



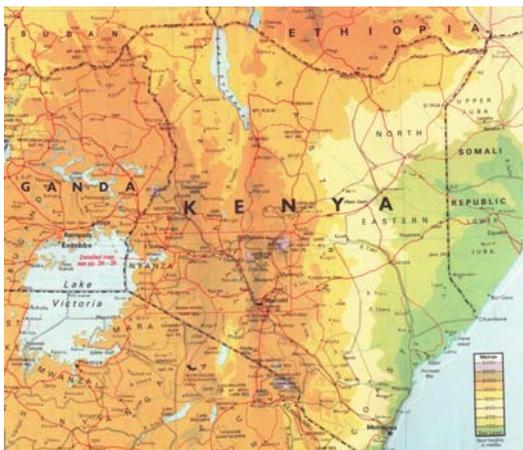
A Successful Story on Its Own

Lawrence Ikahu

Below was an email correspondence from a Congress Travel Scholarship recipient to the WCET Executive Board in June 2010 after he learned that his application for the travel visa to USA was declined and he would not be able to attend the WOCN / WCET Joint Congress in Phoenix.

I would not know even where to begin, for words fail me, though my heart is a true witness of the amount of gratitude.

I followed with unabated breadth everyday as you struggled to see that I make it to the conference. The emails, the embassy follow up, the encouragement and so much more.



It makes my life to know that WCET fraternity is such a wonderful family to belong to, with such committed leadership. It may be true that I will not physically be at the conference, but the whole process of preparing for the conference has taught me a lot, has sharpened my focus, and has made me now, more than ever, get determined to pursue the needs of ostomates in this land and nation and beyond the borders.



Eight months ago when I first heard of the conference, it made me think harder, work

more, and in the process of preparing for the conference, I ended up achieving more for my patients and fellow colleagues!!!

Four years ago when I first handled a patient with a stoma, I would not have thought that one day, I would be as determined as am now, to improve the lives of ostomates, clearly now, I have a full plate, and one am ready to consume its contents for that matter. I know being at the conference would have given me so much exposure, but it is beautiful enough to know that all will be well. I feel so encouraged to be part of the WCET family and as ID for Kenya, I will ensure I do all it reasonably takes, to have ostomates lives better. Thank you so much.



Mr. Lawrence Ikahu is the first WCET International Delegate in Kenya. He is working at the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. Together with another 27 nurses, he attended an introductory course in stoma care conducted by Prilli Stevens.

Since then, he strives hard for Kenyan ET nursing to establish a national colonic cancer patient support group with the help of the Kenya Cancer Association (KENCASA) and mobilizes nurses who are interested in stoma care to form a stoma nurse chapter under the National Nurses Association of Kenya.

He was awarded the Congress Travel Scholarship by the Norma N. Gill Foundation to attend the WOCN / WCET Joint Congress held in Phoenix, USA in 2010. However, due to various reasons, his application for travel visa was declined. We do not know how many nurses are there in other countries who have the same passion in ET nursing as Lawrence. But we know they all need our help.

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