

MMI Thomas Schwarz

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Gesendet: Dienstag, 26. August 2008 10:51
An: MMI News Briefing
Betreff: MMI News Briefing, 26th August 2008

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Dear Friends,
Dear Madam/Sir,

Walking through the fields and passing the last sun flowers, the whiter sky, the browner fields, the cooler morning air leave no doubt: in Switzerland, autumn is approaching fast, even if, back in office, I still receive some "out of office" summer mails. Autumn means harvesting the fruits of a year, and planning what should be planted and cultivated next year. So do we at the Medicus Mundi International Network – involving the members and network partners.



Please have a look at the draft schedules of the two MMI Executive Board meetings in autumn ("MMI Network News"), and please participate in the preparation of the MMI input to an important WHO NGO consultation ("MMI Call for participation"). Thank you!

With best regards,

Thomas Schwarz, Executive Secretary
Medicus Mundi International Network

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MMI Calls for Participation
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MMI Call for participation - Deadline 15th September 2008

**Preparing the input of MMI to a WHO planning consultation, Geneva, 22 -23 September 2008:
"Renewing and Enhancing Collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations. Towards a Shared
Agenda"**



WHO, in collaboration with NGOs, are planning a series of consultations in the next year to increase mutual understanding of one another's institutions in order to better partner to attain the Millennium Development Goals and further public health. The first step will be a joint planning consultation between representatives from a number of NGOs providing or supporting health services and WHO senior professional staff, to be held in Geneva from 22 to 23 September 2008, in order to explore the issues and ways forward. This meeting is not designed to be representative of all organizations. A draft agenda and a note summarizing the purpose and objectives of the meeting are attached. (quote from invitation)

Please have a look at the draft agenda and the list of issues to be discussed during this planning consultation which we consider important for the MMI Network – and for our future networking with other NGO networks and WHO. You will see that there is a quite an impressive number of “big” questions to be addressed – but one or another of them might attract your special attention. Your feedback arriving in our office until 15th September would be much appreciated – allowing the representative of the MMI Network (probably Guus Eskens) to prepare himself better for the discussions and to add to his luggage a broader vision of the MMI Network members’ positions and experiences. You are invited to write your statements right into the questionnaire you find on our website – or to use any other format you like.

> *Agenda, concept note, questionnaire for MMI Network members:*
www.medicusmundi.org/Files/projects/2008WHOconsultation.htm

> *Send your feedback to:* office@medicusmundi.org

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MMI Call for participation – deadline extended:

MMI Writeshop “Promising Human Resources for Health Practices” in French speaking countries

“The writeshop is a kind of study which is not at all classical academic research, but an innovative animation, storytelling and learning exercise focusing on two workshops where stories are brought together, know-how is shared and mutual learning happens.” We have not yet received enough proposals to start the writeshop project – so please have another look at it and give us your feedback if you are interested to join in!

> *Project description:* www.medicusmundi.org/Files/projects/2008writeshop.htm

> *Contact:* [Piet van Gils, Piet.van.Gils@cordaid.nl](mailto:Piet.van.Gils@cordaid.nl)

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MMI Network News: Executive Board, Members and Partners

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MMI EB meetings in Rome and Aachen:

Reviewing 2008, Planning 2009

The two MMI Executive Board meetings in autumn 2008 will focus the on reviewing and discussing this year's activities and next years plans of Medicus Mundi International (Rome, 10th October), and finalizing and adopting our planning instruments for the next year (Aachen, 21st November). MMI Members are invited to have a look at the draft agenda of the two EB meetings and give us their feedback if this corresponds to their expectations.

