

Programme Director: Professor Dr Ilona Kickbusch

**EXECUTIVE EDUCATION:
COURSE ON GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY**

SUMMARY REPORT

June 21-25, 2010 Geneva, Switzerland



Group Photo 2010



Prof Dr Ilona Kickbusch, course director and Dr Gaudenz Silberschmidt, course co-director



Opening Panel on Health and Foreign Policy

Between 21 and 25 June 2010, 19 participants took part in the Global Health Programme's fourth annual Executive Education course on global health diplomacy in Geneva, as part of the programme's expanding capacity-building initiatives. During the course of the week, the participants – including representatives of health and foreign affairs ministries, as well as staff of international organizations and non-state actors from around the world – had the opportunity to meet and learn from leading policy-makers and practitioners in global health.

Course director Professor Dr Ilona Kickbusch – also director of the Global Health Programme – and **co-director Dr Gaudenz Silberschmidt** – also vice-director and head of the International Affairs Division of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health – guided participants throughout the week, which started with an opening panel of experts on 'Health and foreign policy: the challenges and impact on health'. This included the course directors and the following representatives: Ambassador Sigrun Mogedal of Norway, Mr Luvuyo Ndimeni from the South African Mission and Dr Rüdiger Krech from the World Health Organization. The morning panel was opened up to a wider audience and attracted representatives from the diplomatic health community in Geneva.

After being introduced to the newly emerging field of global health diplomacy and its associated challenges, participants visited the World Health Organization, the leading venue for negotiations on global health, where they heard presentations on the methods, instruments and mechanisms available at global level for global health diplomacy, such as the International Health Regulations. Other topics explored during the week included national global health strategies, cross-cutting issues with health, and new actors and stakeholders in the changing global health landscape.

Mid-week, participants engaged in a day-long negotiation training session, where they were introduced to the basics of negotiation by negotiations consultant Dr Robert Weibel, and then assigned individual positions for a multilateral negotiation on the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines. Participants were video-recorded throughout the negotiations and received a detailed debriefing on their conduct and experiences during the simulation by the negotiations consultant as well as Dr Nick Drager, Senior Fellow at the Global Health Programme and expert on the virus sharing case.

The following day, two expert negotiators, Drs. Silberschmidt and Ahmed Ogwel (WHO) presented two case examples of health negotiations – the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property - where they shared their own experiences, reinforcing and adding to some of the lessons learned from the simulation exercise the previous day.

The last day consisted of two expert panels. The first was on "cross-cutting issues and the link to health" with presentations from different representatives on (1) environment, considering in particular the negotiations on chemical regulation (2) human rights, considering the recent resolution on maternal mortality at the Human Right Council and (3) food and nutrition diplomacy. Interesting discussions on comparisons with health diplomacy and points of mutual learning emerged.



The second panel was on new actors in global health with representatives from the Global Fund, World Vision International and Eli Lilly. Their respective emerging roles and spheres of influence were presented and discussed with the group.

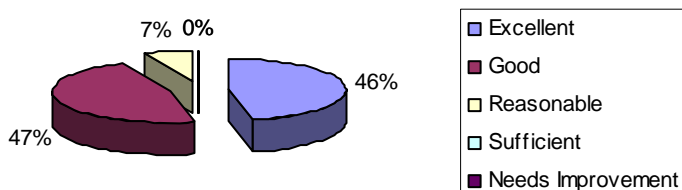
Most participants joined the course to have an overview of global health challenges and to learn about the dynamics amongst the different actors involved in diplomacy. They were interested in acquiring new tools in order to be able to influence policy- and other decision-making within their respective institutions. Furthermore, they saw this as an opportunity to share experiences with others in the course to create a network on this topic.

Participant involvement was an integral component for the success of the course. They were encouraged to apply and share their knowledge with the rest of the class through practical and interactive exercises that are relevant within the contexts of their own day-to-day work. Participants from Mali, Indonesia, Peru and the Netherlands presented examples from their own countries on how they coordinate for global health at national level. They encouraged course organizers to draw even more on the expertise of participants to have further opportunities to share their experiences with the group.

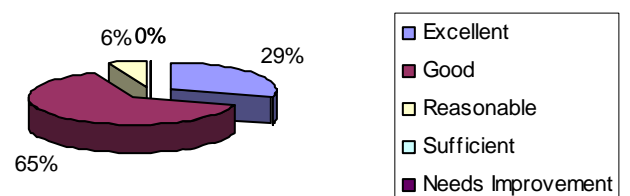
Overall the participants were satisfied with the material presented to them at the course. They particularly enjoyed the working group exercises and negotiations skills training. The organization of the course was also positively rated, including the course venue (this year at the Conference Center Varembe) and course supplements (i.e. handouts, course reader and other information). Learning methodologies used were also appreciated, with a mix between lectures and participatory approaches such as working groups, the role play and plenary discussions.

The course was seen to be of value and relevance within participant's countries and/or organizations. The training and tools learned are applicable to their own working environments, to promote their country/organizations' interests as well as engage a host of new stakeholders. Several propositions were made to have similar courses offered in other national or regional contexts.

Overall programme satisfaction



Course organization



In general, course expectations were met, though several participants brought forth very useful suggestions for the organization of future courses. This included: focusing more on the global health challenges themselves, how to go about solving them and having more applied discussions. They wished to have more focus on the new actors, including how different actors are positioning themselves on specific global health issues. The idea of an alumni network was very much appreciated, which can serve as a forum not only to keep in touch, but also to exchange ideas and articles, information on conferences and as an opportunity to engage and contribute to ongoing research in this domain. Over 200 participants worldwide have been trained to date, creating an established network of alumni. Global health diplomacy courses will soon be complemented by a series of accompanying tools including a training manual, textbook and a series of case studies.

The course website can be accessed at: http://graduateinstitute.ch/corporate/executive/training-workshops/global-health-diplomacy_en.html and the Global Health Programme website at: <http://graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth>



Han Youli (China)



An Huybrechts (Belgium)



Roland Driece
(Netherlands)



Liliana La Rosa (Peru)



Usman Effendi (Indonesia)



Ilona Kickbusch and Gaudenz Silberschmidt with
participant Salif Samake (Mali)



Arindom Mookerjee (India) and Marie-Christine
Degila (France)