

First executive training course on Global Health Diplomacy in Africa

The Global Health Programme at the Graduate Institute launched the first executive course on Global Health Diplomacy in Africa this past week. The course was held in Nairobi, Kenya from September 7 – 11, 2009. It attracted 19 participants from a variety of national ministries (Public Health and Sanitation, Medical Services, Foreign Affairs and Trade), academic institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Co-organized in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and the University of Nairobi, the course aimed at raising awareness and building capacity in global health diplomacy. Participants engaged in a very intense five-day training where they were introduced to key concepts in global health diplomacy and governance, including some key mechanisms and tips for negotiations. Experienced negotiators, Dr Gaudenz Silberschmidt and Dr Ahmed Ogwel were able to share their own experiences in the negotiations around the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (IGWG), International Health Regulations (IHR) and Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) where they not only provided in-depth insight into the negotiation content, but were also able to lay out some key negotiation techniques and practical skills.

The highlight of the programme was the commitment by course participants to prepare a report on a national global health strategy. Deadlines and responsibilities were laid out and the report is to be distributed in the various ministries with the ultimate goal of having a national global health strategy in place by October 2010.



Kenya course participants and international faculty