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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear readers,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you once again for your valuable contribution to the success of the Second Global Forum in Human Resources for Health. I am delighted

that the event brought together more than 1000 leaders and actors for HRH and urge you to carry forward the spirit, messages and momentum generated in Bangkok throughout the coming year.

2011 is a critical year for the Alliance - we are pleased to welcome Dr. Mugitani as Chair of the Alliance. Dr. Mugitani comes to us with many years of experience in the field of global health and, as we begin to shape the strategic directions of the Alliance for 2012 and beyond we look forward to benefitting from his extensive knowledge and insight.

We are also seeking to actively engage our members and partners in developing the future direction of

our work and activities. Together with Merlin, and building on the members' platform held at the Forum, we have launched a survey on the website to solicit feedback from our network of members and partners. I encourage you to respond and help us better understand the actions we need to prioritise. We will continue to follow up on our work in the critical area of maternal and child health and focus efforts around the issue of non-communicable diseases which feature prominently on health and development agendas this year.

The recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan have once again underlined the critical role played by health workers in the delivery of health care, especially during and after emergencies. We must collectively step up our efforts to address persistent health workforce shortages in both developing and developed countries in order to respond to the health needs of people in all countries. We continue to rely on your support and dedication to take the HRH agenda forward.

Dr. Mubashar Sheikh ■

NEWS

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIDWIFERY REPORT - BRIEFING DURING THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The Global Health Workforce Alliance along with several other partners have been collaborating to produce the first-ever report entitled: The State of the World's Midwifery. The report will be launched at the Triennial Congress of the International Confederation of Midwives in June 2011 in Durban, South Africa. Prior to its launch, an initial briefing meeting is scheduled to take place during the World

Health Assembly in Geneva, (May 2011) for Ministers of Health and other senior delegates. The report will be the first of its kind and intends to facilitate midwifery strengthening worldwide. This initiative stems from earlier collaboration at the Symposium on Strengthening Midwifery in Washington DC in June 2010, where the 'Global Call to Action' was issued. ■

CONFERENCES ON NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCD'S)

In the lead up to the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) on 19-20 September 2011, several conferences are being organized on the issue. The first of which is the Global Ministerial Meeting on NCDs and Healthy Lifestyles being convened by the Russian Federation and WHO from 28 - 29 April. It aims to help Member States develop and strengthen policies and programmes on healthy lifestyles and NCD prevention. These efforts are based on the Global strategy for the prevention and control of NCDs and its action plan.

Prior to the Ministerial conference is the WHO Global Forum on NCDs, which will bring together a wide group of stakeholders to share views and experiences to date on



the challenges and opportunities in noncommunicable disease prevention, treatment and control. Participants will identify and commit to priority actions to strengthen global action to prevent and control NCDs. The Alliance has co-authored a paper on HRH and NCDs - which will serve as one of the background papers to the forum and will be taking part in a session on Health Workers and Health Services. For more information, visit: <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/media/events/2011/ncdconference2011/en/index.html>. ■

LIBERIA LAUNCHES AMBITIOUS FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO REDUCE MATERNAL AND NEWBORN DEATHS

The Government of Liberia recently adopted a "road map" to drive the delivery of basic, essential and quality reproductive health care services. Developed by the Government of Liberia with technical and financial support from UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, the five year plan seeks to halve Liberia's high rate of maternal and newborn death. The plan launched in early March calls

for increasing the number of skilled birth attendants at all levels of the health care system by 50 per cent; providing around-the-clock access to quality basic and emergency obstetric and newborn care; strengthening community management of services, and increasing coverage, access to, and utilization of family planning services. ■

WEB BASED PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT OF HEALTH WORKERS

The WHO invites you to contribute to a web-based public hearing on the draft guidelines for monitoring the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel ("the Guidelines"). Whether you are a health worker, recruiter, employer, academic and research institution, health professional organization, and any relevant subregional, regional and international organizations, whether governmental or nongovernmental, please

make your contribution. Input received will be used in revising the current draft of the Guidelines. The web-based public hearing and the draft Guidelines can be accessed at <http://www.who.int/hrh/migrationand>. Contributions of a maximum of 2000 words can be submitted until 17 April 2011 in any of the six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Clarification or queries can be addressed to: Draft_guidelines@who.int. ■

SPANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS SENSITIZED TO INTERNATIONAL HEALTH WORKFORCE MIGRATION

Members of the Spanish and the Catalan All Party Parliamentary Groups on Population, Development and Reproductive Health met in Madrid on 21 March to discuss progress, and further strategies to achieve the objectives as outlined in the Plan of Action of the UN Commission on Population and Development. The Alliance was invited to address and sensitize participants to the health workforce crisis, particularly to the issue of international migration of health workers. The meeting was organized by the Spanish Federation of Family Planning, with support from Alliance member Action for Global Health, UNFPA and IPPF. A Statement will be submitted to the Spanish Government in the lead up to the 44th session of the UN Commission on



Population and Development, to be held in New York, from 11-15 April. ■

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SECOND GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH, 25 - 29 JANUARY, 2011; BANGKOK, THAILAND.

