

FEEDBACK

18TH MEETING OF THE RBM VECTOR CONTROL WORKING GROUP

6-8 February 2023 in Accra, Ghana

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the online feedback of the 18th VCWG annual meeting in Accra, Ghana. Out of 339 participants, 88 people provided insightful responses that are summarized below. The meeting received mostly positive feedback.

Regarding the results of the feedback survey, five-star satisfaction ratings are regarded as very satisfied, somewhat satisfied (4 stars), neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (3 stars), somewhat dissatisfied (2 stars) and very dissatisfied (1 star). In the survey, ratings of 4-5 stars are denoted as "satisfied".

DATES and VENUE

More than 95% of respondents were pleased with the date & timing (95.5%), location (95.5%) and meeting room (96.6%) (see Figure 1).

Also, over 85% of respondents were pleased with the catering & meals (88.6%) and transportation to/from the hotel (85.1%). 84.1% of respondents were happy with the meeting's duration and 77.3% the sound/audio inside the meeting room. Look at Figure 1.

ORGANIZATION, AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Over 98% of respondents were satisfied with the registration process via the website (98.8%) and information provided (98.8%). Although 94% of respondents were pleased with the event website, 74.7% were happy with the Attendee Web & App.

Regarding the sessions, 90.2% of respondents were pleased with the quality of sessions, 75.6% were satisfied with the number of sessions. Almost 94% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of speakers.

Regarding the exhibition fair, we received 64.6% of respondents satisfied. The collected feedback on the reasons of satisfaction, dissatisfaction and suggestions for the next meetings are described in the following pages.

MOSTLY LIKED!!

The mostly liked parts of the meeting were 1) Sessions, followed by 2) Networking, 3) Organization, 4) Venue, 5) Key stakeholders and 6) Field trip. See Figure 3.

1) Sessions

The respondents preferred the sessions' topics and

Figure 1: How satisfied are you with the dates and venue of the VCWG-18 meeting?

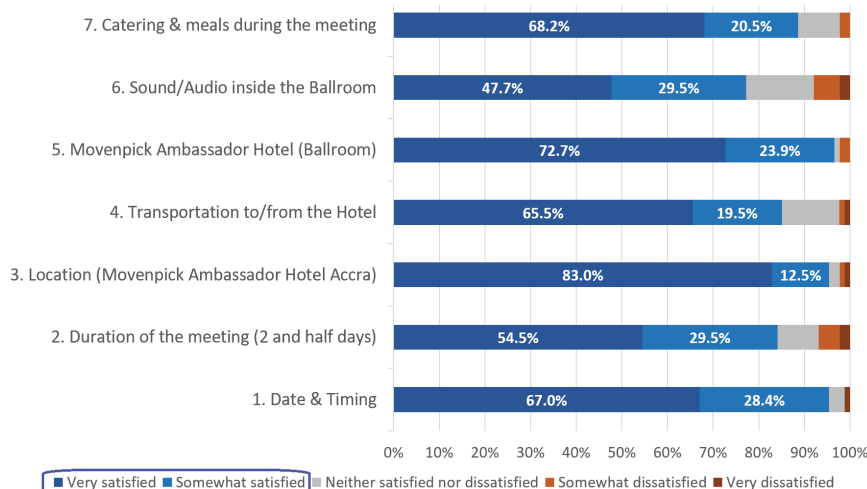


Figure 2: How satisfied are you with the organization, agenda and speakers of the VCWG-18 meeting?

