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GEGA ACTIVITIES

Health Equity – Research to Action course

After successfully organizing the course twice in Durban in June and then again in Italy in November 2004, planning is underway to develop the course further for the South Asian Region in 2005. GEGA will be involved in organizing the course together with Independent University of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Health Equity Watch, Canadian International Development Agency, and many other partners in the region. The course entitled 'Equity and Health Systems' is expected to be organized in India in September 2005.

French version of '**The Equity Gauge – Concepts, Principles, and Guidelines**' is now available on the GEGA website at:

http://www.gega.org.za/download/gega_guide_fr.pdf

Going from Bad to worse: Malawi's maternal mortality. This paper presents an analysis of clinical, health systems, and underlying reasons, with recommendations for national and international stakeholders. The paper was commissioned by Task Force 4 of the UN Millennium Project and prepared by GEGA, Malawi Safe Motherhood project, Equi-TB Knowledge Programme, Malawi and Medact. The paper and a summary of the paper is available on GEGA website at www.gega.org.za

GEGA conference report 2004 is now available on the GEGA website:

http://www.gega.org.za/download/equityconf_0604.pdf

The **Ouagadougou Equity Gauge** is involved in developing a Masters in Population and Health for the Francophone African Region. The Masters is expected to start in October 2005 with 15-20 people from at least 10-12 countries of the region. The development of the curriculum is under way and the training for facilitators of the programme will start soon. The Gauge is also looking into the possibility of integrating GEGA's Health Equity: Research to Action course into various modules of the Masters programme.

People's Health Assembly 2, July 18-23 2005 Cuenca, Ecuador.

Who can participate?

Priority will be given to delegates from organisations and committees that work in the area of health and health-related problems at the local, national, regional, and world level.

How can people participate in the preparations for the Assembly?

- Contribute to the various campaigns in support of health and the wellbeing of all people,
- Organize local, national, and regional meetings in coordination with facilitators of the Movement in their respective country or region,
- Participate in the fact-finding process, in the compilation of testimonials, life stories, case studies, and in the preparation of debate documents,
- Promote unity, resistance to past practices, and coordination between the various groups working for the health and wellbeing of all people,
- Motivate communities and individuals to investigate thoroughly the basic causes of their own health situation so that a process of assessment, analysis and action can begin.

For details on how to submit Stories and Testimonies go to:

<http://www.iphcglobal.org/pha2.htm>. **Deadline March 31st 2005**

PUBLICATIONS

Public health, ethics, and equity

“In the last fifty years, average overall health status has increased more or less in parallel with a much celebrated decline in mortality, attributed mostly to poverty reduction, sanitation, nutrition, housing, immunization, and improved medical care. It is becoming increasingly clear, however, that these achievements were not equally distributed. In most countries, while some social groups have benefited significantly, the situation of others has stagnated or may even have worsened.

These are some of the important questions that this book addresses in building an interdisciplinary understanding of health equity. With contributions from distinguished philosophers, anthropologists, economists, and public-health specialists, it centres on five major themes: what is health equity? health equity and social justice; responsibilities for health; ethical issues in health evaluation; and anthropological perspectives.”

For contents and ordering information go to: <http://www.oup.co.uk/isbn/0-19-927636-6>

Improving Impacts of Research Partnerships

Daniel Maselli, Jon-Andri Lys, Jacqueline Schmid
**Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries,
KFPE**
ISBN 3-906151-83-2 - 2004

Available online as PDF file [86p.] at:
http://www.kfpe.ch/download/KFPE_ImpactStudy-final.pdf

“....Research is a widely applied instrument for harnessing knowledge and providing insight into complex development issues. It helps in generating options for policy, management and action, and in empowering people and organizations in developing and transition countries, as well as industrialised countries. Ultimately this should make it easier to cope with the challenges of sustainable development under increasingly difficult circumstances. Research for development is therefore frequently placed in an application oriented context, in which concepts like inter and transdisciplinary research, equity, ownership, participation, etc. are widely accepted, but are not always put into practice. Research partnerships of various types and intensities, involving research institutions in industrialised and developing or transition countries, are important means for contributing to knowledge generation and capacity building.

3rd Forum on Human Development “Cultural Identity, democracy and global equity”

Paris, 17-19 January, 2005

Organized by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Human Development Report Office

The papers and speeches are available at website:
<http://hdr.undp.org/events/forum2005/about.cfm>

”.....The dynamics of globalization, the increasing flows of commodities, capital, services, information and cultural goods as well as the accelerated migration of people, are rapidly changing the make up of societies. Some will benefit hugely from these changes while others will be unable to or even fall further behind. Inequalities will continue to widen and identity-related demands will get stronger. International and national governance of economic, political and social systems must adapt to this new reality of the 21st century.

In this context, government action is necessary and urgent. New approaches to governance need to be invented if we are to achieve progress in human

development overall or at least in terms of extreme poverty as measured by the Millennium Development Goals.

This third Forum promoted viable responses to the challenges of human development today and offering governments strategies for meeting their commitments as signatories to the Millennium Declaration of 2000.”

