

# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter n°05 | **December 2009**

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### THE GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM IN ACTION

#### | GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMME RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FROM ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION |

The Global Health Programme (GHP) receives a grant of US\$ 500,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation. The grant will support the Programme’s global health diplomacy element, in particular its capacity-building activities in global health diplomacy for foreign affairs and health professionals. The grant makes provision for the development of training materials, including a training manual and web-based modules. It also includes specific support for East Africa and South-East Asia in order to strengthen these regions’ engagement in global health policy formulation.

#### | GHP PARTICIPATES IN GENEVA HEALTH FORUM |

In preparation of the upcoming Geneva Health Forum in April 2010, the Global Health Programme, in co-operation with the

Dear newsletter recipient,

The Global Health Programme successfully hosted two major global health diplomacy events at the Annual Forum 2009 of the Global Forum for Health Research that took place 16 – 20 November in Havana, Cuba. Other recent events included the Nobel Forum Seminar that took place in Stockholm on 4 December. Global Health Europe, an initiative of the Global Health Programme, was co-organizer of this event. For further information, see the ‘Recent Global Health Events’ section in this newsletter.

The Global Health Team wishes you all the best for this holiday season!

Geneva Health Forum, launched a discussion platform on “Global Health Governance and Policies”. The GHP already took the lead in this platform discussion entitled “Global Health Governance Crisis - Discussing the Committee C and other proposals”, which was open until 4 December. In addition, Global Health Europe has the lead in another virtual discussion forum on “European Responses to Health Crises - An exploration into crisis management at the European Level”. This platform will be publicly accessible from 7-18 December.

The Geneva Health Forum is a joint initiative launched by the Geneva University Hospitals and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva in partnership with the main international organizations active in health in Geneva and around the world.

If you are interested in taking part in the discussions, please register at: <http://globalaccesstohealth.net/>

**| GHP ESTABLISHES GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY ALUMNI NETWORK |**

The Global Health Programme has established an alumni network of about 200 persons who attended an executive course on Global Health Diplomacy organized in Geneva or co-partnered by the Programme in China, Kenya, the US and Canada. The alumni network, consisting of a protected webpage and an interactive Google group, has been set up to foster the exchange of ideas amongst participants as well as information on a variety of global health related events.

**| SAVE THE DATE: 21-25 JUNE 4th EXECUTIVE COURSE ON GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY |**

The GHP opened registrations for its 4th Executive Course on Global Health Diplomacy, scheduled to take place 21-25 June, 2010. This annual summer course focuses on health diplomacy as it relates to health issues that transcend national boundaries and are global in nature. The target audience includes health attachés; health and international relations professionals in departments of international health, ministries of foreign affairs and development co-operations; and staff from international and regional organizations, NGOs, philanthropic organizations, universities and the private sector.

For further details, please go to:

[http://graduateinstitute.ch/corporate/executive/training-workshops/global-health-diplomacy\\_en.html](http://graduateinstitute.ch/corporate/executive/training-workshops/global-health-diplomacy_en.html)

**| GLOBAL HEALTH EUROPE |****| JOIN GLOBAL HEALTH EUROPE DISCUSSION FORUM ON "THE EU'S ROLE IN GLOBAL HEALTH" |**

Global Health Europe (GHE) is inviting all interested global health stakeholders to actively participate in the online discussion forum on the issue paper "EU's Role in Global Health", which has been released by the European Commission and is open for public consultation until 9 December.

Global Health Europe is a hosted project of the Global Health Programme and an online platform aimed to promote synergies between the policy spheres of public health, foreign policy, development, and research for health. The objective of this initiative is to improve global health governance through more coordinated, coherent, consistent and committed European engagement.

