

Year 7

Issue 1



# AAAHH Newsletter

*Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health*

## A Message from our New Chair

The AAAH steering committee have appointed Professor Dr Shiv Chandra Mathur as our new Chair to serve from January 2013 to December 2014. He has this message for our members:



Esteemed Colleagues,

The Asia-Pacific region holds the majority of the world's population. In the last fifty years, almost all countries in the region have made extensive changes in their health systems. Challenge for achieving Millennium Development Goals and aligning their health systems to post-2015 agenda now demands that each country further enhances the capacity of their health systems. This entails filling the quantitative gaps on one hand, and improving the quality of health care providers on the other. Eventually the curricula and educational methods in foundation as well as in-service trainings of health professionals need critiquing and change for improvement.

AAAHH is striving hard to collect and disseminate the success stories in the region and beyond. At this juncture, may we call upon all the stakeholders to help us in carrying forward our efforts through operational research and networking with agencies working on similar mandates around the world. We wish to involve ourselves increasingly on the global agenda of health professionals and the key challenges policy makers are facing. This would ensure that health care systems have sufficient workforce capacity to deliver services that effectively improve health of the people in this region.

I am sure that each and every one of you will come forward and contribute in your capacity in strengthening AAAHH. This in turn would help strengthen the health care delivery systems of each member country. Let us rise to the grand challenge!

**Shiv Chandra Mathur**



True success is not in the learning  
but in its application to the benefit of mankind.  
1931 Prince Mahidol of Siam

## Prince Mahidol Award Conference: Call for Papers

**The Prince Mahidol Award Conference Secretariat has announced a Call for Abstracts/Organized Session for the Prince Mahidol Award Conference 2014 "TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING FOR HEALTH EQUITY".**

**Follow the link here for more information:**

**[www.pmaconference.mahidol.ac.th/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=907](http://www.pmaconference.mahidol.ac.th/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=907)**

**Should you have any inquiries regarding the Call for Abstract/Organized Session, please contact the Secretariat at [pmaconference@mahidol.ac.th](mailto:pmaconference@mahidol.ac.th)**

## New members of the AAAH Steering Committee

**Ms Natalie Paholyotin –  
The Rockefeller Foundation**

Natalie Phaholyothin joined in the Rockefeller Foundation in 2009 and oversees the health portfolio in the Foundation's Asia Regional Office. The Rockefeller Foundation's current health focus is on health systems strengthening and universal health coverage.

In addition to the health program, Natalie is also supporting the Research team in NY to oversee the trend monitoring work of its Asia based grantee as well as providing critical grant management to the Asia Regional Office. Previously, Natalie has worked at UNDP in Lao PDR and Honduras, and at Education Development Center (EDC) overseeing corporate social responsibility programs for Hewlett Packard and Deutsche Bank.



Natalie graduated from Brown University in Economics and also holds a MPhil in Political Sciences from L'Institut d'études politiques de Paris (SciencesPo) as well as a MA in Economics from SUNY at Albany.

## New members of the AAAH Steering Committee (continued)



**Mr Naoyuki Kobayashi —  
Representative for the Japan International  
Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

"Mr. Naoyuki Kobayashi is a deputy director-general for the Human Development Department at JICA, promoting the official development assistance of Japan in the health sector for the Asia-Pacific and Latin American regions."

### **Professor Keat Phuong — Representative for Cambodia**

Professor Keat Phuong is currently the Director of Human Resource Development at the Ministry of Health. She received her Diploma of Pharmacy from the University of Health Sciences in 1983 and her Master of Public Health degree from Boston University in the USA in 1998. Madame Phuong has been in a variety of positions at the Ministry of Health including Staff at the Department of Drug, Head of Technical Bureau of the National TB Center, and Director of the Human Resource Development Department. She has been in her current role as the Director of Human Resource Development at the Ministry of Health since 1998.



Her vision in the Director position includes promoting gender and human rights and supporting capacity building and organizational development for health care in Cambodia. She was appointed as Focal Person for the AAAH and has been attended in most of the AAAH Conferences.

## Human resources for universal health coverage: a call for papers

**Mubashar Sheikh, Ties Boerma, Giorgio Cometto, & Robbert Duvivier**

An adequate, performing health workforce is vital for improving health service coverage and health outcomes. Yet the availability, distribution, capacity and performance of human resources for health (HRH) varies widely and many countries have fewer health workers than needed for high coverage of essential health services, according to the *World health report 2006*. Signs of progress are emerging, though; several countries are successfully addressing their problems in the area of HRH, resulting in improvements in health outcomes. [...]

Universal Health Care (UHC) was defined by the World Health organization in 2005. Since then it has gained increased recognition as a framework for embracing various global health priorities. New evidence, policy options and advocacy in support of the progressive achievement of UHC have been the focus of the *World health report: health systems financing* and of numerous global health events. [...]

As health systems progressively broaden their scope to cover non-communicable diseases and other priorities, health workers will face new demands for more comprehensive and equitable service delivery. The challenge lies in addressing past and present gaps while simultaneously anticipating future actions to strengthen the health workforce as an integral part of health systems.

