

NEWSLETTER

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Dear newsletter recipient,

After the summer break, the Global Health Programme is currently involved in preparing its third high-level Symposium (15 October) and a satellite event that will take place in Cuba at the Annual Forum of the Global Forum for Health Research (16-20 November). Both events will give the Global Health Programme the opportunity to look into the future and to present upcoming research projects.

The Global Health Programme wishes you happy reading and looks forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

THE GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM IN ACTION

| RESEARCH PROJECT ON ASIAN ACTORS' ENGAGEMENT IN GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE |

The Global Health Programme (GHP) is producing a mapping study on Asian actors' engagement in Global Health Governance as part of the Global Health Governance study group of the ST Lee Project on Global Governance, conducted in conjunction with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the National University of Singapore.

The objectives of this research study are to identify the role of Asian actors within key institutions involved in Global Health Governance agenda-setting and to analyze the policies and influences of Asian nation-states on global health. This project is based on a review of institutional publications and in-depth interviews, conducted with health attachés of various Asian and non-Asian governments, as well as with representatives of selected Geneva-based global health governance organizations.

Carey Scheerer Stanley, a PhD candidate in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Colorado, is currently affiliated with the GHP to undertake the data collection and analysis. Preliminary findings reveal that a number of Asian representatives perceive global health governance as a Western construct, developed by privileged individuals. Moreover, many interviewed health attachés added that Asian countries, such as China, India, or Japan could be more involved and leverage their power within global health governance settings. In order to better comprehend the complex dynamics of global health governance and its actors, other regions - particularly in the Global South - need to be analyzed as well.

The larger Global Governance project and its different study groups will continue to work together until 2010

RECENT GLOBAL HEALTH EVENTS – OUTCOME AND ANALYSIS

**| 10–14 AUGUST EXECUTIVE COURSE ON GLOBAL HEALTH
DIPLOMACY; BEIJING, CHINA |**

In a collaborative effort between the GHP and the Institute for Global Health at Beijing University, an executive education training course on Global Health Diplomacy was conducted for the first time ever in Beijing, China. With support from the Chinese Ministry of Health and the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, this 5-day event assembled more than 30 participants from the Chinese health and foreign affairs departments. The course's objectives focused on introducing key issues and challenges in global health, as well as to build capacity and promote China's role and participation in global health negotiations.

Amongst the speakers who addressed the course and delivered keynotes were China's Vice-Minister of Health, Dr. Huang Jiefu; Secretary of State and Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Dr. Thomas Zeltner; and GHP Director Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, along with GHP Senior Fellow Dr. Nick Drager. Further faculty included senior representatives from the International Affairs Division, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, the Fiocruz Centre for Global Health, and the Institute for Global Health, Beijing University. Speakers gave first-hand insight into global health negotiations, national global health strategies, and South-South health cooperation to train Chinese health practitioners in better dealing with global health issues in the future. One of the most significant course outcomes was the mutual agreement between the participants and the Chinese course faculty to prepare a national strategy on global health for China.

For further information, please see:

<http://www.graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth/page7727.html>

**| 27–28 AUGUST SWISS PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE; ZÜRICH,
SWITZERLAND |**

"Compétences en Santé"

GHP Director Ilona Kickbusch spoke on several occasions at this year's Swiss Public Health Conference. A workshop on "Global Health Revisited" was organized to mark the revival of the "Fachgruppe Global Health" of the Swiss Society of Public Health. Having formerly been established as "Special Interest Group Global Health" in spring 2006, the group has now been revived with new members and new objectives. The newly formulated objectives of the renamed "Fachgruppe Global Health" are (1) to find solutions for global health challenges that are coherent with the principles and working modes of public health; (2) to optimize the international exchange and worldwide application of experience by studying relevant mechanisms and criteria in the context of public health; and (3) to support the Swiss Society of Public Health in its international relations, particularly with the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA).

The Steering Committee of the "Fachgruppe Global Health" is led by Dr. Nick Lorenz, Head, Swiss Center for International Health, Swiss Tropical Institute. Further members include

Bettina Borisch, Head of the Geneva WFPHA Office; Michaela Told from the Global Health Programme; and John-Paul Vader, Associate Professor, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Lausanne Medical Centre.

**| 7-11 SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE COURSE ON GLOBAL HEALTH
DIPLOMACY; NAIROBI, KENYA |**

The GHP in cooperation with the Department of Community Health, University of Nairobi and the Department of International Health Relations, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, Kenya, successfully conducted a course on Global Health Diplomacy. The course attracted 19 mid-career professionals from different Kenyan institutions, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Medical Services, the Ministry of Public Health & Sanitation, the Ministry of Trade, and various non-governmental organizations. Further participants were from the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, and the Department of Community Health, both located at the University of Nairobi.

