

COMING EVENTS

2015 Pharma Manufacturers Expo Holds In Lagos

The 2015 edition of Nigeria Pharma Manufacturers & Laboratories Expo is scheduled to take place on September 7 to 9 at New Haven Exhibition Ground on Oba Akinjobi Street, beside Archbishop Vining Memorial Church, GRA Ikeja, Lagos.

The expo which is jointly put together by GPE Expo PVT

Limited and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Group of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (PMG-MAN) is expected to attract over 3,500 pharmaceutical trade partners, more than 4,000 products / services and about 150 exhibiting companies from 11 countries.

OOU marks 2015 PANS Week

The annual Pharmaceutical Association of Nigerian Students (PANS) Week of Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU) is scheduled to hold between September 11 and 18.

Amongst other things, it will feature discourse on drug misuse and abuse, business idea quest and magazine launch.

PANS UNILAG Holds Annual Health Week

The UNILAG Chapter of Pharmaceutical Association of Nigeria Students (PANS) has announced plans to hold its six-day annual health week from 27 September, 2015.

Tagged "The Role of Pharmacists in National

Healthcare Policy Making," the programme will include health awareness campaign, variety night, academic symposium, magazine launch, Pharm quest and award night.

FIP holds 75th Congress in Germany

The 75th International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has been slated to hold in Dusseldorf, Germany, from 29 September to 3 October, 2015.

Expected at the FIP congress are thousands of pharmacists from all over the world who are

expected to learn, share and exchange views on contemporary pharmacy and health issues.

During the premier annual international pharmacy event, there will be lectures, plenary sessions, poster exhibitions and section progress as well as Council meetings.

2015 NAPPSA conference holds in Detroit, Michigan

The 2015 Annual Scientific Conference and Exposition of the Nigerian Association of Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Scientists in the Americas (NAPPSA) will be held from 17 to 20 September, 2015, in Detroit, Michigan, USA.

The theme for the conference is "Building Pharmaceutical Infrastructure for Global Health Emergencies." The event will provide a forum for state-of-art scientific information and professional opportunities for global networking.

NAFDAC SUMMEX 2015 holds in Lagos

NAFDAC SUMMEX, an annual summit and exhibition event being

Water Corporation Road, Victoria Island Annex, Lagos.

PMGMAN seeks 20% tax on imported pharmaceuticals

● Expects over 120 exhibitors at EXPO

Stories by Appolonia Adeyemi

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Group of the Association of Nigeria (PMG-MAN) has recommended that an adjustment tax of 20 percent be immediately imposed on imported finished pharmaceutical products as it applies to other sectors where Nigeria has capacity as allowed by the Common External Tariff (CET).

Also, under the National List within the CET, the group has proposed that input into pharmaceutical manufacturing (raw materials, excipients and packaging) should be allowed to be imported at 0 percent by bonafide pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Chairman of PMG-MAN, Mr. Okey Akpa made the call on Tuesday while announcing the 4th Pharma Manufacturers EXPO 2015 which will be taking place at The Haven, Oba Akinjobi Street, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos from September 7 to 9. Over 120 exhibitors are expected from France, Germany, India and other countries to



L-R: CEO, Topway Pharm Industry Limited, Mrs. Olamide Adegbenro; Managing Director, JAWA Group, V. Verghese; and Chairman, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Group of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (PMG-MAN), Okey Akpa at the media briefing to herald the 4th Pharma Manufacturers EXPO 2015, held in Ikeja, Lagos on Tuesday

the EXPO with the theme: Nigerian Pharmaceutical Industry and International Competitiveness.

Similarly, over 3,000 participants and guests especially healthcare professionals from Nigeria and ECOWAS countries will be attending the forum.

Akpa said, "we are also expecting companies from West African countries to be

part of the exhibition."

