

MMI Thomas Schwarz

An: MMI News Briefing
Betreff: MMI News Briefing, 9th December 2008

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Contents

- MMI Network: Events
 - MMI ePlatform: New contributions
 - MMI Key Issues and Network Topics
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Dear Madam, Sir,
Dear Friends,



This is the last “MMI news briefing” of my first year as secretary of the Medicus Mundi International Network – and it is the last newsletter I intend to send to an “inner circle” of Network members and close friends only.

As the Network wants to grow, become more visible and more attractive, I will also change the face of our news: The “news briefing” will be replaced by a newsletter, the editorial will become a bit more “technical”, with probably less stories about my walks over the fields, less pictures of flowers or snow, but more concrete references to developments in international health. I hope that you will appreciate it anyhow. And I will ask you to disseminate the newsletter to your members, staff and partners.

The MMI office will be closed over Christmas and New Year, from 22nd December to 2nd January, but you can reach me “anytime” by e-mail, if there is urgent Network business.

Best regards and Frohe Festtage!

Thomas Schwarz, Executive Secretary
Medicus Mundi International

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MMI Network Events: What’s up
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MMI Network Event: ITM Antwerp
Performance-based financing in the health sector: Relevant and feasible in low-income countries?
NEW: Including a breakfast session on the MMI contracting study
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.”



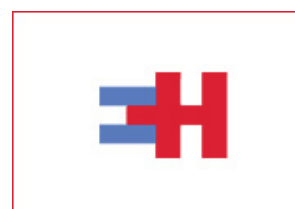
The next day in the morning (Thursday 18th December), "in the margin" of the PBF meeting, Delphine Boulenger will present the main findings of the MMI study on contracting experiences. She will do that in the format of a 'breakfast session' of about one hour. So combining intellectual and material foodstuff! Delphine is currently working on a separate announcement of the event of the 18th. This info will be sent to all the participants of the PBF workshop. So please register!

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

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MMI Network Event: Doctors with Africa CUAMM
Equal opportunities for health: action for development
A plan of action to advocate and teach Global Health
Padua, Italy, April 3-4, 2009

"This International Conference aims to bring students, faculty, professional staff, researchers, representatives of medical companies, health and education organisations/institutions, and health community members together to create new synergies, strengthen partnerships and networks, and outline a plan of action to advocate and teach Global Health." Organized by Doctors with Africa CUAMM and its partners and associates within the framework of the European Project "Equal opportunities for health: action for development".



> <http://www.mediciconlafrica.org/globalhealth/pagina.asp?ID=250>

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MMI Network Event: CHAs
Building partnerships for Health Systems Strengthening in Africa
Biennial conference of African Christian Health Associations
Kampala, 23-26 February 2009

The conference objectives include: To explore opportunities for partnerships with Christian Health Associations in Africa towards strengthening health systems and sustainability; to reflect on the role and potential of North-South Medical Missions in Africa in today's context; to discuss promising retention strategies for Human Resources for Health; to share some innovations and best practices in health care financing; to facilitate networking for sharing information, learning and building of partnerships. The MMI Network will be represented at the conference by Cordaid and Misereor.



> http://www.chak.or.ke/x5/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=0

> More Network Events: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/events>

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MMI ePlatform: Campaigns, Papers, Conference Reports
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MMI Network Campaign: Medicus Mundi Spain
Health for development

MM Catalunya | "Farmacèutics Mundi and Medicus Mundi Catalunya are carrying out the awareness-raising campaign called "Health for development". Its goal is to inform about the links between human rights, health and development in order to contribute, in the mid-term, to improving the Catalan health cooperation." (Language: Spanish)



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

> More Network campaigns: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/news/campaigns>

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MMI Network Conference Report: MM Switzerland
30 Years after Alma Ata. The future of Community Health

Basel, 11th November 2008 | The annual symposium of the Medicus Mundi Switzerland Network commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the Alma Ata Declaration reflecting on developments and perspectives of Community Health. The symposium's documentation is available now.



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

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MMI Network Flash: Doctors with Africa CUAMM
No comments needed...



... have a look at the animated version of this banner on the CUAMM website!

> <http://www.doctorswithafrica.org/ing/home.asp>

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MMI Network Conference Report: Misereor, MMI
Re-defining our role in global health

Aachen, 21st November 2008 | The workshop organized by Misereor and MMI as a side event of an Executive Board Meeting of the Medicus Mundi International Network brought together some 25 representatives of MMI members and church related organisations. The inputs by Gisela Schneider, Nina Urwanzoff and Guus Eskens lead to a vivid discussion.



