

WORKING TOWARDS AN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENTS IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA

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Concerns on the state of the veterinary curriculum and veterinary training in southern Africa were raised at a regional seminar on 'Veterinary education in Southern Africa: matching demand and supply' organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Arusha, Tanzania in 2009. It was resolved that veterinary education establishments within the region should work together to facilitate collaboration and harmonisation of veterinary education to address current and future challenges in the supply and demand for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals. At the 1st annual meeting of deans from nine veterinary education establishments within SADC, including Kenya in Pretoria, South Africa in 2010 a strategic plan was formulated to: (a) develop official communication and collaboration mechanisms between veterinary education establishments; (b) consider curricular reviews undertaken by veterinary education establishments within the region; and (c) develop collaboration and partnerships between veterinary education establishments (VEE) within the region supported by northern partner programmes, possibly through an enlargement of the concept of the OIE twinning programme for laboratories and centres of excellence. The paper will discuss the establishing of a Southern and Eastern Africa Association of Veterinary Education Establishments and progress made in addressing these goals.