

Year 6

Issue 2



# AAAHH Newsletter

*Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resource for Health*

## AAAHH Research Workshop 18-19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Siam City Hotel, Bangkok

On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of April researchers from nine AAAH member countries came together for a workshop to draft common protocols for two research themes. These were **'The Emerging role of Private Health Professional Schools in the Asia Pacific Region'** and **'The Assessment of Rural Retention Policies in the Asia Pacific Region'**.



The workshop was opened by Dr. Viroj Tangcharoensathien on behalf of the AAAH Secretariat. He stressed that this workshop, AAAH's first intersession activity, provided an opportunity to build research capacity in member states, and produce valuable data that can help build our understanding of human resources for health issues in this region.

A total of 32 expressions of interest were submitted prior to the workshop and external reviewers selected six teams for each of the two themes.

On the topic of private health professional schools the selected research teams were represented as follows: Mr. Mohammad Nuruzzaman came the JP Grant School from Bangladesh, Dr. Augustine Asante represented the Indonesian team, Dr. Evlegsuren Ser-Od came from Mongolia's Ministry of Health, Dr. Susie Perera came on behalf of the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health team, the Thai team was able to send six representatives: Dr. Krisada Sawaengdee, Assistant Professor Dr. Saovaluck Jirathummakon, Ms. Arunrat Kthanthar, Ms. Thanyarat Ongmekiat, Dr. Nantiya Watthayu and Dr. Jaratdao Renolds, and the Vietnamese team from the Hanoi School of Public Health was represented by Assistant Professor Le Cu Linh.

Observers, Ms. Rachel Amiya, a PhD candidate from The University of Tokyo, and Ms. Noppakun Thammatacharee, from Thailand's International Health Policy Programme, also contributed to this theme.

Six teams were chosen to conduct research on the topic of rural retention policies. Unfortunately the Bangladeshi team was not able to send a representative.



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The representatives of the teams who were able to attend were Dr Ji Xu from China's Ministry of Health, Dr. Khampasong Theppanya from the government of Lao, Dr Pyei Phyo from Myanmar's Department of Medical Science, Dr. Thushara Ranasinghe from the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, and Dr. Khuong Anh Tuan from Vietnam's Health Strategy and Policy Institute. This session was joined by three

observers: Dr. Budihardja Singgih from SEARO, Ms. Akawa Maki from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Ms. Suzana Mariyam from Thailand's International Health Policy Program.

The AAAH Secretariat provided technical support, and AAAH partners and resource persons, Dr Tim Evans, Professor Rohan Jayasuriya, and Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert provided support in the drafting of the common protocols.

Over the two days researchers worked to find shared objectives and methodologies that they could usefully apply to their own country contexts. By the conclusion of the workshop two detailed and well formed common protocols had been crafted, and now researchers will work to add detail relating to their own in-country situations.

There is currently no funding support for these proposals but with a rigorous internal and external review process in place it is hoped that funding will be forthcoming for proposals of a good standard.

We look forward to the AAAH conference in Cox's Bazar this December when we will receive preliminary reports on the progress made in these exciting research projects.

## Global Pharmacy Support Workforce Review for Non-Pharmacist Roles.

The University of Canberra, Australia, are conducting a Global Pharmacy Support Workforce Review for Non-Pharmacist Roles.

This research project is being conducted by Katie Doherty under the supervision of Assistant Professor Andrew Brown as a project with the International Pharmacy Federation- Pharmacy Education Taskforce.

This survey will examine the size and variety of roles in the Pharmacy Support Workforce, including the expected responsibilities, education/training requirements, accreditation and registration.

You can provide vital input to inform the future planning requirements needed to ensure an effective international workforce.

To gain access to the survey, please click on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/pharmacysupportworkforcereview>



## Human Resources for Health News

Read some of the latest HRH news from around the world. Follow the links to find out more.