Under the powerful slogan of “*empower health workers for health outcomes*”, the Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health provided an opportunity to reflect on progress, review persisting challenges and identify the necessary actions to take forward the collective agenda of empowering health workers and improving health outcomes. The Forum brought together more than 1000 champions for health and showcased the human face of those involved in the human resources for health crisis. Below are some key highlights of the Forum.

Awards: Acknowledging the commitment and dedication of health workers delivering frontline healthcare services, the Alliance for the first time ever, presented two types of Award at the Forum - *Special Recognition Awards* for Individuals and *Awards for Excellence* for case stories. Daw Nan Than Than Oo, a midwife from Myanmar, and Dr Karamoko Nimaga, from Mali, were named the overall winners for the *Special Recognition Awards* at the Forum’s closing ceremony. Testimonies of health workers were heard alongside the views of senior heads of state and health experts, bringing a human element to all sessions throughout the forum. The *Awards for Excellence* were innovative and sustainable projects were awarded to China, Ethiopia, Nepal, Indonesia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The **Marketplace exhibition** provided an excellent opportunity to showcase 36 case stories and 12 health worker posters, in English and French. The highlight of the exhibition was the ‘*Hall of Fame*’



which displayed 12 nominees shortlisted for the Special Recognition Awards for individual health workers and offered delegates the opportunity to interact with the health workers and learn more about their work and lives. Authors of shortlisted case story representatives also had the opportunity to present their work.

Imagine: The Forum was inaugurated with an Alliance commissioned animation film “Imagine”, which stated the problem, its impact, and the need for all actors to work together to implement solutions in a collaborative and effective message. The animation was a run away success and was much appreciated for its simplicity and compelling manner. It can be viewed and downloaded for distribution from the Alliance Youtube channel - www.youtube.com/user/ghwavidios

Alliance members: It was a unique occasion for the members of the Alliance to come together, for the first time in the history of the Alliance. Two members’ sessions were organized providing a space for members to take ownership of the event’s proceedings; strengthening networks for closer collaboration, and inviting them to play a proactive and synergistic role in implementing the agenda and outcomes emerging from the Forum. These sessions were extremely well received and well attended, with members cherishing the opportunity to be engaged and consulted closely in the development and implementation of its strategies and approaches.



Country Coordination and Facilitation (CCF) meeting:

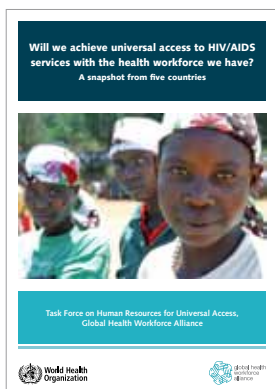
As part of the Alliance's on-going country work of convening national players through a process called CCF - Country Coordination and Facilitation - a session was organised to address a range of issues, with a focus on the significance of the multi-sectoral approach in addressing the health workforce crisis. The ultimate objective was to advocate and promote the CCF process to the countries and partners. The session, represented by different stakeholders including ministers of Health, attracted a large number of participants including senior delegates from the HRH priority countries, partners and donors, wanting to get closer insight about the concepts and principles of the CCF process.

Journalist Fellowship Programme: was designed to give aspiring journalists from HRH priority countries the opportunity to take part in the Forum. Ten selected candidates were trained on media techniques through a mentoring process provided by an experienced journalist. Through print articles, radio broadcasts and social media posts, these young journalists localized the key HRH issues affecting them, and generated country-level public interest. With an opportunity to attend such a high-profile international event and receive training, the journalists left the Forum inspired to use their positions to strengthen their own health workforce and will in turn become valuable partners and advocates for the HRH cause in the coming years.

Outcome statement: the forum culminated with the delegates adopting the forum outcome statement which reiterates the validity of the Kampala Declaration & Agenda for Global Action as the overarching framework for HRH development, and identified the WHO Global Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel as a critical reference point.

