

MMI Thomas Schwarz

Von: MMI Executive Secretariat [office@medicusmundi.org]
Gesendet: Mittwoch, 26. März 2008 09:03
An: MMI Members and Partners (office@medicusmundi.org)
Betreff: MMI News Briefing, 26th March 2008

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**Medicus Mundi International Network
News Briefing, 26th March 2008**
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1. MMI Network News: Members and Board
 2. MMI Call for Participation: NGO Health Research Priorities
 3. MMI Key Issues: Reports, Events, Resources
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Dear Madam, Sir,
Dear Friends,

Here are again some information on news and developments within the Medicus Mundi International (MMI) Network and on the key issues of our common work. We invite you to contribute to the next news briefing (scheduled for 23 April 2008) with your own short "network news".

Thank you for your attention!
Best regards,

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

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1. MMI Network News
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MMI Network News: AGEH - Misereor
Bagamoyo Workshop on "Human Resources as Key Factor in Health Services"

The human resources situation in the health sector is in a severe crisis, according to many organisations, including the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO estimates that there is a shortage of 4.3 million health workers worldwide who are required in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. In Africa alone, the shortage is estimated at 2.3 million. The Personnel Agency for German Catholics for International Cooperation (AGEH) and the German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation (Misereor) jointly organised a workshop in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, on 22-25 October 2007, to address this crisis. Participants, including German Development Workers, their local counterparts and representatives from Catholic and Ecumenical Organisations from eleven African and Asian countries, attended the workshop. The report and a summary are available now on the MMI Website.

- > Report: www.medicusmundi.org/Files/HRH/2007Bagamoyo_report.pdf
> Summary: www.medicusmundi.org/Files/HRH/2007Bagamoyo_summary.pdf

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MMI Network News: Stop Malaria Now!

Bonn, 21-22 April 2008: "Malaria: Joining Forces, Synergising Action"

The high-level international malaria conference on "sustainable and innovative ways of ensuring long-term availability of prevention and treatment measures by 2015" is organised by the European-African Malaria Campaign "Stop Malaria Now!" This is a consortium coordinated by action medeor and including five MMI members and four organisations from outside the MMI Network.



> Conference: www.stopmalaria.org/events.html

> Consortium: www.stopmalaria.org

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MMI Network News: Medicus Mundi Switzerland

Swiss Tropical Institute designated as WHO Collaborating Center

"Since February 2008, the Swiss Center for International Health (SCIH) of the Swiss Tropical Institute has been designated as WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Systems Development. The designation is effective for a period of four years. SCIH's Terms of Reference cover virtually all areas of its expertise. SCIH will do its level best to live up to these ambitious ToR." (STI Newsletter, March 2008) – Congratulations!

> News: www.sti.ch/datensatzsammlung/newsletter/newslettermarch08.html

> SCIH website: www.sti.ch/en/health-systems-support.html

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MMI Network News: Medicus Mundi Spain

La salud en la cooperación al desarrollo y la acción humanitaria

An annual report on health and development cooperation published by Medicus Mundi Spain together with MDM Spain and Prosalus. The report 2007 is focusing on Spanish development cooperation but drawing a broad picture of international health development and health development policy (185 pages, in Spanish).



> Report: www.medicusmundi.es/pub/Informe2007-CADyAH.pdf

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MMI Executive Board

Meeting Report available now

The Executive Board of Medicus Mundi International discussed at its meeting of 29th February 2008, among other issues, the MMI secretariat's working plan and regulations, the development of the MMI electronic platform, and MMI's future activities in the field of supporting the strategic repositioning of church based health facilities. At the same event, the MMI working group "Human Resources for Health" met for a first time.



Documents available at the secretariat:

> EB Meeting report (final draft)

> HRH meeting report (final draft)

> Regulations secretariat (adopted)

> Working plan 2008 secretariat (adopted)

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2. MMI Call for Participation

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MMI Call for Participation: Health Research – NGO viewpoints wanted Consultative process prior to the Bamako Forum on Research for Health

"The 2008 Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health on 17-19 November will provide a platform for ministers of health, science and technology and social development to identify and discuss research priorities to tackle global health and development challenges. The three key objectives of the Forum are to strengthen leadership for health, equity and development; to engage all relevant constituencies in research and innovation for health; and to increase accountability of research systems."



Participation to the Bamako Forum will be by invitation but a world-wide consultative process is being launched prior to the Forum itself: Two consultative questionnaires are available on the Forum's web site for nongovernmental organizations and for health professionals to register their viewpoints and to help steer a successful agenda for the Bamako meeting. This initiative could be a great opportunity to bridge the gap between academic researchers and NGO practitioners. We therefore invite MMI members and partners to participate in the consultation and to submit to the Forum your NGO viewpoints about priorities in health research. Later on this year, we plan to set up a MMI working group on NGO research priorities and options for research partnerships between NGOs and academic institutions. Please get in touch with the Secretariat if you like to join in!

