

MMI Thomas Schwarz

An: MMI News Briefing
Betreff: MMI News Briefing, 29th October 2008

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Dear Madam, Sir,
Dear Friends,

Autumn brings together both past and future in a sometimes overwhelming present. In Rome, two weeks ago, where the MMI Executive Board could benefit from the great hospitality of the Fatebenefratelli, we focused on reporting and discussing the past, but already with a perspective of translating this year’s achievements and failures into new and better plans and projects for next year. The EB meeting was long, we were all exhausted in the end, and then, in the evening, “business” gave place to the celebration of friendship in a beautiful old *trattoria* in the middle of the old town.



*Take courage from the eternally burgeoning forests;
The joy you once tasted for yourselves can be found in others.
No one will then reproach us for begrudging it to anyone else.
Now you must be able to savour joy in every stage of life.*

(J.W. Goethe, The past in the present)

On 21st November the MMI Executive Board will meet again in Aachen, Germany, then hopefully ready to adopt a set of work plans of the MMI Network for the next year: plans for working groups on “Strategic positioning of private not-for-profit health institutions” and “Human Resources for Health”, for the MMI Executive Board itself – quite ambitious, by-the-way – and for the secretariat. The meeting includes a workshop on “Re-defining our role in global health” (see below). Would be good to see you there, if you have time to join us...

Best regards,

Thomas Schwarz, Executive Secretary
Medicus Mundi International

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MMI Network Events: What’s up
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MMI Network Event: Network Medicus Mundi Switzerland
**30 Years after Alma Ata. The future of Community Health
Basel, 11 November 2008**

The Alma Ata International Conference on Primary Health Care in September 1978 was



attended by virtually all the member nations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. The Alma Ata Declaration was a land mark in the field of public health, identified primary health care (PHC) as the key to the attainment of the goal of Health for All, and identifying health as the key to social and cultural development. The annual symposium of the Medicus Mundi Switzerland Network commemorates the 30th Anniversary of the Alma Ata Declaration reflecting on developments and perspectives of Community Health.



> www.medicusmundi.ch/mms-en/services/events/meeting20081111

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 MMI Network Event: Misereor, Medicus Mundi International
Re-defining our role in global health
Aachen, Germany, 21 November 2008

A workshop organized by Misereor and Medicus Mundi International as side event to the MMI EB meeting. Inputs by Regina Schneider, Difäm ("Health challenges for Church related health services in the 21st century"), Nina Urwantzoff, Misereor ("The importance of a health program within Misereor's fight against poverty and powerlessness") and Guus Eskens, MMI ("Renewing and enhancing collaboration between NGOs and WHO: towards a shared agenda. Results of a consultation").



> <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/contributions/events/2008/re-defining-our-role-in-global-health>

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 MMI Network Event: ITM Antwerp
Primary Health Care in times of globalisation
Antwerp, Belgium, 26-27 November 2008



"In 2008, the world celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma Ata. The commemoration provides an ideal opportunity to share experiences and evidence on Primary Health Care as a strategy to reach the declared goal of 'Health for All', and to redefine its position in the global health arena of today. The colloquium is organized jointly by the Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGDC), the Belgian Development Cooperation Agency (BTC) and the Belgian Platform for International Health (Because Health). The colloquium language will be English, with simultaneous translation to French."

> <http://www.itg.be/colloq2008/>

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 MMI Network Events: Swiss Tropical Institute
Health System Strengthening: Role of conditional cash incentives
Symposium in Basel, 27-28 November 2008

In the past year there has been a rapid increase in interest and application of cash transfers and other incentives intended to strengthen health systems in developing and transition countries. The Swiss Tropical Institute (STI), a member of the Medicus Mundi Switzerland Network, is organizing its 12th Symposium assembling researchers as well as policy and decision makers interested in international health to examine this experience.