The core faculty of the training course drew on the expertise of Dr. Gaudenz Silberschmidt, Chairperson of the Advisory Board, GHP and Head of the International Affairs Division, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health; Prof. Joseph Wang'ombe, Associate Professor, Department of Community Health, College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi; Dr. Ahmed E.O. Ogwel, Team Leader, Implementation Assistance and Partnerships, Convention Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; and Michaela Told from the GHP. Further speakers included representatives from Oxfam, the Institute of Diplomacy, University of Nairobi, and the Kenyan Ministry of Trade. New inter-ministerial linkages were successfully set up during the course with the result that Kenyan officials are now starting to work on a national global health diplomacy strategy for Kenya.

For further information, please see:

<http://www.graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth/page6663.html>

**| 30 SEPTEMBER–03 OCTOBER EUROPEAN HEALTH FORUM
GASTEIN; BAD HOFGASTEIN, AUSTRIA |**

"Financial Crisis and Health Policy"

This year's European health policy conference primarily addressed the consequences of the financial crisis and the subsequent economic recession on health and health care. Following the traditional approach of the European Health Forum Gastein, founded in 1998, senior decision makers from policy and administration, business and industry, research and civil society discussed the impacts of the crisis, but also its opportunities for health.

Prominent speakers included Prof. Marmot, Director, International Institute for Society and Health; Dr. Menabde, Deputy Regional Director, WHO Regional Office, Europe; Mr. Madelin, Director General, DG Health and Consumers, European Commission; Ms. Vassiliou, EU Commissioner for Health; and various Ministers for Health from European and non-European countries. Prof. Ilona Kickbusch delivered a presentation on "The influence of international strategies on systems for health" during the Forum on "Knowledge, transfer, and action".

The conference fostered intriguing discussions on the gap in financing for communicable disease surveillance and pandemic preparedness in the greater 52 state European region and the EU's role in addressing this issue. This debate will be further taken up by Global Health Europe and the Geneva Health Forum as a topic in open online forum discussions.

For further information, please visit the official conference webpage: <http://www.ehfg.org/home.html?&L=2>

FORTHCOMING GLOBAL HEALTH EVENTS

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2009

| 14 OCTOBER OFFICIAL LAUNCH: GENEVA OFFICE OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS; GENEVA, SWITZERLAND |

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) has opened an office in Geneva to increase visibility and activities of the WFPHA. Within the framework of the organization's strategic goals, the advocacy agenda is aimed to be further developed. Collaboration with invited experts on specific topics and the creation of a network of specialists to assist and/or represent the WFPHA at key meetings are part of their workplan.

The Geneva WFPHA office is led by Prof. Bettina Borisch. She is also a member of the "Fachgruppe Global Health" of the Swiss Society of Public Health.

| 15 OCTOBER 3rd HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY; GENEVA, SWITZERLAND |

"Negotiating Health in the 21st Century: Regional Voices in Global Health Governance"

This year's third high-level Symposium will explore new developments at the interface of foreign policy and health with particular focus on regional voices in global health governance. The symposium will be opened by Ambassador Martin Dahinden, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, who will address for the first time a Geneva audience. Furthermore, Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control will deliver her first speech as Regional Director-Elect of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Dr. Andrew Cooper, Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo, and Associate Director of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) will also address the audience. Global Health Europe: A Platform for European Engagement in Global Health will further be launched at this event. This initiative will be a virtual platform network and think tank that promotes synergy between the policy spheres of public health, foreign policy, development, and research for health. Its aim is to improve global health governance through more coordinated, coherent, consistent and committed European engagement. The Global Health Programme is chairing this new network.

Further details regarding the Symposium programme and Global Health Europe are available on the webpage. Please also check: www.graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth/page6404.html

In order to attend the symposium, please register by sending an email with your contact details to: globalhealth@graduateinstitute.ch

| 14-18 OCTOBER WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT; BERLIN, GERMANY |
"The Evolution of Medicine"

Under the high patronage of the President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Angela Merkel, the World Health Summit (WHS) will annually bring together researchers, physicians, politicians, and stakeholders within the healthcare system, with this year's event being the first. The WHS is a collaborative initiative between the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the Université Paris Descartes, along with other international partners.

Amongst the confirmed speakers are policy-makers, such as Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director, The Global Fund, Geneva Secretariat; Bernard Kouchner, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, French Government; and Mary Robinson, GAVI Alliance Board Chair, and Former UN Commissioner for Human Rights. Prof. Ilona Kickbusch will serve as discussant in a working session on "Improving Strategies for Global Health: Disease Control Priorities" and chair the WHS closing panel.

The conference forms part of the M8 Alliance of Academies, Universities, and Health Centers, a network of highly prestigious medical institutions that will be inaugurated at this 1st World Health Summit. Its stakeholders will seek for answers to the urgent questions arising from world-wide demographic trends, the financing of medical progress and innovation, the understanding of the potentials of medical research and health economy, amongst other related issues.