> <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/contributions/events/2008/re-defining-our-role-in-global-health>
> More conference reports: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/news/conferences-and-documentations>

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MMI Key Issues and Network Topics: Reports, Events, Resources
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MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health
**Addressing the Health Workforce Crisis:
A Toolkit for Health Professional Advocates**

hrhresourcecentre.org | "This toolkit was created by the Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative, the civil society-led network of the Global Health Workforce Alliance. The purpose of this toolkit is to assist health professionals, health professional associations, and civil society organizations to develop advocacy strategies to address human resource and health financing issues in their countries." (P. Dahoust et al., 2008)



> http://www.healthworkforce.info/advocacy/HWAI_advocacy_toolkit.pdf

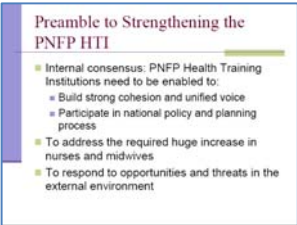
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MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health

Addressing the Human Resource in Health Crisis:

Empowering the Private Not for Profit Health Training Institutions to Play Their Role

hrhresourcecentre.org | "This presentation was part of the International Conference on Global Health session, 'Answering the Call: Innovations in Human Resources by African Faith-Based Organizations.' From the perspective of the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau experience, the presentation discusses why the private not-for-profit sector is important in service provision and training; why nurses are in the midst of the human resource crisis; obstacles to increasing the training capacity; and what the PNFP health training institutions are doing to address their weaknesses." (M. Verhallen, D. Giusti, N. Bolan 2006)



> http://www.globalhealth.org/images/pdf/conf_2006/presentations/b5_verhallen.pdf

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MMI Key Issue: National Health Systems

Debate: Is Private Health Care the Answer to the Health Problems of the World's Poor?

PLoS Medicine Debate | "The global burden of disease falls disproportionately upon the world's low-income countries, which are often struggling with weak health systems. Both the public and private sector deliver health care in these countries, but the appropriate role for each of these sectors in health system strengthening remains controversial. This debate examines whether the private sector should step up its involvement in the health systems of low-income countries."



> <http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050233>

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MMI Key Issue: Global Health Policy

Global public health: a scorecard

Lancet | "In this paper, we summarise recent trends and identify the unfinished and new agendas in global public health. We propose a global public health scorecard as a simple way to assess progress and suggest actions by public health practitioners and their organisations for improving the effectiveness of public health." (R. Beaglehole, R. Bonita, in: The Lancet, 6 December 2008, free registration required)

	Global leadership Advocacy agenda	Infrastructure Financial resources Human resources	Evidence for action Methods Data Policy Implementation	Health systems Access Quality Integration
Infectious diseases	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●
Chronic non-communicable diseases	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●
Global environmental change	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●
Social determinants	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●

> [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(08\)61558-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(08)61558-5/fulltext)

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MMI Key Issue: Global Health Policy

"We must not repeat the mistakes of the past"

12 November 2008 | Statement by WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan | "We must not repeat the mistakes of the past. We cannot afford, in this time of crisis, to squander our investments, to abandon our drive for greater balance in this world, which I firmly believe is a marker of civilized society. I am calling on all governments and political leaders to maintain their efforts to strengthen and improve the performance of their health systems, to protect the health of the people of the world, and in particular of those most fragile, in face of the present financial and economic crisis." (photo: D. Bregnard)



> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2008/s12/en/>

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MMI Key Issue: Access to health

High medicine prices and poor availability

So much evidence but where is the action?

HAI/WHO, 1 December 2008 | “WHO and Health Action International (HAI) have developed a standardized method for surveying medicine prices, availability, affordability, and price components in low-income and middle-income countries. They now present a secondary analysis of medicine prices and availability in 45 national and sub national surveys done using the WHO/HAI methodology. The conclusions: Overall, public and private sector prices for originator and generic medicines were substantially higher than would be expected if purchasing and distribution were efficient and mark-ups were reasonable. Policy options such as promoting generic medicines and alternative financing mechanisms are needed to increase availability, reduce prices, and improve affordability.” (published in The Lancet, 1 December 2008)



> <http://www.haiweb.org/medicineprices/>

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MMI Key Issue: Combating priority diseases

Priority interventions: HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in the health sector

Eladis manuals reporter | “This guide provides the 'how-to' for scaling up HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support interventions in the health sector. It is intended for use by public health decision makers, national AIDS programme managers, health care providers and workers (governmental, non-governmental and private), international and national and local donors, and civil society, including people living with and affected by HIV.” (HIV/AIDS Department, WHO 2008)



> <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/2008priorityinterventions/en/>

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MMI Key Issue: Research priorities

"Civil societies are a missing voice in health research"

IPS, 19 November 2008 / MMS news | "Health experts and activists have heavily criticised African governments for failing to collaborate with civil society organisations (CSOs) on health research and health policy development. Governments tend to perceive CSOs as a threat because they are independent, often critical of government and see their role as holding politicians accountable, health activists said during the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Ministerial Forum for Health Research in Bamako, Mali. As a result, many governments ignore calls for public participation."

> <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=44776>

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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 / newsletter is scheduled for mid-January 2009 – please send us your eventual contributions until 10th January. 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."*