> www.medicusmundi.org/Files/EB/2008EBmeetings.pdf

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MMI Network news: Cordaid

Rewarding religious leadership in the fight against AIDS

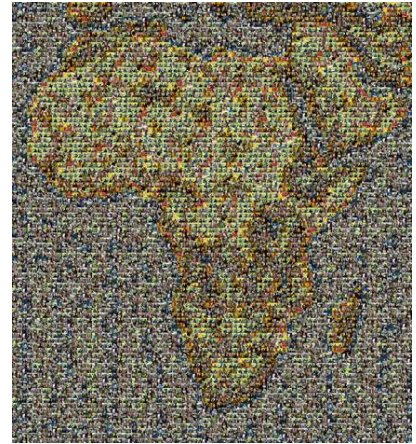
There is a large number of religious organisations in the fight against AIDS. For example, the Catholic church takes 25% of the prevention and care programmes for its account. Discussions about AIDS continue stabbing on the role of the condom. Especially for religious organizations, this is an issue. Without wishing to undermine the condom discussions, Cordaid aims to emphasize the positive role of religious organizations. Cordaid issues therefore a prize of € 20,000.- for the person or organisation which, from his or her religious background, shows leadership in the fight against AIDS.



> www.cordaidpartners.com/English/Health_and_Well-being/News/Cordaid_Aids_Award.aspx?mId=10560&rId=97

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MMI Network news: Stop Malaria Now!
Your face against malaria

Malaria kills up to three million people a year, 90% of them in Sub-Sahara Africa. This is the equivalent of at least seven jumbo jets filled with mostly women and children a day. But malaria is treatable and preventable. Please join with campaigners across the globe and show 'your face against malaria' to the EU-Governments. Upload a photo showing you and your friends with or without the "mosquito". All photos will be added to an Africa-shaped photo-mosaic showing all campaign supporters. At the end of the campaign this will be handed to the European Commission as well as to relevant decision-makers in various European countries." (*Stop Malaria Now!* is an African-European initiative co-ordinated by action medeor)



> www.stopmalarianow.org/your-face.html

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MMI Network events: aidsfocus.ch
HIV Treatment for all – a realistic project
aidsfocus.ch forum in Bern, 30th September 2008

What are the factors contributing to successful treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS in resource-limited settings in Africa, Asia and Latin America? What are the minimal medical requirements for ARV-therapies? What kind of support is needed to ensure life-long adherence to medication? How can the growing number of children living with HIV be treated? How do we deal with the reluctance of being tested for HIV, with stigma and taboo? What are the main challenges still to over-come in scaling up comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care in order to realize universal access to HIV-treatment by 2010? The forum organised by aidsfocus.ch in cooperation with the Swiss Red Cross takes up these burning issues and based on concrete evidence opens up the discussion on challenges, approaches and strategies regarding comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care. (*aidsfocus.ch* is a project of the Medicus Mundi Switzerland Network; photo: Swiss Red Cross)



> www.aidsfocus.ch/platform/conference/Symposium.2008-08-22.5520

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MMI Network events: Medicus Mundi Switzerland
30 Years after Alma Ata: The future of Community Health
Symposium in Basel, 11th 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. (photo: MMS vice-president Edgar Widmer at the Alma Ata Conference)



> mleschhorn@medicusmundi.ch

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**MMI Key Issues and Network Topics:
Reports, Events, Resources**
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MMI Network key issue: Human Resources for Health
Discussion Paper: Non-financial incentives and retention of health workers in Tanzania

PHA-Exch | “The Tanzanian public health sector is losing workers to internal and external migration. This paper examines the implementation of policies to govern non-financial incentives to retain health workers. It outlines a range of non-financial incentives set in policy in Tanzania, including training; leave; promotion; housing; and a safe and supportive working environment. It also examines the systems for managing personnel and the implementation of incentives as a factor in retention, including the participatory personnel appraisal system; worker participation in discussing their job requirements and welfare; supervision; recognition and respect. Drawing on a review of policy, published and grey literature and on a field study of seven districts, including five underserved districts, the paper finds that while a number of incentives exist in policy, their sustainability is eroded by the absence of special earmarked funding for their implementation. Decentralised districts also lack adequate powers and authority to manage health workers, weakening their ability to implement non-financial incentives.” (Michael A Munga and Deogratus R Mbilinyi, EQUINET Discussion Paper 61, July 2008)

> www.equinet africa.org/bibl/docs/DIS61HRmunga.pdf

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MMI Network key issue: Human Resources for Health
Global Atlas of the Health Workforce