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.globalhealthurope.org/>

**| GHE LAUNCHES OPEN CONSULTATION WITH INCOMING REGIONAL DIRECTOR-ELECT OF THE WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE |**

In what amounts to the first ever open consultation with a future WHO Regional Director, Mrs. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Regional Director-Elect for the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, has asked Global Health Europe to convene online discussions over her vision for the future of European health governance. As a crucial part of her transition into the office of Regional Director, Mrs. Jakab is looking for your input - does her vision capture the issues that matter to you?

Consult Zsuzsanna Jakab's Open Letter to the European Health

Community and visit the GHE discussion forums where you can read her vision statement and participate in discussions on the questions raised by the Regional Director-Elect.

Go to: <http://www.globalhealthurope.org/open-think-tank/your-opinion/229>

**| GHE LAUNCHES OPEN THINK TANK |**

Global Health Europe has launched its Open Think Tank where views on current issues relevant to the wider global health governance community as 'Your Opinion' can be shared, recent articles and papers in 'Your Research' posted, and 'Book Reviews' published. In this section of the website, Global Health Europe publications can be found, such as research papers and policy briefs.

Visit <http://www.globalhealthurope.org/open-think-tank> for more details, and send email submissions to [info@globalhealthurope.org](mailto:info@globalhealthurope.org)

**| NEW WORKING PAPERS |****| "NEGOTIATING HEALTH AND FOREIGN POLICY: AN EAST AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE" |**

A new working paper has been published on "Negotiating Health in Foreign Policy: An East African Perspective", written by Professor Makumi Mwagiru, Director of the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, University of Nairobi. The paper examines how issues of health diplomacy can be negotiated from an East African perspective. It ultimately suggests a framework for an East African health strategy and identifies the central pillars of such a strategy

**| "GETTING BETTER: THE EUROPEAN UNION'S PERFORMANCE IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION" |**

Global Health Europe has commissioned a series of papers that investigates the role of the EU as a global health actor with the objective to present a consolidated view of the EU's current multifaceted role in global health. The first paper entitled "Getting better: the European Union's performance in the World Health Organization" by Louise van Schaik is online now on the Global Health Europe web page. Analysing the role of the EU in international health negotiations and discussing the increased Europeanization and internationalization of health issues, the paper urges the EU to become a more unified actor within WHO negotiations.

**RECENT GLOBAL HEALTH EVENTS – OUTCOME AND ANALYSIS****| 15 OCTOBER 3rd HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY; GENEVA, SWITZERLAND |****"Negotiating health in the 21st century: Regional voices in global health governance"**

190 global health experts from academia, civil society, governments and institutions from across the globe gathered in Geneva at the annual High-Level Symposium to discuss the future of global health diplomacy. Global Health academics and senior policy-makers explored the changing role of regional institutions in global health governance. Ambassador Martin

Dahinden, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), highlighted the role of global health governance from the perspective of a donor agency, outlining what he saw as the key challenges facing developing countries as they strive to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and Director-Elect for WHO's Regional Office for Europe, gave a summary of her experience in leading ECDC through its first four years as an active EU agency and pledged for enhanced WHO and EU cooperation through her new role at WHO's Regional Office for Europe.

The presentations of all speakers are now available online:  
<http://www.graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth/home/page6404.html>

**|16-20 NOVEMBER ANNUAL FORUM FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH; HAVANA, CUBA|**  
**"Innovating for the health of all"**

The GHP hosted two events at the Annual Forum 2009 of the Global Forum for Health Research, held 16-20 November in Havana, Cuba. Both were chaired by Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, who also presented at the final closing panel. The Annual Forum is one of the largest global health research conferences in the world.

On 15 November, the GHP co-organised together with the Consortium for Global Health Diplomacy a satellite conference entitled "Global Health Diplomacy – A New Challenge in Health and Foreign Policy". Consortium members presented research as to why and how countries engage in Global Health Diplomacy and delivered presentations on the potential and challenges of global health and global governance. A closing keynote address on "New Institutional Forms: South-South Cooperation" was given on behalf of the Brazilian Minister of Health by Dr. Paulo Buss, Director of the Fiocruz Center for Global Health.