For further information on the Summit, please visit the official webpage: <http://www.worldhealthsummit.org/>

| 25-28 OCTOBER 16th ANNUAL CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HEALTH; OTTAWA, CANADA |
"Health Equity: Our Global Responsibility"

This conference will examine inequities of health status, and the impact on the health of marginalized, vulnerable and indigenous populations of changing environments. The conference further seeks to analyze social determinants and their impacts on health and social outcomes, as well as impacts of environmental technological and economic change on health equity. The possible need for a paradigm shift in intersectoral policy and practice at local, national, and international levels will be considered, along with analyses of the current state of Canadian responsibility for health equity and social justice.

The conference is established around three areas: "Ethics and Responsibility, Economics and Social Determinants", "Global Health Diplomacy", and "Social Determinants of Health: Think Globally, Act Locally". Dr. Nick Drager, GHP Senior Fellow, will chair a full day workshop at the opening day on "Global Health Diplomacy: The Process of Negotiation".

For further information on the conference, please visit the official webpage: <http://www.csih.org/en/ccih/overview.asp>

| 15 NOVEMBER SATELLITE CONFERENCE
16-20 NOVEMBER THE ANNUAL FORUM FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH; LA HAVANA, CUBA |

The GHP in collaboration with the Consortium for Global Health Diplomacy is organizing on 15 November a one-day satellite event at the Annual Forum of the Global Forum for

Health Research. The Consortium brings together universities, academic institutions, and research institutes from the North and South to act as a catalyst for the development of research and training on global health diplomacy around the world. The satellite meeting seeks to inform stakeholders about the Consortium's structure, mission and objectives. By showcasing different country approaches to global health diplomacy, the Consortium will present the first research results.

The satellite event will be opened with keynotes from Minister Chen Zhu, Minister of Health of the People's Republic of China, and Minister José Gomes Temporão, Minister of Health of Brazil. The event will further give an international outlook on global health and its different interactions with trade, South-South cooperation and its value-base.

Prof. Ilona Kickbusch will also chair a conference panel at the Annual Forum 2009 on 19 November, entitled "Developing Research and Capacity Building in Global Health Diplomacy". This session seeks to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of research and capacity building in global health diplomacy.

For further information, please check the official conference webpage: <http://www.globalforumhealth.org/Forums/Annual-Forums/Forum-2009>

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

The Nobel Forum Seminar entitled "EU as a Global Health Actor" is being co-organised by Global Health Europe, the Karolinska Institute and the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The event is being held under the auspices of the Swedish EU Presidency with the purpose of facilitating a high-level stakeholder dialogue on the upcoming Communication of the EU's Role in Global Health.

Prominent speakers include, amongst others, Maria Larsson, Minister for Elderly Care and Public Health, Government of Sweden; Bates Gill, Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute; Göran Tomson, Professor in International Health Systems Research, Karolinska Institute; Susanne Weber-Mosdorf, World Health Organization, Assistant Director-General and Executive Director of the WHO Office at the European Union; and Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, GHP Director.

CURRENT GLOBAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

|SWITZERLAND PARTICIPATES IN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN WITH THE U.S. TO PROVIDE H1N1 VACCINES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES|

Switzerland, together with several other countries, supports Barack Obama's initiative to help ensure a rapid pandemic vaccines access for developing countries. This decision is in line with the Swiss Federal Council's previous decision of 17 June 2009 where it was agreed to reinforce the role of the World Health Organization in this field. The H1N1 flu pandemic is a global challenge that requires concerted action from all states. According to the Obama Initiative, industrialized countries that have already ordered vaccine doses should at least make 10 percent of their doses available to WHO for poorer countries.

Switzerland has been cooperating closely with the WHO since the beginning of the pandemic and pledged \$4, 8 million to procure vaccines. The Swiss Federal Council has yet to decide how many additional vaccine doses purchased by Switzerland will be provided through the WHO to developing countries. This decision is pending on the estimate of needs for flu vaccines for the Swiss population.

|GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY FORUM; BRUSSELS, BELGIUM| "Towards the Communication on the "EU Role in Global Health"

The Global Health Policy Forum – an informal monthly gathering of stakeholders active on EU Global Health - invited participants for the first time to discuss an outline of the process leading to the adoption of a Communication on the "EU's role in Global Health" during the upcoming Spanish EU Presidency in 2010. The Forum is the first of its kind, intending to be developed into a series of monthly lunchtime events.

Amongst the participants were stakeholders from civil society -, and non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and representatives from the private sector. The European Union was represented by five Directorate General and senior-policy makers of the Spanish Government. The meeting highlighted the three main areas of the Communication that have been identified as the major challenges for Global Health during informal consultations and internal Commission discussions: the danger of growing health inequity, the need to strengthen coherence between external and internal policies, and the weak equity and ownership of global health research. These three areas would be embedded within an overall framework for the EU Communication which will identify the global situation and its challenges, the present EU role and its potential influence in the global health arena.

A formal online consultation on the Communication is envisaged for a minimum of eight weeks starting mid-October 2009.

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