PHA-Exch | “There is a growing need for high quality information on human resources in health systems to inform decision making for policies and programmes at the national and international levels. The WHO Department of Human Resources for Health has been collecting and compiling cross-nationally comparable data on health workers in all WHO Member States.” (WHO Department of Human Resources for Health, 2008)

> www.who.int/globalatlas/

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MMI Network key issue: Human Resources for Health; Research partnerships
Call for research proposals: Incentives to attract and retain qualified health workers to under-served areas within low and middle income countries

This call for proposals is jointly issued by the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research and the Human Resources for Health Department, WHO, and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR), an international collaboration, based in WHO Geneva, that aims to promote the generation and use of health policy and systems research as a means to improve the health systems of developing countries. The call for research proposals "Incentives to attract and retain qualified health workers to under-served areas within low and middle income countries" is intended to support pragmatic and policy oriented research that either enhances understanding about factors that influence health workers choice of practice location, and/or the feasibility and effectiveness of practical measures to influence health worker location. A total of US\$500,000 is also available to support proposals under this call. The closing date for the call is 12 September 2008. The call is only open to applicants in low and middle income countries.

> www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/callsforproposals/en/index.html

MMI Network topics: Research priorities and partnerships
The challenges of transformation of research into policy

id21health | “The relationship between scientific research and government health policy in developing countries is a complex one. Yet it is crucial to ensure that scientific evidence is used as a basis for sound policies which benefit the population. *Future Health Systems* carried out a conceptual study into the way health research translates into public policy.” (Adnan Hyder et al., Exploring Health Systems Research and its Influence on Policy Processes in Low Income Countries, BMC Public Health 7:309, 2007)

> www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/7/309

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MMI Network topics: Networking and policy dialogue

Report: Building From Common Foundations. The World Health Organization and Faith-Based Organizations in Primary Healthcare

“The World Health Organization (WHO) worked with faith-based organizations (FBOs) in preparing for the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978. Together they gained a clearer picture of healthcare in the developing world, and then established the concept of primary healthcare. This report is intended to assist in the process of rejuvenating dialogue and partnership with FBOs in the face of widespread health challenges in communities around the world, not least of which is HIV/AIDS. The revival of the primary healthcare model within WHO underscores that if this framework is to be promoted as a more sustainable system of health servicing and delivery, then the inclusion of FBOs will add greater potential for breadth and effectiveness.” (a Geneva Global - WHO collaborative report, Geneva 2008, 40 pages, available as pdf file)

> www.genevaglobal.com/images/uploads/Building%20From%20Common%20Foundations.pdf

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MMI Network topics: Networking and policy dialogue

Documentation: IHP+ Civil Society Forum, 23 May 2008

The International Health Partnership is part of the Global Campaign for Health MDGs, which was launched in 2007 by PM Jens Stoltenberg of Norway. In response to the broad range of initiatives with similar goals of accelerating the achievement of the health related MDGs in line with the Paris Declaration, the International Health Partnership and the related initiatives have created a coordination process and common work-plan, so called the IHP+: As a side event to the World Health Assembly 2008, IHP+ invited Civil Society Organisations to a meeting (the MMI Network was represented by Johan van Rixtel, Cordaid): “Recognizing the critical role that Civil Society Organisations have in the effective engagement of the IHP+ at country level as well as their inputs at global level, a one day meeting was held in Geneva in order to discuss concrete steps.” The meeting’s documentation is available now.

> www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/ihp_plus_events_recent_CS_consultation.html

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Global health basics:

World health statistics 2008

Eldis | “This report presents the most recent health statistics for the World Health Organisation’s 193 Member States. This fourth edition includes 10 highlights in health statistics in addition to an expanded set of over 70 key health indicators. It includes, for the first time, trend data. The information presented in this report has been collated from publications and databases produced by WHO’s technical programmes and regional offices, as well as from publicly accessible databases.” (WHO 2008)

> www.who.int/whosis/whostat/EN_WHS08_Full.pdf

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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 24th September 2008 – please send us your eventual contributions until mid-September. 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."*