Justifying the call for tax on imported finished pharmaceutical products, Akpa said, "There is need to protect the local manufacturers and encourage industrialisation as self-sufficiency in essential medicines has national security implications. Our position is remains that Nigeria's responsibility to minimise the effect of dis-

eases on the economic, social and political stability of the country cannot be abdicated to imported medicines."

He said the PMG-MAN has made representations to the government and "we have expectations that the government under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari will address this anomaly expeditiously to avoid the collapse of the pharmaceutical industry."

The Nigeria Pharma Manufacturers Expo 2015 as usual presents a unique opportunity for stakeholders in the health sector as well as related industries, Food, Beverages, Toiletries and Cosmetics to exchange information, products, services and ideas.

The EXPO will be a platform for new business opportunities, exposure to new formulations, latest machinery and equipment as well as serve as a catalyst for technology transfer.

In addition, Akpa said relevant ministries, departments and agencies of government such as the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) and the Bank of Industry (BOI) are expected to participate.

Colostial Church advocates youth involvement in development

NEWS

Drug manufacturers task FG on local patronage, N200b intervention fund

By Wole Oyelade

CITING the milestones have achieved lately, manufacturers of pharmaceutical products yesterday urged the Federal Government (FG) to insist on local patronage of drugs and other items that are now produced in the country.

The manufacturers, under the aegis of Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Group of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (PMGMAN), said the call was in line with relevant industrial policies and quest for global competitiveness in the sector.

The manufacturers and other stakeholders, who met at the opening of third Nigeria Pharma manufac-

tures' exhibition 2015 in Ikeja, Lagos on Monday, also said that it was high time the Federal Government allotted a N200 billion intervention fund for the pharmaceutical sector, coupled with other initiatives to help the sector maximize its potentials.

Among those who made case for the sector are the Lagos State governor, Akinwunmi Ambode; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Linus Awure; National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) Director General, Dr. Paul Orhii; Chairman PMG-MAN, Okey Akpa; President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN), Olumide Akinraye and President of West African Manufacturers

Organisation, Bunmi Olaopa, representatives of India and Chinese companies.

Chairman of the PMGMAN, Akpa, said with the recent milestones recorded by companies in the sector, the Nigerian pharmaceutical industry was already positioned to operate at the global level, should government assent to their demands.

With delight, Akpa told the gathering that Nigeria is currently the biggest pharmaceutical manufacturing country in West Africa, accounting for more than 65 per cent of local manufacturing of medicines that are relevant to the region. Among the drugs are anti-malarial medicines, anti-retrovirals, herbal medi-

cines and medicines for sickle cell diseases.

To make impact on the global stage, he said several manufacturers had processed Expression of Interest (Eoi) with the World Health Organisation (WHO) for pre-qualification of products, with cumulative investment worth of over \$50 million in the last five years for facility upgrading.

Akpa noted that while four companies had been certified by the WHO, at least 10 local companies had also complied with the requirements of International Standards Organisation and already supply drugs to the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women's Children's Health (UNCOLS),

He said while several of the achievements had been by individual manufacturers' investment and years of hard work, the government and other stakeholders have to do more.

According to him, "without doubt, patronage of Nigerian pharmaceutical manufacturers by government, donors and international procuring agencies is critical and must be backed by political will. We are therefore calling on the Federal Government to implement the Domestic Preference Policy of the Public Procurement Act 2007 as well as the implementation of the Presidential Directive on Patronage of Nigerian Manufacturers," he said.

Physiotherapists task govt on funding, seek directorate

By Joseph Okoghenum

AS the world observed today, Physiotherapy Directorate, practitioners under the aegis of the Nigerian Society of Physiotherapists (NSP), have urged the Federal Government to fund training of specialist physiotherapists across the federation, even as they enjoin government to create directorate for the profession at the Federal Ministry of Health.

World Physiotherapy Day observed every September is an opportunity for physiotherapists around the world to raise the profile of the profession, and highlight its contribution to global health. This year's theme "Fulfilling potential."