGill (President 2007-08), Albert Busumbigabo (African Regional Co-ordinator 2007-08), Anca Pop (Chairperson of 54th IPSF Congress Reception Committee), Veronika Sumpichova (Chairperson of Student Exchange 2007-08), Audrey Clarissa (Immediate Past President 2007-08t), Juha Mönkäre (Vice President 2006-07 and Treasurer 2005-08), Mary Poon Secretary General 2007-09), Neveen Abdelghani (Chairperson of Public Relations 2007-08).

I really enjoyed my time at the congress. The General Assembly was well organized: the time was respected and I enjoyed the voting process which allowed us full freedom to voice our views and opinions. It was my first time to use a voting card in a General Assembly. This voting procedure was powerful as I had never believed. I think it is crucial to introduce it into my country.

I appreciated the variety of workshops and the way we could attend a workshop of our choice. I especially appreciated the workshop on tuberculosis (TB) because this is a general problem in my country as well as in all developing countries. According to the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2003, 8.8 million cases of TB that caused about two million deaths across the world and almost 90% of those were in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan African countries.

My attendance of the Scientific Symposium was very worthwhile. I learnt more about drug payment systems and this is important for my career of a pharmacist. The congress was a good occasion to broaden my horizons and to enjoy Taiwan, I really liked this country, and people there are polite and welcoming.



Left to right, Alber) and Kenneth (NAPS-SL, Sierra Leone) in the bus to Taipei 101, the world's tallest building.

The congress was beneficial for my country. I think after the congress many changes will occur in my association as well as the full organisation of my national pharmaceutical students' association. And participation of our members in IPSF will be increased. As African Regional Co-ordinator, I will have an opportunity to help my neighbours learn more about IPSF and encourage their membership in this organisation.

All I have said can be summarized in a few short sentences - I really had a good time in Taiwan, and I have to say that my country is honoured to be a representative of the African continent. I look forward to succeeding in my new responsibilities as IPSF Regional Co-ordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa.

All my thanks to all IPSF members!

Albert BUSUMBIGABO

**African Regional Co-ordinator
President of AEPHAR, Rwanda**