

Thomas Schwarz, Medicus Mundi International

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An: MMI Members and Partners (office@medicusmundi.org)
Betreff: MMI News Briefing, 27th February 2008

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1. MMI Network News and Events: Board, Secretariat, Members
 2. MMI Calls for Participation: Electronic Platform; Geneva Health Forum
 3. MMI Key Issues: Reports, Events, Resources
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Dear Madam/Sir,
Dear Friends,

Welcome to another short update on news and developments within the Medicus Mundi International (MMI) Network. The news briefing is not intended to be one-way communication; please consider the two "calls for participation" and contribute to the next issue scheduled for 26th March 2008 with your own short "network news".

With best regards,

Guus Eskens, President
Thomas Schwarz, Executive Secretary
Medicus Mundi International

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1. MMI Network News and Events
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MMI Executive Board Meeting
Basel, 29th February 2008

The Executive Board of Medicus Mundi International will discuss at his upcoming meeting, among other issues, the secretariat's working plan and regulations, the preparation of a planned MMI Workshop on "Contracting experiences" at the World Health Assembly in May 2008, MMI's contributions to a Health Session of the General Assembly of the Association of Episcopal Conferences of the Central African Region, and MMI's perspectives in the DR Congo. At the same event, the MMI working group "Human Resources for Health" will meet for a first time.

> *EB online documentation: please order it at the MMI secretariat*

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MMI Network Events: Medicus Mundi Switzerland
AIDS and Livelihood. Securing property and inheritance rights
aidsfocus conference in Bern, 10 April 2008

"The staggering number of AIDS deaths in the coming years will result in millions more women becoming widows or grandmothers carer of their grandchildren. These women and their children are likely to face not only social stigma against people affected by HIV and AIDS but also deprivations caused by property rights violations." (aidsfocus.ch)

> Program: www.aidsfocus.ch/plattform/Event.2007-10-24.1406

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MMI Network Events: action medeor

Malaria: Joining Forces, Synergising Action

International Malaria Conference in Bonn, 21/22 April 2008

"Malaria control strategies, the presentation of best-practice examples and new initiatives in the field of research and development of antimalarials as well as innovative ways of predictable, reliable and sustainable financing for malaria control will represent the main focus points of the conference." (action medeor)

> Program: www.europeanallianceagainstmalaria.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Germany/advance_notice_final.pdf

> action medeor contact: antje.mangelsdorf@medeor.org

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MMI Network Events: Medicus Mundi Switzerland

ICT and Health Systems Development

STI Symposium in Basel, 22 April 2008

"The following topics will be considered in the thematic field 'Information & Communication Technologies and Health': Telemedicine and eHealth; health management information systems; knowledge management and eLearning in health systems." (Swiss Tropical Institute)

> Program: www.sti.ch/about-us/events.html

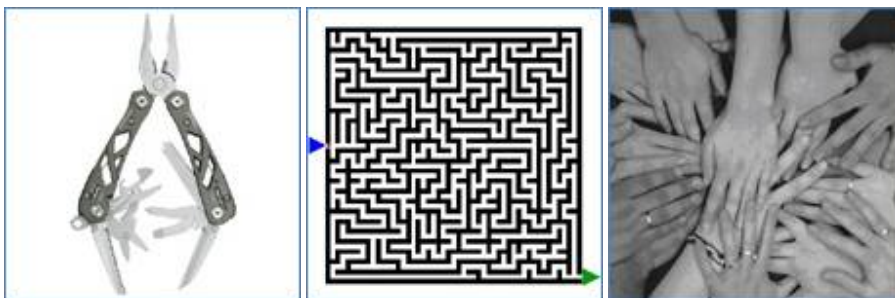
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2. MMI Calls for Participation
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MMI Call for Participation:

Get involved with developing the MMI Electronic Platform!

The planned MMI electronic platform is intended to be many things at the same time: The gateway to a vivid network of organisations; an effective working tool for the network members, and the platform of an international "community of practice" built within and around the MMI members and focusing on a set of key topics not yet covered by other networks and communities. The MMI Executive Secretary submitted to the Board (meeting of 29th February) some reflections on the terms of reference for the electronic platform planned to be developed within the next three months. Interested MMI members and key partners are invited to have a look at this presentation, and, if you want to be closely involved with the setup of the electronic platform (contents, network policy, technical solutions) to get in touch with the secretariat.



> Introduction into MMI E-Network: www.medicusmundi.org/Files/web2008

> Concept: Communities of Practice: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_of_practice

> Interested to be involved? Please contact the secretariat before 10th March 2008

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**MMI Call for Participation:
Geneva Health Forum, 25-28 May 2008**

This year's Geneva Health Forum will focus on "Strengthening Health Systems and the Global Health Workforce". Medicus Mundi International considers the Geneva Health Forum to be an interesting platform for networking and mutual learning. MMI members who register their participation at the forum through the MMI Network might benefit of a reduced fee (to be confirmed - generally starting from 20 people). MMI will contribute to the Forum with an input on the contracting study and will eventually participate at the NGO marketplace if we find enough MMI members who like to share a market table with the secretariat (attending it for at least 1/2 day).

