

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA

INSTITUT DE HAUTES ETUDES
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Global Health Programme
Director: Professor Dr. Ilona Kickbusch

**EVALUATION ON THE
EXECUTIVE TRAINING IN GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY**



Group Photo – Executive training in Global Health Diplomacy 2008

The executive training course on Global Health Diplomacy was held from 23 – 27 June 2008 for the second time at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. 26 professionals from 21 different countries have successfully completed this executive training course. The participants came from diverse professional backgrounds: Health experts from ministries of health, diplomats and health attachés, staff from international organisations and non-profit non-governmental organisations participated in the course. Indeed, this diversity of

nationalities and professional backgrounds were highly appreciated and remarked in the evaluation of the participants.

The course focused on global health diplomacy as it relates to health issues that cross national boundaries and are global in nature. The main objectives of the course were to gain an understanding on

- the challenges in global health diplomacy,
- the ways these challenges can be addressed by different groups and at different levels of governance, and
- the negotiation processes in global health diplomacy are conducted.



The Course was directed and developed by Prof. Dr. Ilona Kickbusch, together with Prof. Dr. Tom Novotny (University of California - San Francisco), Dr. Gaudenz Silberschmidt (Swiss Federal Office of Public Health) and Dr. Nick Drager and Dr. Ahmed Ogwel (both WHO). The participation of Prof. Novotny was supported by a grant from the Fulbright Senior Specialists Programme, as administered by the Embassy of the United States in Berne.

Other faculty members and speakers were Elizabeth McClintock (independent consultant), Dr. Delon Human (Health Diplomats), Christopher Lamb (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), Dr. David Heymann, Jim Zimmerly and Dr. Maria Renström

(all WHO). The course manager was Mr. Badr Zerhdoud.

Joint session: G. Silberschmidt, A. Ogwel

The five days executive training covered the following topics:

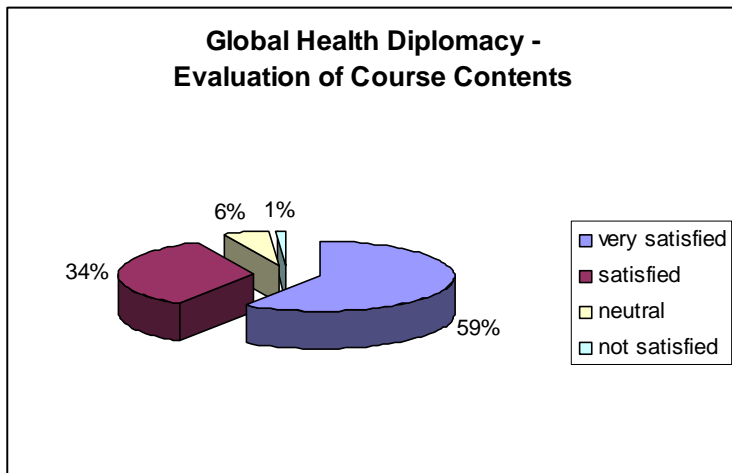
- The nature of Global Health Diplomacy;
- The power shift in Global Health;
- Key challenges in global health security;
- WHO as a key venue of Global Health Diplomacy;
- Mapping the landscape of global health diplomacy
- Key challenges in negotiation processes in Global Health;
- Policy coherence between health and foreign policy, development and poverty reduction;
- The multi-layered dimensions of Global Health Diplomacy, including multilateral business diplomacy, negotiating trade and health
- Different value systems in global health diplomacy.



Course participants (from left to right): Carmen Dolea (Romania), Nick Previsich (Canada), Corinna Hawkes (UK), Charles Senessie (Sierra Leone), Camilla Horta Gomes (Brazil), Véronique Maeva Fages (Tahiti, French Polynesia).

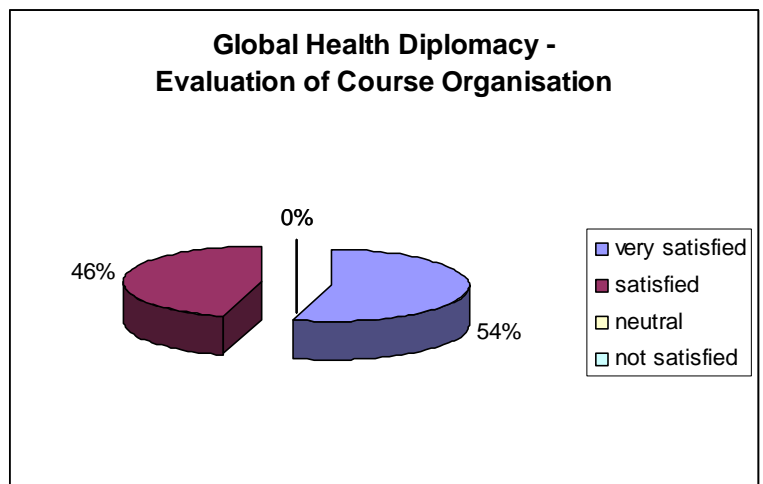
Within the above framework, a wide-range of different methods were used to allow learning: Interactive discussions, working groups, case studies, and practical exercises complemented the theoretical presentations. Specific case studies referred to the negotiations of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the International Health Regulations, and the Inter-Governmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights.

According to the participants' evaluation, the objectives were largely met through a combination of factors that include a good mix between the methodology used and the high quality of the faculty members, including the capacity of the Course Director to summarise in a neutral, yet critical way, the different topics and discussions.



Overall, 93% of the course participants have been either very satisfied or satisfied with the substance as provided in the course. The presentations and the case-simulation were highly appreciated by a large majority of the participants. Ahmed Ogwel, David Heymann and Jim Zimmerly have been highlighted specifically by a number of participants for their excellent presentations and discussions.

The evaluation on the general course organisation and methodology used were rated by all participants positively, none of the participants were not satisfied with the course organisation. Most participants have enjoyed the pleasant course venue, located at the Villa Barton in midst of a park, even though some did remark the absence of air-conditioning. The receptions and the farewell dinner as a way to informally interact with faculty members have been also particularly appreciated by the participants.



This second executive training course in Global Health Diplomacy has been overall a success. Nevertheless, some suggestions for improvements were made by some participants and these will be considered when planning the next summer course:

Some participants proposed to give more emphasis on specific issues, such as trade and health, and to stress more the management and conduct of global health diplomacy and its importance on a national level. In addition, it was suggested to use new technologies, such as video recordings of some negotiation processes and to discuss real case scenarios during the course. Other participants also remarked that more focus should be given to the role of NGOs in negotiations and that issues, such as women's rights and human rights shall be covered more extensively. Finally, participants also advised that the course should be conducted in different other locations, so that a wide-range of people can benefit and learn about this relatively new subject field.



Nicolas Plattner (Switzerland) and Gerda Vrielink (The Netherlands)



Kenneth Fernandez (El Salvador)



Prof. Dr. Thomas Novotny and Dr. Delon Human



Ranjana Kumar (India)



James Mukabi (Kenya) and Prof. Dr. Ilona Kickbusch