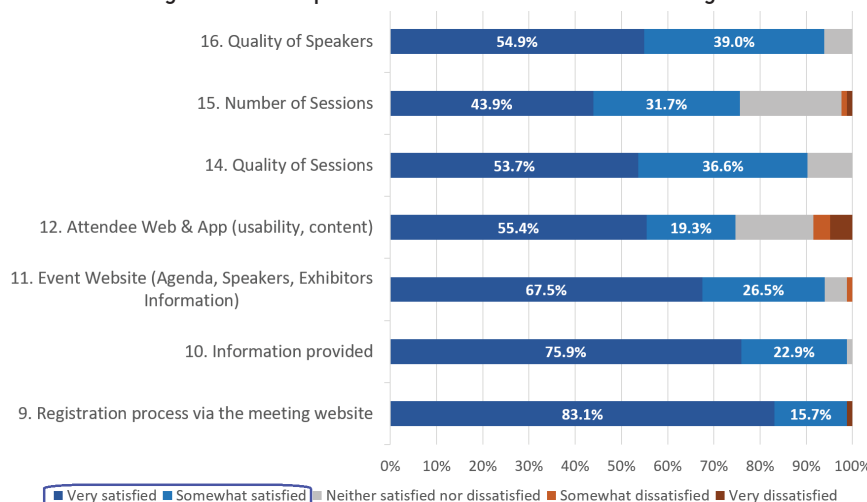
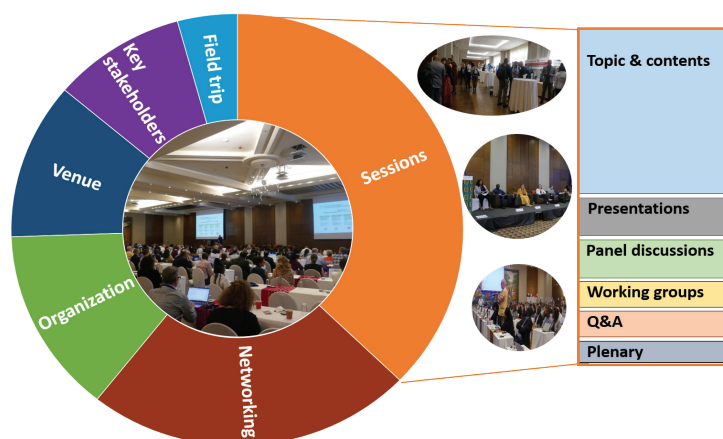


Figure 3: What did you like most about the VCWG-18 meeting?



contents more than anything else. The presentations and panel discussions were the second most favorite parts. Moreover, sessions of working groups as well as Q&As were generally well-liked.

"The topic was relevant and with informative informations."

"The sessions and the direction efforts are taking now is very much appreciated."

"Update on new innovations and updates from the different working groups."

"I loved the direct engagement with panel members after their presentation, and the fact that there was a live Q&A session was also a brilliant idea."

2) Networking and Diversity of Participants

Networking is the second favorite aspect of the meeting among the respondents. In particular, communication and interactions in person were the best opportunity for participants. Also, the diversity of participants from 49 countries and 10 different constituencies attracted more networking opportunities.

"Great to be able to connect with so many people in the field."

"Seeing and interacting with dear colleagues after being apart for so long."

"La possibilité de nouer des contacts, les sous rencontres."

"The interaction and networking session was amazing."

3) Organization

For the first time ever in an endemic country, we received a lot of compliments on how well the meeting was run overall!

"Overall it was well-organized and well-run."

"The meeting was well organized."

"l'organisation"

"The entire meeting organization and outputs were well coordinated and managed professionally."

4) Venue

The venue of the meeting in Accra, Ghana, was the great aspect for many attendees. The location in an African country made it easier for many participants (53%) from the South to attend, including malaria-affected country government, NGOs, private sectors and research organizations. It enabled for the participants from the South to travel for less expense and with easy or no visa requirements.

"Being in Accra since it seemed like more NMCPs attended."

"I liked having it in a malaria endemic country and having the Ghana NMEP "co-host"."

"Being conducted in the African setting where malaria is endemic was the best thing I lived most"

5) Key Stakeholders

The responders also appreciated the qualified speakers who shared most recent information on the best practices at the VCWG-18 meeting as well as the participation of relevant vector control stakeholders.

"Great to be able to connect with so many people in the field,

and to hear updates on current research/funding/policy issues coming up that may impact future work."