Detailed information on all forum activities, including photographs and recorded webcast of sessions, is available on our site at www.who.int/workforcealliance. A more detailed brochure and a report on the Forum will be made available shortly. ■

NEWS FROM THE TASKFORCES AND WORKING GROUPS



Established by the Alliance in 2008, under the leadership of experts from UNAIDS and CDC/USA, the technical working group on Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support has recently published its report - Will we achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS services with the health workforce we

have? A snapshot from five countries. The report shares the evidence-based results from the rapid situational analysis conducted in 5 countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Thailand, and Zambia and describes critical interventions to ensure there are sufficient human resources for health to support the scale up towards universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. The report can be downloaded at <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/about/taskforces/access/en/index.html>. To request a hardcopy, please write to us at ghwa@who.int ■

WELCOMING DR. MUGITANI AS NEW CHAIR OF THE ALLIANCE



The Global Health Workforce Alliance is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Masato Mugitani, as the new Chair of the Alliance Board who took over from Dr. Sigrun Mogedal after the Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health in Bangkok, January 2011.

Dr. Mugitani is a medical doctor with professional and profound experience in global health, pandemic influenza response, cancer policies, medical systems and public health policies at global, regional and national level. He is currently Assistant Minister for Global Health at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan.

The Alliance congratulates Dr. Mugitani on his appointment and looks forward to developing the Alliance's response to the health workforce crisis under his expert guidance. ■

NEW RESOURCES

REVIEW OF GLOBAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

As part of its accountability work on the United Nations' Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and in support of The Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, the Partnership for Maternal and Newborn Child Health (PMNCH) recently released a discussion paper - A review of global accountability mechanisms for women's and children's health. The review concludes that there are significant gaps in accountability mechanisms for **monitoring, review** and **remedy** or **action**, particularly in relation to health information systems in countries, and to the activities of non-

state stakeholders working in the area of women's and children's health (multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors, foundations, healthcare professional healthcare associations, academia etc) who made commitments to the Global Strategy. It affirms that there is an urgent need for monitoring and independent review mechanisms that inform remedial actions for all stakeholders in order to achieve results for women's and children's health. The report is available at: http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/part_publications/20110222_global_accountability_final.pdf. ■

OUT NOW! REVIEWING PROGRESS, RENEWING COMMITMENT - THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE KAMPALA DECLARATION AND AGENDA FOR GLOBAL ACTION

This report, launched at the Second Global Forum on HRH, in Bangkok, represents the first attempt to track progress in implementing the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action, and provides a snapshot of the human resources for health policy and governance situation in the priority countries affected by severe health workforce challenges. The report is available in English and French. To request a copy, please write to us at ghwa@who.int. ■



VOICES



Sarah Brown, former first lady of the UK and Patron of the White Ribbon Alliance spoke of the need for 3.5 million trained health workers, marking 100th Women's Day Celebration in London, on 8 March.

“As we aim also to tackle the great injustice of high maternal mortality and improve child survival and health, we should draw on all that women have to offer and find a way to put more women in to dignified work and simultaneously reach towards a great unmet need. That need is more trained health workers - 3.5 million of them in fact. Here is an opportunity to work towards the laudable U.N. Women goal to create ‘equal access to education, training, and science and technology’. What we need is trained midwives and nurses, and doctors too with specialist skills.” ■

MEMBERS' CORNER

GLOBAL HEALTH WORKFORCE ALLIANCE SURVEY 2011



At the members, sessions at the Second Global forum on Human Resources for Health, Alliance members pledged commitment to be engaged in the processes and the development of future strategies and approaches by the Alliance. To this end, the Alliance

and Merlin have launched a survey for our members to

better understand the priority actions needed, and by whom, to ensure progress on the human resources for health crisis, over the next three years. We encourage you to take the survey before 18 April. Merlin will collate and analyse the responses on behalf the Secretariat, and a report will be made available to all Alliance members shortly after. To take the survey, visit: <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/media/news/2011/ghwasurvey2011/en/index.html>. ■

HEALTHCARE INFORMATION FOR ALL BY 2015: ADDRESSING THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

The inaugural HIFA2015 Conference will take place in London on 9th May 2011. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the launch of HIFA2015. The conference will review the progress made since 2006 and will also look forward to the challenges which lie ahead.