The second event on 19 November, entitled "Developing Research and Capacity Building in Global Health Diplomacy – regional and country perspectives" hosted Health Minister Chen Zhu, People's Republic of China who delivered a keynote address on "China's Perspective on Global Health Diplomacy". It was the first major pronouncement of this kind on the subject from a Chinese governmental representative.

All presentations are publicly accessible in PDF format under:  
<http://www.graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth/page5058.html>

**|27 NOVEMBER SEMINAR ON HEALTH AS FOREIGN POLICY; UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, NORWAY|**  
**"Health as Foreign Policy: From Emergence to Governance"**

A new Interfaculty Research Body at the University of Oslo - 'Livelihoods in the Developing Countries' (LEVE) - hosted this seminar in Oslo with the objective of taking the discussions around the 'Oslo Declaration Group' to a new level. The one-day event comprised of three different panels on "Understanding Health as Foreign Policy", "Global and Local Agendas", and "Healthcare as the benevolent side of the state" that assembled academics and senior policy decision-makers from different

countries. Prof. Ilona Kickbusch spoke on "Health as Foreign Policy – Political Opportunities; Research Opportunities". Other distinguished speakers included, amongst others, Sigrun Møgedal, Ambassador, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Jan Egeland, Director, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency.

The co-organizers of this event, affiliated with the Section for International Health, University of Oslo and the Fridtjof-Nansen-Institute, are members of the Consortium for Global Health Diplomacy.

**|04 DECEMBER NOBEL FORUM SEMINAR ON THE EU AS A GLOBAL HEALTH ACTOR; STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN|**

The meeting brought together key European actors in global health, such as national representatives from health, development, foreign and European affairs, EU institutions, academia and civil society. Discussions explored how the EU can better identify the added value of its role in global health and the role of research in creating a European global health policy based on evidence and shared values. The one-day event was co-organized by Global Health Europe, the Karolinska Institute, and the Swedish EU Presidency.

In the coming days, presentations, the event report and podcasts from the Nobel Forum Seminar will be made available online.

Check <http://www.globalhealththeurope.org> for updates.

**FORTHCOMING GLOBAL HEALTH EVENTS  
DECEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010**

**|10-11 DECEMBER STI SYMPOSIUM; BASEL, SWITZERLAND|**  
**"Environmental Health: Here and There!"**

The 14th STI Symposium commemorates the integration of the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) into the Swiss Tropical Institute (STI). A diverse set of studies will showcase different aspects of environmental health in industrialized countries and developing world settings. This thematic focus reflects the substantial body of research, teaching and training of the merged STI/ISPM centred on environmental health issues in the North and South.

Please see the conference programme:  
[http://www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Bilder/Symposium/14th\\_STI\\_Symposium\\_Programme\\_korr.pdf](http://www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Bilder/Symposium/14th_STI_Symposium_Programme_korr.pdf)

**|15-17 DECEMBER GLOBAL SOUTH DEVELOPMENT EXPO 2009; WASHINGTON D.C., USA|**  
**"Solutions! Solutions! Solutions!"**

The United Nations commemorates the 5th anniversary of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation on 19 December, aiming to raise awareness of, and support for, South-South cooperation for inclusive development.

To increase efforts, the annual Global South Development Expo has subsequently been established to enable developing countries and their development partners to systematically and

regularly showcase their evidence-based South-South Development Systems.

For further information, see: <http://www.southsouthexpo.org/>

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## FORTHCOMING GLOBAL HEALTH EVENTS DECEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010

**| 27-30 JANUARY PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE;  
BANGKOK, THAILAND |**

**"Global Health Innovation Forum"**

This year's Prince Mahidol Award International Conference will launch a 'Call to Action' on Health Information System (HIS) to fully support and recognize that HIS strengthening is critical to improving global health. This Global Health Information Forum will be dedicated to bringing stakeholders together and providing a platform for renewed energy and a commitment to investing in and building the capacities of health information systems. This year's objectives include ensuring a prominent place for HIS on health and development agendas, and enhancing awareness of the potential of HIS to improve the effectiveness of public health expenditure and actions.