- > *Participate in the consultation: www.bamako2008.org/en/consultative.shtml*
- > *Interested to be involved in the future working group? Please contact the secretariat.*

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3. MMI Key Issues: Reports, Events, Resources

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In the MMI Policy Plan 2007 – 2010, the following key issues have been determined for the coming years:

- > Strategies to keep competent and motivated staff available.
- > Bridging the appropriate technology gap in basic health care.
- > Strategic positioning of private not-for-profit (mainly church) health care facilities.

These MMI key issues and some closely related topics will be systematically documented in the MMI news briefings and on our future e-platform in order to share basic information and know-how and develop practical solutions for those working at field level.

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MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health Shortage of health workers: Global Forum calls for immediate action

"The first-ever Global Forum on Human Resources for Health called for immediate and sustained action to resolve the critical shortage of health workers around the world, setting out which lays out the essential steps that need to be taken over the next decade to turn the crisis around. The Forum, held in Kampala, Uganda, and organized by the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA), endorsed the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action." (WHO press release)

- > *Kampala Declaration: www.who.int/entity/workforcealliance/forum/2_declaration_final.pdf*
- > *Agenda for Action: www.who.int/entity/workforcealliance/forum/1_agenda4GAction_final.pdf*

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MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health
WHO: 10 Facts on Health Workforce Crisis

“The World Health Organization has issued a list of 10 facts on the global health workforce, to coincide with the First Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, held earlier this month in Kampala.” (Source: PHA-Exch)

> 10 Facts: www.who.int/features/factfiles/health_workforce/en/index.html



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MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health
Focus on community health workers in Africa

“Community Health Workers play a crucial role in the support and delivery of services in sub-Saharan Africa and are critical in efforts to tackle the existing health worker crisis. However, they need support, supervision and financial and non-financial incentives if they are to carry out their work effectively. They are not an adhoc or 'cheap' solution to local Africa problems. Instead, they should be recognised both internationally and nationally as a distinct cadre of health professionals, who - by the nature of their position in the community, can access disadvantaged populations well beyond the reach of the health system.” (Eldis Health systems reporter, February 2008)

> Download: www.eldis.org/index.cfm?objectid=5A2D724C-D3F9-4AC9-94B67E725C4B74AD

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MMI Key Issue: International Health Policy
Harmonization for Health in Africa: an action framework
Tackling barriers to scaling up health interventions in Africa

“This paper sets out an initiative by African Development Bank, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank that aims to tackle barriers to scaling up health in Africa. The ‘Harmonisation for Health in Africa’ initiative HHA is a regional mechanism through which collaborating partners agree to focus on providing support to the countries in the African region for reaching health Millennium Development Goals.” (WHO 2007. Source: Eldis)

> Document: www.who.int/healthsystems/HSS_HIS_HHA_action_framework.pdf

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MMI Key Issue: Cooperation, Coordination, Networking
Work the Net. A Management Guide for Formal Networks

“The guide addresses networking practitioners, as well as other professionals wishing to set up a network, but also established networkers will find some useful tips. It was developed by professionals with sound experience in designing and running networks. The process-oriented approach is explained with a flow chart, and checklists summarise the crucial steps. A resource section provides relevant publications and websites.” (GTZ 2006, in English, downloads available in Portuguese and Spanish language)



> Download: www.skat.ch/publications/prarticle.2005-09-29.9740306251

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MMI Key Issue: Health Financing
Funding for primary health care in developing countries

“Between 1997 and 2002, financial support to improve health care in developing countries increased by about 26%, from \$6.4bn to \$8.1bn. However, most aid was allocated to disease specific projects (termed ‘vertical programming’) rather than to broad based investments in health infrastructure, human resources, and community oriented primary healthcare services (‘horizontal programming’). A new global strategy is needed to reinforce community focused primary health care in developing countries. This will require cooperation between ministries,

universities, non-governmental organisations, and donors working on health to overcome severe resource constraints, including insufficient numbers of doctors, pharmacists, and other health personnel.” (Ken Harvey, in: BMJ, 8 March 2008. Source: PHA Exch)

> Source: <http://lists.kabissa.org/lists/archives/public/pha-exchange/msg03750.html>

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About the MMI News Briefing
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This MMI News Briefing was sent to you by the secretariat of Medicus Mundi International. The next news briefing is scheduled for 23th April 2008 – please send us your eventual contributions until 16th April. Please contact us if you do not want to be included in our mailing list. Feel free to transmit the news briefing to others who might be interested to get regular news from Medicus Mundi International – they can subscribe by sending a simple “subscribe” message to the secretariat.

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."*