> Program: www.sti.ch/datensatzsammlung/newsletter/newsletter-symposium-27-28-nov-08.html

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 MMI Network Event: ITM Antwerp
Performance-based financing in the health sector:
Relevant and feasible in low-income countries?
Antwerp, Belgium, 17 December 2008

"The rationale that underlies experiences of Performance-based financing in low-income countries is not new. To

some extent, it reproduces the fee-for-service model adopted by some European countries at the exit of World War II. Obviously, this is an attractive model for governments and donors concerned to make rapid steps towards the Millennium Development Goals. However, it may also involve some risks."

- > <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/contributions/events/2008/performance-based-financing>
- > More Network Events: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/events>

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MMI ePlatform: News, Campaigns, Papers, Marketplace
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MMI Network Campaign: AGEH, action medeor, Misereor
Life before pharmaceutical profits. Patents can be deadly.

AGEH | "Millions of people living with AIDS have a chance to live. But patent applications by the pharmaceutical industry make new and more effective medicines unaffordable for people in developing countries. The German *Aktionsbündnis gegen AIDS* (including the MMI members AGEH, action medeor, Misereor) calls for a withdrawal of patent applications so that low-cost generic medicines can be produced in countries like India. Support the campaign with your signature!"



- > <http://www.aids-kampagne.de/english>
- > More Network Campaigns: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/news/campaigns>

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MMI Network News: Doctors for Africa Cuamm
Wolisso, Ethiopia: new orthopaedic unit

Cuamm Newsletter | On 11 October 2008, a new orthopaedic unit of the Wolisso hospital was inaugurated. It includes 20 beds and a surgical block. The hospital of Wolisso is one of largest in Ethiopia and supports a territory with approximately 980.000 habitants. An orthopaedics and Ethiopian nurses will guide the new unit, accompanied, for the first 18 months, by a physiotherapist of Doctors with Africa Cuamm.



- > <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/contributions/news/2008/wolisso-ethiopia>
- > More Network News: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/news>

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MMI Network Paper: Doctors for Africa Cuamm
**Strengthening African Health Systems
Cuamm Strategic Plan 2008-2015**

"In this document, we state our vision, values, and strategies, and our contribution to the world movement in support of the Millennium Development Agenda in terms of action and reflection. To adequately face future challenges and opportunities, Doctors with Africa Cuamm intends to promote and carry out a process of internal and external changes. This will strengthen our identity and commitment to our values and mission."



- > <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/contributions/reports/2008/strengthening-african-health-systems>
- > More Network papers: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/news/reports>

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MMI Network Marketplace: action medeor
Order medicines at action medeor



“Many national and international aid organisations value action medeor as a competent supplier of top quality medicines and medical equipment. In the 4.000 m2 medical store in Tönisvorst, medeor stores over 300.000 containers of medicines, which can be packed and dispatched very rapidly – even to very remote and inaccessible areas. Low minimum purchase quantities allow even small health facilities to equip themselves with drugs.”

> http://qb.medeor.org/index.php?str_css=am_01.css&stat=cms_save&ID=105&ID=32
> More Marketplace items: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/news/marketplace>

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MMI Key Issues and Network Topics: Reports, Events, Resources
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MMI Key Issue: Global Health Policy
World Health Report 2008 calls for return to primary health care approach

14 October 2008 | WHO | There are striking inequities within and between countries in health outcomes, in access to care, and in what people have to pay for care, says the World Health Report 2008. To steer health systems towards better performance and greater equity, the report calls for a revival of the primary health care (PHC) approach launched 30 years ago. But the way WHO defines “the shifted focus of the PHC movement” is provoking:



“At the same time, PHC reforms, and the PHC movement that promotes them, have to be more responsive to social change and rising expectations that come with development and modernization. People all over the world are becoming more vocal about health as an integral part of how they and their families go about their everyday lives, and about the way their society deals with health and health care. The dynamics of demand must find a voice within the policy and decisionmaking processes. The necessary reorientation of health systems has to be based on sound scientific evidence and on rational management of uncertainty, but it should also integrate what people expect of health and health care for themselves, their families and their society. This requires delicate trade-offs and negotiation with multiple stakeholders that imply a stark departure from the linear, top-down models of the past. Thus, PHC reforms today are neither primarily defined by the component elements they address, nor merely by the choice of disease control interventions to be scaled up, but by the social dynamics that define the role of health systems in society.” (The World Health Report 2008, Primary Health Care – Now More Than Ever, page XV)