HELSINKI PROCESS REPORTS - 2005

Website: <http://www.helsinki.fi>

The Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy has released three reports:

Global problem solving:

GOVERNING GLOBALIZATION– GLOBALIZING GOVERNANCE - NEW APPROACHES TO GLOBAL PROBLEM SOLVING

Report of the Helsinki Process on Globalization and Democracy Track on “New Approaches to Global Problem Solving”

<http://www.helsinki.fi/netcomm/ImgLib/24/89/Track1.pdf>

“...The Helsinki Process Track on “New Approaches to Global Problem Solving” has examined why the current instruments of global governance are not producing satisfactory progress in solving global problems. International decision making is too exclusively focused on governments and remains disproportionately concentrated in the G-7 countries.

Financing for Development:

<http://www.helsinki.fi/netcomm/ImgLib/24/89/Track2.pdf>

“ The drivers of transformational change consist of value components and instrumental elements. The value component has to do with the power of common aspirations and ethical principles to bind actors to common purposes. The instrumental component provides incentives for individual, institutional and corporate efforts to improve productivity growth, jobs, incomes and resources available for realizing human aspirations and specific goals for human security as well as for enhancing the capacity and dignity of the individual....”

Human security:

<http://www.helsinki.fi/netcomm/ImgLib/24/89/Track3.pdf>

“....The Human Security Track of the Helsinki Process calls for a new commitment of political energy, and practical reforms of policy and action, to correct these human security failures. Human security consists of physical safety, and of economic well-being, social inclusion, and the full exercise of human rights.

TRAINING:

Advanced Short Course on Health Sector Reform and Financing 15 - 26 August 2005 at the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam (KIT)

Website:

http://www.kit.nl/development/html/health_sector_reform_and_finan.asp

“.....Health systems in countries all over the world are facing challenges in order to meet the increasing needs and demands of their citizens. Sector reforms are being introduced in the institutional organization of health systems – decentralization, involvement of the private sector, redefinition of the core role of Ministries of Health - and in the financing options for health systems – user fees, social insurance and community financing. All these reforms involve new modalities of planning and implementation, new types of partnerships and co-operation and they may require innovative thinking about mandates and core functions.

The aim of the short course is to assist participants in understanding the context and scope of the current reforms and financing options going on in the health sector of developing countries.

Prerequisites

Participants should have:

- **A postgraduate degree in public health or international health at the diploma or MSc level or an equivalent degree**
- At least 3 years of professional experience, preferably working or going to work at the national level in a developing country on topics mentioned above
- English competency (TOEFL paper-based test: 550, computer-based test: 213 or IELTS academic version: 6.0)

Application

An application form is attached and may be forwarded electronically to healthtraining@kit.nl or by hard copy to the address below.

Applications for the 2005 course are due no later than June 15, 2005.

Contact Information:

Course secretariat: healthtraining@kit.nl
Address: Health Training KIT PO Box 95001, NL 1090 HA
Amsterdam
Tel.: 31-20-568 8237

ADVANCED HEALTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

Innovative Executive Program on Health Policy and Health Systems Change
Applications due March 30, 2005

Part I: Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain
July 15-22, 2005 (right after the iHEA meeting)

Part II: University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco, California
January 6-13, 2006

Description for upcoming program, July 2005-January 2006:

A 14-day earned certificate program in which renowned senior faculty and policy leaders from key international and national organizations interact with high-level participants re: evidenced-based solutions to key policy and management issues. Participants grapple in a practical manner with the issues and options that have been converging internationally.

Who should attend?

Senior executives of nations: health ministers or senior policy leaders, legislators and regulators
Senior executives of organizations (e.g. World Bank, OECD, PAHO, policy research organizations) or enterprises (e.g. insurance, pharmaceutical, health care delivery, health care devices, care management)

For more information including an application, see our website at:

www.ahlf.upf.es or email Meg Kellogg at ahlf@berkeley.edu. Apply by March 30, 2005. Scholarships may be available.

CONFERENCES:

The Global Forum for Health Research announces a **call for abstracts** of presentations for its 2005 annual meeting

Forum 9, Mumbai, India, from 12 to 16 September 2005

Theme: Poverty, equity and health research

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 31 March 2005.

Website at www.globalforumhealth.org/forum%209/001_programme.php

“... Abstracts will orient the debate to research needs and gaps and to policy options based on evidence. In addition, successful abstracts will be consistent with the theme of the meeting: "Poverty, Equity and Health Research" and with the intention this year to highlight research to reduce inequities in health and health research through effective action on the social determinants of health....”

**5th International Conference on the Capability Approach
*Knowledge and Public Action: Education, Responsibility, Collective Agency, Equity***

11-14 September 2005, UNESCO, Paris, France

Conference web site: <http://www.hd-ca.org/conference>

The Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA) will organise the 5th annual Conference on the Capability Approach next September 2005 in Paris and Versailles, France

The special theme of this year conference is ***Knowledge and Public Action***. It includes four research directions, on which participants are encouraged to submit papers.

1. Quality Education.

2. Responsibility as Source of Freedom

3. Collective Agency, Personal Capabilities, Institutions

4. Public Action and Sharing with

The **deadline** for the submission of a paper proposal is the **1st April 2005**. All proposals will be reviewed by the Conference Scientific Committee and notice of acceptance of the papers will be sent by early May 2005. Then the full papers are expected on the **1st July 2005**.

For any further information, please contact:

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Information provided in this newsletter is taken from a variety of sources including websites and listserves like Equidad list, Health Equity Network list, spirit of 1848 list, and iHEA News.