Prince Mahidol of Songkla is the father of His Majesty the King of Thailand, recognized as "The Father of Modern Medicine and Public Health of Thailand". The objective of the annual Prince Mahidol Award International Conference is to bring together leading public health leaders and stakeholders from around the world to discuss high priority global health issues, summarize findings and propose concrete solutions.

Please find further conference details under:  
<http://www.pmaconference.org/>

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## CURRENT GLOBAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**| GLOBAL FORUM FOR HEALTH RESEARCH APPOINTS NEW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR |**

The Global Forum for Health Research announced the appointment of its new Executive Director, Professor Anthony Mbewu, who will take office in January 2010. Professor Mbewu is currently President of the Medical Research Council of South Africa (MRC). He is also Honorary Professor of Cardiology and Internal Medicine at the University of Cape Town and a Foreign Associate of the Institute of Medicine of the USA. He has been working with the Global Forum for Health Research since 2007 as a member of the Foundation Council. A native from South Africa, Professor Mbewu aims to help the Forum focus on health equity and the health needs of the poor and marginalized. He will succeed Professor Stephen Matlin who retires at the end of 2009, after six years of GFHR leadership.

**| CHINA ADOPTS 'MALARIA DIPLOMACY' AS PART OF AFRICA PUSH |**

At the triennial Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), held in Egypt early November 2009, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao promised to provide \$73 million worth of medical and research equipment to help improve health care and support malaria research in Africa.

China's engagement in malaria diplomacy dates back to the first Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2006, when the Chinese government pledged to help Africa fight malaria by setting up 30 anti-malaria and prevention units. Up to date, all 30 malaria prevention and treatment centers in African countries have been opened. In addition, the Chinese side has provided anti-malaria medicine to 36 African countries seriously affected by malaria for three consecutive years.

**| NEW JOURNAL WORLD MEDICAL & HEALTH POLICY |**

The Policy Studies Organization (PSO) and Berkeley Electronic Press are pleased to announce the launch of a new peer-reviewed, open-source journal, World Medical & Health Policy. Edited by a group of medical doctors, medical researchers, and policy scholars from the World Medical Association and George Mason University, the journal aims to fill a niche at the intersection of politics, policy, research, medicine and global public health. Articles in the journal's first issue analyze the impact of H1N1, health system reconstruction in Iraq, tobacco control, and several issues of social responsibility.

For further information, please visit the web page of the journal:  
<http://www.psocommons.org/wmhp/>

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## GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE "MUST READS"

**| NEW DISCUSSION PAPER ON "RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND HEALTH:  
THE THIRD WAVE OF GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH" |**

**"Priorities for research on equity and health: Implications for global and national priority setting and the role of WHO to take the health equity research agenda forward"**

In 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) established a Task Force on Research Priorities for Equity in Health to provide expert advice on research priorities to take forward the health equity policy agenda. It identified priorities presented at the 2004 conference of the International Society for Equity in Health in Durban, South Africa. The resultant Task Force Report (2005) contributed to the selection of themes for the WHO Knowledge Networks to support the Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) and the terms of reference for each network.

The current issue paper reviews the advice provided in 2005. It sets forth the broad parameters for a global research agenda on equity and health, taking stock of contemporary efforts, stakeholder discussions, relevance to Member States and expected innovations.

Professor Ronald Labonté, co-editor of this issue paper, is a member of the Consortium for Global Health Diplomacy.

To access the discussion paper, please go to:  
<http://www.globalhealthequity.ca/electronic%20library/Priorities%20for%20research%20on%20equity%20and%20health.pdf>

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