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## June 2025 Newsletter

This month we welcome a new school chapter in the Democratic Republic of Congo, share a report from a visit to DRC, information on the humanitarian and awareness raising work of one of our Colombian SVOSH chapters, request support for humanitarian clinics in Guatemala and the Philippines, papers on the scope of practice in the Eastern Mediterranean region and the development of optometry education in Africa , and extend a warm invitation to the global summit of optometry students organized by OPTOGLOBE and the SVOSH-MCU chapter in the Philippines.

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## News from our chapters

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### A new SVOSH chapter at HONU University at the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

We are delighted to welcome SVOH-HONU-DRC to the VOSH/International family. As the first school of optometry in the DRC, HONU has a major task in addressing the need for a qualified optometric force to serve the people in this vast country. We look forward to learning from and supporting this new SVOSH

chapter. Bienvenue!!!

For more information contact Mr. Jean Zoza, HONU rector at [jeanzoza5@gmail.com](mailto:jeanzoza5@gmail.com)

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**An academic visit to the first school of optometry at the DRC**

Prof Tuwani Rasengane visited the optometry school at HONU in the DRC in March. This first visit helps us understand the situation and challenges of visual health in the DRC. Read her report in English and French [here](#). For more information, please contact Prof Rasengane at [ta.rasengane@gmail.com](mailto:ta.rasengane@gmail.com)



### Offering visual health for all. The work of the SVOSH-Areandina-Bogota

Our Colombian SVOSH chapter at the Fundacion Universitaria del Area Andina in Bogota, Colombia shares insights on their promotion, prevention, and humanitarian service work. You can read the report in Spanish [here](#) and in English [here](#).

### A partnership for the people of rural Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

SVOSH-UFS-South Africa partnered with Ba Phakamisa Health Promotion to offer eye health care to the village of Mankosi in a very isolated part of the Eastern Cape Province. Fifty-one patients received eye care and referrals. Read the article here, [lace article copy here](#).



### VOSH-British Columbia-Canada needs your help

VOSH-BC-TWECS is going to Legazpi in the Philippines in February 2026. They are looking for support. If you are interested, please contact Dr Marina Roma-March at [twecs@shaw.ca](mailto:twecs@shaw.ca) or visit [www.twecs.ca](http://www.twecs.ca)

Please help us provide eye care to the beautiful people of Legazpi Philippines. Join TWECS/VOSH BC Feb. 14-23 2026.  
Contact Dr. Marina Roma-March at [twecs@shaw.ca](mailto:twecs@shaw.ca)  
[www.twecs.ca](http://www.twecs.ca)



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## VOSH-MN is going to Guatemala

Between February 28 and March 7<sup>th</sup> 2026, VOSH-MN under the leadership of Dr. Jim Hess is going to Guatemala.

The team will be hosted by [Common Hope](#). For more information, please contact Laurie Baalson at [kenlor@emily.net](mailto:kenlor@emily.net) or text to +1-21-839-0577





**LENS OF DIVERSITY; GLOBAL OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION, CHALLENGES AND IMPROVEMENTS: THE STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE.**  
JULY 10- JULY 13, 2025

# 10 DAYS TO GO

Attend the Biggest Global Optometry Student Summit in 2025.

JULY 10-13, 2025



Register now:

<https://forms.gle/EbsmgYEK2B9dfqw78>



SCAN TO REGISTER

## **A Global Summit on LENS OF DIVERSITY; GLOBAL OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION, CHALLENGES AND IMPROVEMENTS: THE STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE**

Organized by SVOSH-MCU-Philippines chapter and OPTOGLOBE, the global network of optometry students, this event is meant to impress and motivate. Divided in four online meetings during July, the Summit will bring experiences of optometry students and leaders from the whole world. Register for the events as follows:

July 10 –Focus on Asia – Register [here](#)

July 11 –Focus on the Eastern Mediterranean – Register [here](#)

July 12 –Focus on the Americas – Register [here](#)

July 13 –Focus on Africa–Europe–Australia – Register [here](#)

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## **Interesting publications**

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**Mapping the landscape of  
optometric education in Sub-  
Saharan Africa**

The number of optometry schools in