- > *New deadline for registration at MMI (participants and shared MMI market table): 8th March 2008*
- > *Geneva Forum Website: <http://genevahealthforum.hug-ge.ch/>*

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3. MMI Key Issues: Reports, Events, Resources
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MMI Key Issue: NGO positioning
**Private not-for-profit health service providers in Uganda
Improving opportunities through strategic positioning and co-operation
By Daniele Giusti**

"In the middle of the nineties it became clear that quite a number of providers in the private not-for-profit health sector in Uganda were unable to cope with the increasing cost of service production and that major crisis were occurring or soon to be expected. This article accounts for the steps taken in order to make the Government of Uganda aware of the ongoing crisis and sparking off a closer collaboration that the Government would obtain, in few years, important reforms leading to a demonstrable and desirable convergence of mutual benefits: for the people, for Government herself, for the private not-for-profit (PFNP) health sector." (Bulletin of Medicus Mundi Switzerland No. 107, February 2008)

- > *Article: www.medicusmundi.ch/mms/services/bulletin/bulletin107_2008/chapter2/21.html*

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MMI Key Issue: NGO positioning
**Conference: Philanthropy in Global Health
Basel, 10-11 April 2008**

"An increasing number of stakeholder and stakeholder groups are involved in supporting the development of health infrastructure and the improvement of the health status, in particular in developing countries. This increasing influx of funds into the health sector is clearly most welcome to assist in solving some of the world's most pressing health concerns. However, given the rapid development and the enormous flow of funds from new actors and stakeholder groups from the non-government sector also brings up a number of new challenges. Issues raised in this context, for instance, relate to the planning of health programs vs. public programs, or coordination, sustainability, efficiency and accountability." (Basel Institute on Governance)

- > *Program: www.baselgovernance.org/*

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MMI Key Issue: Appropriate Technology
**WHO Executive Board Meeting, 10 January 2008
Report by the WHO Secretariat**

"The Secretariat will continue to work with Member States to develop norms, standards and guidelines, including a nomenclature system for medical devices and a standardized glossary of definitions relating to health technologies (and in particular to medical devices)."

> Report: www.who.int/qb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB122/B122_13-en.pdf

> WHO Board and WHA Documentation: www.who.int/qb/

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MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health

Effects of policy options for human resources for health:

An analysis of systematic reviews. By M. Chopra et al.

“The Policy makers face challenges to ensure an appropriate supply and distribution of trained health workers and to manage their performance in delivery of services, especially in countries with low and middle incomes. We aimed to identify all available policy options to address human resources for health in such countries, and to assess the effectiveness of these policy options.” (The Lancet 2008; 371:668-674 – free registration required)

> Article: www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608603050/fulltext

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MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health

African Atlas of the Health Workforce

“The starting point for this online database was a comprehensive health workforce survey conducted by the WHO Regional Office for Africa in collaboration with WHO department of human resources for health in Geneva in 2004/2005. All 46 member states of the African Region have contributed to this data collection. The data base presented here is the best available information base on the health workforce in the African Region to date and it will be continuously updated.” (WHO)

> Database: www.who.int/globalatlas/

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International Health Policy

From Alma Ata to the Global Fund: The History of International Health Policy

Paper prepared by the Italian Global Health Watch

“This paper traces the evolution of international health policies and international health institutions, starting from the birth of the World Health Organization, the setting up of the Health for All target at the Alma Ata conference in 1978 and the rise of neo-liberal policies promoted by international financial institutions from 1980 to the present.” (Social Medicine Vol. 3, Number 1, January, 2008)

> Report: <http://journals.sfu.ca/socialmedicine/index.php/socialmedicine/article/download/186/380>

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International Health Policy

60 Years of WHO: “Our health, our future”

“This year marks the 60th anniversary of WHO. This special occasion presents WHO with an opportunity to celebrate achievements in global public health over the last 60 years, demonstrate the impact of WHO's work and address challenges for the future.” (WHO)

> Info: www.who.int/who60

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International Health Policy

Challenging Inequity through Health Systems

Report submitted to the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health

“This report outlines the pathways through which health systems address the social determinants of health inequity

and presents evidence that justifies the role of health systems in promoting health equity.” (Final report of the Health Systems Knowledge Network, July 2007)

> Report: www.who.int/entity/social_determinants/resources/csdh_media/hskn_final_2007_en.pdf

> WHO CSDH: www.who.int/social_determinants

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About the MMI News Briefing
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Contribute: The next news briefing is scheduled for 26th March 2008 – please send us your eventual contributions until 20th March.

Contact:

Thomas Schwarz, Executive Secretary
Medicus Mundi International Network
Murbacherstrasse 34, CH-4013 Basel
Phone +41 (61) 383 18 11
office@medicusmundi.org
www.medicusmundi.org

*"We fight global poverty by promoting health.
Within the Medicus Mundi International Network,
we share our know-how and our commitment for
accessible, equitable and sustainable health care."*