It will bring together HIFA members and supporting organizations, along with external partners. More information and a provisional agenda is available at www.hifa2015.org ■

SURGICAL TRAINING IN EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA – A REGIONAL APPROACH

Alliance members, the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) and the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) supported by Irish Aid are hosting a one day conference on Surgical Training in East, Central And Southern Africa –

A Regional Approach, where the issue of the HRH deficit as it relates to surgery will be focused on in detail. For more information on this and the agenda, please write to communications@rcsi.ie ■

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESSES

We are aware that there are a number of membership applications currently pending due to the suspension of membership services during the Second Global Forum - we apologize for this delay. We are currently working to review and process your application - you will hear from us shortly. For those interested in becoming a member, you can apply online or write to us at ghwa@who.int, where you can also contact us with any questions related to your membership application. We take this opportunity to inform you that as a member you are requested to keep us abreast of the HRH work you are doing - we would love to hear from you, so please do write in to us. ■

WEB UPDATE

NEW RESOURCES ON THE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HRH GLOBAL RESOURCE CENTER

The Alliance has recently added one hundred new resources to the knowledge centre. Launched last year with enhanced browsing facilities, the Alliance Knowledge Centre aims to provide HRH policy makers, researchers, Alliance members and partners and all those working on resolving the HRH crisis with the latest resources related to the crisis in low- and middle-income countries, focusing primarily on the following three categories of resources: High-profile and top-level peer reviewed publications or guidance; documents describing the specific situation of individual HRH priority countries and other relevant documents produced and made available by member organizations of the Alliance.

The Alliance is proud to announce its partnership with the HRH Global Resource Center (GRC). The GRC is a knowledge management service of *CapacityPlus*, a USAID-funded project led by IntraHealth International, both organizations being established partners of the Alliance. The GRC digital library is a comprehensive knowledge gateway centralizing a wide range of resources directly related to HRH issues. It strategically complements the Alliance knowledge centre by providing additional readings on specific thematic areas.

For more information, visit: <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/en/>. ■

REITERATING THE PIVOTAL ROLE PLAYED BY HEALTH WORKERS DURING EMERGENCIES



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“Our hearts go out to all the people in Japan during this difficult time. Today, we are humbled by the forces of nature. The health and well-being of tens of thousands of people in Japan are at risk.” said **Dr Mubashar Sheikh**, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Following the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami on the north east coast of Japan on 11 March, the Global Health Workforce Alliance appealed to all its members and partners to be on standby to provide support to the affected populations, if required.

Especially during times of crisis, countries rely on health workers to provide emergency health services in their communities – caring for those injured or affected by psychological trauma, preventing critical infectious disease outbreaks, while also meeting everyday essential health needs such as chronic disease care, caring for the elderly and maternal and child health services. In Japan, health workers are working around the clock to check for radiation exposure and dealing with radiation-related health consequences. More health workers will also be needed to provide services during the recovery and reconstruction phase.

A doctor from the affected area wrote in to say “Upon seeing our helicopter, hundreds of the injured were rushing out asking for help. But we had to be selective, giving priority to the severe cases. I am afraid that this is only the tip of the iceberg. Many are still waiting for health personnel’s assistance.”

As Japan witnesses this tragedy, the Alliance pledges its support to health workers across the world and calls upon governments and partners to remember the pivotal role played by health workers in the delivery of health care, especially during and after emergencies. ■

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

- Mid-level health providers: a promising resource to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals
- Reviewing Progress, Renewing Commitment – Progress report on the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action (available in English and French)
- Will we achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS services with the health workforce we have? A snapshot from five countries (available in English and French) Report and Literature review
- Country Coordination and Facilitation (CCF) – Principles and Processes (available in English and French)
- Consolidated meetings report - CCF (available in English and French)
- CCF country case studies – Afghanistan, Eritrea, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe (available in English and French)

All the publications are available online at: <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/en/>
To request a hard copy, please write into us at: ghwa@who.int

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 11 – 13 Apr Delivering impact in women and children's health: The challenges and opportunities of service integration, Washington, DC, USA
- 16 – 17 Apr 2011 Global Health & Innovation (Unite for Sight) Connecticut, USA
- 27 Apr WHO Global Forum on NCDs, Moscow, Russia
- 28 – 29 Apr Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and NCDs, Moscow, Russia

May

- 2 – 8 May ICN conference and CNR, Malta
- 6 May Surgical Training in East, Central and Southern Africa – A Regional Approach, London, UK
- 9 May HIFA2015 Conference, London, UK
- 16 – 24 May 64th World Health Assembly and Executive Board, Geneva, Switzerland

June

- 8 – 10 Jun UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS, New York, USA
- 13 – 17 Jun Global Health Council Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA
- 15 Jun 2011 ICN/ICM triennial conference, Durban, South Africa

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This quarterly newsletter has been compiled by the Alliance communications team.

For further information and regular updates, we invite you to visit www.who.int/workforcealliance

To receive our newsletter and other electronic updates please email ghwa@who.int and write "Subscribe to GHWA News" in the subject line.

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