> <http://www.who.int/whr/2008>

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MMI Key Issue: Global Health
WHO: The global burden of disease: 2004 update

27 October 2008 | WHO | “The study provides a comprehensive picture of the global and regional state of health. Drawing from extensive data across the Organization, it features comparisons between deaths, diseases and injuries by region, age, sex and country income for the year 2004. It also provides projections of deaths and burden of disease by cause and region to the year 2030.”



> www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/2004_report_update

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MMI Key Issue: Global Health Policy
Alternative world health report calls for radical change

16th October 2008 | GHW Media Release | "Civil society organizations and scientists from around the world are calling for ‘a new development paradigm’ to address the toxic combination of climate change, growing poverty and inequality and poor health.



Global Health Watch 2, coordinated by the People's Health Movement, the Global Equity Gauge Alliance, Medact, and the Centre de estudios y asesoria en salud , says that unfair social and economic policies combined with bad politics are to blame for the poor state of the health of millions of people in the world . The report makes stinging criticisms of key global actors, including the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the Gates Foundation. The report calls on governments to stop the Bank from meddling in health politics:

“The World Bank’s job is to help transfer resources from richer to poor countries and it should act accordingly. Its impact on the health systems of poor countries has been largely negative. Internationally, it has also contributed to the uncoordinated circus of health sector policy-making that makes it difficult for Ministries of Health to function”.

> <http://www.qhwatch.org/>

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MMI Key Issue: Health system integration

The need for a new paradigm in healthcare delivery

23th October 2008 | “Ensuring good health care services is, and will continue to be, the mandate and responsibility first and foremost of the government. Let me make that quite clear. The State is responsible for guaranteeing access to health care, and for quality control and providing the financial and regulatory framework. At the same time, there is a general consensus that to achieve the MDGs the efforts and capacities of every player will be needed. Enlarging the part of (what is so nicely called) non-state actors – meaning everyone else - requires an adequate system of incentives and regulation. This calls for decisions both within the State and elsewhere. Government authorities have a legitimate role in negotiating and – in some cases – enforcing these decisions. But only when they listen to the people. Authorities in many countries are seeking ways of playing this new role. I believe it is the task of donors and financial institutions to assist governments in this.” (The Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation, Bert Koenders, speaking at a conference on healthcare systems in Africa)



> www.minbuza.nl/nl/actueel/speeches,2008/10/Conference-on-Healthcare-Systems-in-Africa.html

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MMI Key Issue: Appropriate Technologies

New Technologies + Proven Strategies = Healthy Communities

Washington DC, May 26-30, 2009

Hotline HRH | The Global Health Council’s 36th annual conference will highlight the ways in which technologies in combination with best practices and evidence-based policies improve health around the world.



> www.globalhealth.org/conference_2009/view_top.php3?id=869

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MMI Key Issue: Research Priorities

Thematic guide on the MMI ePlatform

Do research partnerships contribute to make real change at institutional, organisational and services level, and if not, why not? - Our new thematic guide to internet resources leads you beyond the limits of the Medicus Mundi International Network. Are you interested to edit this guide? Or to add to the draft MMI ePlatform a guide related to your particular area of concern and/or expertise? Please get in touch with the MMI Secretariat.



> <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/topics/pnfp-research-priorities-and-partnerships/thematic-guide>

> MMI Network Topics: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/topics>

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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 25th November 2008 – please send us your eventual contributions until mid-November. Feel free to transmit the MMI News Briefing to others who might be interested to get regular news from Medicus Mundi International – they can subscribe to the News Briefing by sending a simple “subscribe” message to the secretariat. Please contact us if you do not want to be included in our mailing list.

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*"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."*