The HRH needs demand renewed attention, strategic intelligence and action. Gaps in health worker distribution, competency, quality, motivation and performance need to be addressed in addition to sheer numbers. Fundamental changes in the way in which health workers are trained, managed, regulated and supported and in the role of the public sector in shaping labour market forces will be necessary.

Against this background, the *Bulletin* will publish a theme issue on HRH and universal health coverage to provide an opportunity to identify the changes in HRH investment, production, deployment and retention required to achieve UHC. Its publication will coincide with the Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, to be held in Recife, Brazil, on 10–13 November 2013.

The Third Global Forum is convened by the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) – [...] it will provide an opportunity to update the HRH agenda, to make it more relevant to the current global health policy discourse, including the focus on achieving the health MDGs, the objective of UHC and the emerging debate on the post-2015 agenda. [...]

The Third Global Forum's programme will position health workforce development as a critical requirement for effective UHC and will be designed around one overarching theme – “human resources for health: foundation for universal health coverage and the post-2015 development agenda” – as well as five sub-themes and their corresponding tracks: (i) leadership, partnerships and accountability for HRH development; (ii) impact-driven HRH investments towards UHC; (iii) a supportive HRH legal and regulatory landscape for UHC; (iv) empowerment of health workers by overcoming policy, social and cultural barriers; (v) the harnessing of HRH innovation and research through new management models and technologies.

To provide a solid evidence base and background to the Third Global Forum's proceedings, the theme issue will feature commissioned as well as independently submitted articles that will set the scene for and generate innovative thinking on HRH for UHC. GHWA and WHO welcome contributions on the Forum's general theme, five sub-themes and tracks, especially those emphasizing aspects of HRH directly related to achieving UHC. Submission of relevant country experiences is particularly encouraged. The deadline for submissions is 10 March 2013. Manuscripts should respect the *Bulletin's* Guidelines for contributors (available at: <http://submit.bwho.org>) and mention this call for papers in the cover letter. All submissions will be reviewed by peers.

**View this full document here:** <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/91/2/13-117200/en/index.html>



## Human Resources for Health News

### News

#### **The success of rural recruitment of medical students in the Philippines.**

This article sets out the experience of a clinic in Tanauan on Leyte island in the Philippines.

Read more: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21123212>

#### **'Medical fees rise as brain drain shrinks'**

The Thai government is increasing medical fees, and salaries, in the hope that it will stem the ongoing brain drain from public to private hospitals.

Read more: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/334662/medical-fees-rise-as-brain-drain-shrinks>

#### **Advancing Human Resources for Health in India**

The People for Health Project is an initiative to strengthen HRH in India by engaging civil society organisations to support national health workforce policies, strategies, capacity building and skill transfer. Learn more in the attached document.

Read more: <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public-governance-civilsociety/document/people-health-project-advancing-human-resources-health-india>

**Research—** Follow the links for some of the latest HRH related research

#### **Projecting Thailand physician supplies between 2012 and 2030: application of cohort approaches**

<http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/11/1/3/abstract>

#### **HIV and human resources challenges in Papua New Guinea**

[http://www.hrhub.unsw.edu.au/HRHweb.nsf/resources/27\\_HIV\\_PNG\\_policy+brief\\_FINAL.pdf/\\$file/27\\_HIV\\_PNG\\_policy+brief\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.hrhub.unsw.edu.au/HRHweb.nsf/resources/27_HIV_PNG_policy+brief_FINAL.pdf/$file/27_HIV_PNG_policy+brief_FINAL.pdf)

#### **What Is the Role of Informal Healthcare Providers in Developing Countries? A Systematic Review**

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0054978>

## Conference Alert.

Topic	Evaluation of the Medical Education: Present and the Future - Asian Medical Education Association
Date	June 9th 2013 –June 12th 2013
Venue	Health Sciences University of Mongolia—Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Website	<a href="http://amea2013.hsum-ac.mn/">http://amea2013.hsum-ac.mn/</a>
Topic	1st Annual Worldwide Nursing Conference
Date	July 8th— July 9th 2013
Venue	Hotel Fort Canning , Singapore
Website	<a href="http://www.nursing-conf.org">www.nursing-conf.org</a>
Topic	2nd Annual Global Healthcare Conference (GHC 2013)
Date	July 8th 2013—July 9th 2013
Venue	Hotel Fort Canning , Singapore
Website	<a href="http://www.globalhc-conf.org/index.html">http://www.globalhc-conf.org/index.html</a>

### A Message from the AAAH Secretariat

The Secretariat are pleased to welcome the new members of the AAAH Steering Committee and our new Chair Prof. Shiv Mathur.

With no conference this year, 2013 is a real chance to move on AAAH's research.

We look forward to working with all our new colleagues and carrying out the vision put forward by our new Chair.

### Secretariat Team

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*“Strengthened HRH planning and management capacity toward adequate, equitable, efficient and effective HRH and health systems for health equity and quality improvement in the Asia-Pacific region”*

