MMI News Briefing, 1st July 2008

Dear Friends,

Before I leave office for two weeks of summer holidays, I send you some network news – and some homework for those who are not (yet) enjoying summertime outside the office: In the “Network News” section, we call the MMI members to participate in our innovative project “Writeshop on Promising Human Resources for Health Practices in French speaking countries” and to reflect if the topic list of our electronic platform fits with your expectations and needs.

The setup of this ePlatform will be my main office work once I am back on 21st July. In the meantime, please contact our president Guus Eskens (eskens@carenederland.org) or my colleagues at the MM Switzerland office (info@medicusmundi.ch, +41 61 383 18 10) if there is urgent Network business!

Best regards,

Thomas Schwarz, Executive Secretary
Medicus Mundi International

MMI Network News: Secretariat, Members and Partners

MMI Call for Participation - extended to 31st July 2008:
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.” – Learn more about this MMI project and give us your feedback until 31 July (extended deadline) 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

MMI Consultation - July 2008:
Topic list of new MMI ePlatform
The new MMI electronic platform (online in August 2008) will start with a clear focus on three common key issues of the MMI Network (strategic positioning, human resources, appropriate technology), but intends to provide insight into many other topics, all of them seen from a point of view of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private not-for-profit (PNFP) health care institutions, and all of them focusing on key areas of work of the Network members and partners and on political, strategical and management issues as well as on concrete tools and resources to improve health care delivery.

Please have a look at our draft list of topics to be included in our ePlatform and send a message to office@medicusmundi.org if you see something wrong - or missing. Deadline for this consultation: 21 July 2008. Thank you!

> Topic list: www.medicusmundi.org/Files/projects/2008ePlatform.htm
> Contact: office@medicusmundi.org

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MMI Network Events: Medicus Mundi Switzerland
L'émigration des personnels de santé: une pénurie mortelle?
Conference in Lausanne, 27 November 2008

This conference on health personnel migration is organized by Médecins du Monde Suisse, a member of the Medicus Mundi Switzerland Network, on the occasion of their 15th anniversary.

> Information: Morgane Rousseau, assistant-missions@medecinsdumonde.ch

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MMI Network Events: Medicus Mundi Switzerland
Health System Strengthening: Role of incentives?

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.

> Advance notice: www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Pdfs/STI_Systems_Symposium_08.pdf

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MMI Key Issues and Network Topics:
Reports, Events, Resources
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MMI Key Issues: Strategic Positioning; Human Resources for Health
NGO Code of Conduct for Health Systems Strengthening

An “NGO Code of Conduct for Health Systems Strengthening” is currently being circulated to NGOs via the internet for signatories: “The purpose of this Code of Conduct for Health Systems Strengthening is to offer guidance on how international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can work in host countries in a way that respects and supports the primacy of the government’s responsibility for organizing health system delivery…” – Have a look at it, and let us start a discussion how the MMI Network shall deal with this Code of Conduct. Here is what a colleague says: “I was surprised to read that the PNFP sector is not all mentioned and as such the code of conduct is very much biased towards governments.” What do you think? Your statements sent to office@medicusmundi.org will be collected and published in the next MMI news briefing.
MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health

Guidelines on incentives for health professionals

The world’s leading health and hospital professional associations have joined to produce the first-ever joint guidelines on incentives for the retention and recruitment of health professionals. "Health workers are the cornerstone and drivers of health systems. The production of these guidelines is part of a global effort to ensure that health workers are ensured the conditions they deserve to be able to perform their critical duties, working towards the goal of access to health workers for all," said Dr. Mubashar Sheikh, Executive Director of the Global Health Workforce Alliance. (Source: WHO, 20 May 2008)

Clipping: http://ngocodeofconduct.org

MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health

Scaling up, Saving Lives

The report 'Scaling up, Saving Lives', issued by an international group of experts in health and education at a side event during the 61st World Health Assembly, stresses the need for urgent action to address the acute shortages of health workers. "We are dealing with an urgent and critical shortage. Without implementing changes thousands of people in the poorest countries in the world will continue to suffer," said Lord Nigel Crisp, co-Chair of the Task Force for Scaling up Education and training for Health Workers, the international group tasked with producing the report as part of the work of the Global Health Workforce Alliance. "It is clear that fresh approaches, aligned to local needs, are required. More needs to be done to turn existing knowledge into action at country and international level," he said. (Source: WHO, 21 May 2008)