"Participation was very great with lots of great minds in vector control and related topics. Inviting major stakeholders and hearing from them was great."

6) Field Trip

The field trip participants mentioned their experiences as one of the best thing in the meeting in Accra.

"I also enjoyed the field trip component of the meeting."

"I appreciated the field trip on the third day."

SUGGESTIONS for NEXT MEETINGS

Very constrained sessions for 2.5 days were the most frequently reported problem. The second mentioned suggestion was to **keep the location in an African country** as the best strategy. Additionally, we received the following ideas for how to make interactive sessions and technical issues better.

Time Schedule

Throughout the meeting of 2.5 days, there were over 80 speakers and nearly 60 presentations. Many comments were on too-tight sessions ending too late in the day. Following suggestions for adjusting the schedule for next meetings:

- meeting extension to three-four days
- less topics/presentations, finish by 5pm
- time keeping of speakers

Sessions, Topics and Speakers

We have received the following suggestions:

- more time for Q&A after panel presentation
- more time for presenters
- more interactive sessions including breakout sessions
- workshops with specific problem-solving agenda
- more conversations of NMCP
- more practical contents with engagement of NGOs and UN
- more engagement of leaders and policy makers including ministers or ministerial secretaries
- more discussion on specific topics, e.g. *An. stephensi*, humanitarian emergencies
- topic of VC and climate variability
- integration of MSWG

Technical Issues (Sound, App)

As Figure 1 showed, the respondents were less satisfied with the sound and acoustics in the meeting room comparing to other aspects, and they recommended to improve the microphone issues and sound quality. Other comments mentioned for improvement were the screens angles, the remote controller issue for slides, and attendee app that should be more user-friendly. These feedback will be sent to the service provider.

Posters and Exhibition Fairs

Some responders suggested that poster presenters shall be present next to their posters to explain and answer questions. Regarding the exhibition fair, the crowded space was an issue during the break time. Some ideas are:

- more time for posters and exhibition fair
- more interaction for posters including Q&A
- enough space for exhibitors
- more visible sponsor logos in the meeting
- additional section of institutions and universities to recruit master/doctoral students in VC area

Field Trip

100 people (30% of attendees) joined the optional field trip in Acra. The feedback was positive.

Other Suggestions and Comments

Further suggestions included bigger space for break time and networking, a social event the first evening, invitations to more VC practice countries, and participation from all HBHI countries. Additionally, more options for vegetarians catering would be excellent. Also there were complaints of the high accommodation cost at the hotel.

FRENCH SERVICES

26 attendees (7.7% of participants) were registered for the French services and used the French webpage and simultaneous translation in all sessions for the VCWG-18 meeting. Regarding questions of French services, 57% of respondents were satisfied with 1) the translation of the event website and 2) the translation of the attendee Web & App. However, only 29% of respondents were pleased with 3) the interpretation services during the sessions.

French-speaking respondents had difficulties to get the information via website and app in comparing to other respondents. The main reasons can be that they had more steps to access the information in French that was presented first in English for the majority, that presentation slides were mostly presented in English, also that the attendee Web & App had a limited translations due to the technical issue of the platform provider. Therefore, some hard copies of session information, e.g. abstracts and agenda, would be helpful for French-speaking participants in addition to simultaneous language services to follow the sessions.

SUMMARY

For the first time, the VCWG meeting was hosted in an African country. It was a great success and a rewarding experience welcoming a big number of participants from malaria-affected countries, in particular from the African continent (53% of the participants). The venue in Ghana enabled the participation of various stakeholders from the South. Also, the meeting was accomplished for participants to exchange the latest updates on best practices and future operations of vector control through the three workstreams and their task teams. The meeting agenda was dedicated to facilitate sharing of VC experiences, perspectives and practices at local, regional, national and global levels.

Receiving this positive feedback and insightful suggestions for the upcoming meetings, we are happy to move on with the selection of the venue and get ready with the preparations for the VCWG-19 meeting. Thank you very much again for your participation, commitment, continuous support and helpful feedback.



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