Clipping: http://who.int/workforcealliance/news/incentives-guidelines

MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health

HRH Action Framework

The HRH Action Framework is designed to assist governments and health managers to develop and implement strategies to achieve an effective and sustainable health workforce. By using a comprehensive approach, the Framework will help address staff shortages, uneven distribution of staff, gaps in skills and competencies, low retention and poor motivation, among other challenges. The HRH Action Framework diagram includes six clickable action fields - HR Management Systems, Leadership, Partnership, Finance, Education and Policy - and four clickable phases - Situational Analysis, Planning, Implementation and Monitoring & Evaluation. (Source: HRH Global Resource Center)

Clipping: http://www.hrhresourcecenter.org/haf

MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health

Regulating international health workforce migration

“The negative consequences arising from the migration of health workers presents an ethical dilemma for both source and recipient countries. Should the migration of health professionals from countries facing a human resources crisis be restricted, thus taking away the right of workers to emigrate, and if so, how can migration be regulated?” (Eldis Health Systems Reporter, April 2008)

Clipping: Eldis Dossier: www.eldis.org/go/topics/dossiers/human-resources-for-health/migration
MMI Key Issue: Human Resources for Health  
**Hotline HRH and other CHAs documents now online**

The monthly Newsletter “Hotline HRH” and almost 300 other documents of the “Christian Health Associations’ Technical Working Group on Human Resources for Health” are now available online through the HRH Document portal on the IMA World Health website. Inside the May issue of Hotline HRH you will find instructions on how to get to these documents from the homepage.

> *HRH Resources portal:* [http://207.58.190.251/hrh/](http://207.58.190.251/hrh/)

**MMI Network Topic: Health Care Financing**  
**id21insights: Financing primary health care**

“Today, millions of people in low- and middle-income countries do not have access to basic, good quality health services. The Alma Ata Declaration in 1978 defined primary health care as basic health care built on technically sound and socially adequate approaches, universally accessible and affordable to all individuals. This issue of id21 insights explores the challenges facing donors and national governments in providing and financing primary health care for all.” *(id21 insights health, Issue #12May 2008)*

> *www.id21.org/insights/insights-h12*

**MMI Network Topic: Community Health**  
**South-South consultation: connecting communities with their health systems**

“This report highlights the activities and recommendations from the South-South consultation – a three day workshop that was hosted by AMREF in September 2007. The paper concludes that whilst strengthening health systems has come to the top of the political and development agendas, the urgent need to close the gap between communities and their health systems is not a goal that is recognised by all. The paper offers recommendations for practice, research and advocacy.” *(source: Eldis health systems RSS)*

> *www.eldis.org/go/display&type=Document&id=36995*

**MMI Network Topic: International Health Policy**  
**Primary Health Care remains the best tool to achieve Health for All**  
**Statement of the People's Health Movement**

“The comprehensive Primary Health Care (PHC) approach articulated at Alma Ata remains as relevant today as it was 30 years ago. It was never really implemented to reflect its true spirit, i.e., the basic intent of the Alma Ata Declaration which highlighted the need for a new international economic order to ultimately solve inequities in health. A PHC policy for 2008 and beyond needs renewed commitment, which, while affirming the fundamental positions of thirty years back, also takes into account the new realities of this age.” *(PHM Press Release, May 2008)*

> *www.phmovement.org/cms/en/node/588*

**MMI Network Topic: International Health Policy**  
**Petition: “15 by 2015 Quality health care for all”**

“We, the undersigned, call upon all donor organizations to allocate 15% of their budgets for vertical disease oriented programs towards strengthening local horizontal primary health care systems by 2015.” *(Source: Afro-Nets)*
This MMI News Briefing was sent to you by the secretariat of Medicus Mundi International. The next news briefing is scheduled for 27th August 2008 – please send us your eventual contributions until mid-August. 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.”