- **Kenyan Strikes—Staff Retention**

Public Health workers in Kenya have ended a strike, over pay and conditions, which had paralysed public health care. Workers complained that decades of under-investment in healthcare had left public services so poor that sometimes three patients must share a bed, and doctors and nurses must work without basic equipment like gloves or surgical masks. Women deliver babies on the floor. A deal was reached after the government promised to address the workers' demand for pay raises in July, and withdrew a threat to fire 25,000 of the reported 40,000 striking members of the union.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/16/world/africa/kenya-health-workers-end-strike.html>

- **China—Ties up UK—Staff Training**

On the fortieth anniversary of full diplomatic relations between the UK and China, the Chinese ambassador to London, Liu Xiaomin, announced that "As China is implementing its 12th five-year plan and Britain unveils its growth stimulus plans, new opportunities for economic cooperation between the two countries are emerging". Two of the key areas identified for China to learn from the UK, were medical treatment and public health.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-03/13/content\\_14823175.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-03/13/content_14823175.htm)

### Human Resources for Health Research

- **'A Survey of Sub-Saharan African Medical Schools' - Corresponding author: Candice Chen**

This study seeks to improve understanding of the challenges faced in Sub-Saharan Africa by expanding the baseline data on medical schools in the region. The researchers distributed surveys to 146 medical schools in 40 of the 48 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Read more via the link:

<http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/10/1/4>

- **'Why do health workers in rural Tanzania prefer public sector employment?' - Lead Author Nils Gunnar Songstad**

This qualitative study aims to produce evidence to contribute to debates on health sector management in low-income contexts. Read the details via the link below:

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-6963-12-92.pdf>

## Call for Abstracts - For the 7th AAAH Annual Conference

The Asia-Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAH) is organizing the 7<sup>th</sup> AAAH conference in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2012.

The conference aims to serve as a regional platform for countries in the Asia Pacific region to learn and share their experiences with each other.

### **PARTICIPATION**

The participants will be drawn from the 16 AAAH member countries, as well as from other countries, particularly those within Asia. It is anticipated that around 200 participants will attend the conference, representing various interest groups such as Health Ministries, professionals, academia, government organizations, non government organizations, and the private sector.

### **CONFERENCE THEME**

This year's theme is 'Leadership Development for Health System Strengthening: A focus on Human Resources for Health'.

### **SUB-THEMES**

- Leadership Development for HRH Policy
- Strengthening HRH Information Systems and Evidence
- Monitoring and Evaluation of In-Country HRH Planning and Implementation
- Public – Private Partnerships on HRH Education and Regional Labor Market
- Community involvement in HRH development
- Managing Financing of HRH

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Abstracts should be of not more than 300 words and should follow one of the following formats:

**Format A: Case Study** (Structured Abstract: Must include objective, methods, results, conclusion(s), and policy implications)

**Format B: Research Study** (Abstract: Must include objective, methods, results, conclusion(s), and policy implications)

### **DATES FOR SUBMISSION**

Final deadline for abstract submission: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012

Announcement of results: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

To learn more about the sub themes for this year's conference visit the new conference website here: <http://www.aaah-conference.org/12/article/theme-and-sub-themes>

## New AAAH Conference Website

Check out the new AAAH Conference Website: <http://www.aaah-conference.org/>

**The Call for Abstracts** for the 2012 conference has gone out and this year you can submit your abstract online.

The final date for the submission of abstracts is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> of July.

The results of the abstract selection will be announced on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of August.



General Information   Theme and Sub-themes   Abstract submission   Registration   User Account   AAAH Home   Enquiries

 **AAAH Conference 2012**  
5-7 December 2012, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

**General Information**

**Programme**

The conference will be held from Wednesday the 5th of December until Friday the 7th of December. The daily sessions will start from 9.00am and run until around 5.00pm.

**Theme**

The theme of this year's conference is **"Leadership development for health system strengthening: A focus on Human Resources for Health"**. For more details on the theme and sub-themes please follow the link below:

[Theme and Sub-Themes](#)

**Call for Abstracts**

Abstracts can be submitted via [this link](#). If you wish to submit an abstract then you must create a user account, this can be done [here](#).

The final date for submission of abstracts is Tuesday 31st of July. The results of the abstract selection will be announced on Friday 31st of August.

**Registration**

**Theme and Sub-Themes**

**"Leadership development for health system strengthening: A focus on Human Resources for Health"**

An effective health system leads to better health outcomes for the population and country progress towards its development goals. However, one of the major constraints to achieving a well functioning health system is a lack of leadership in building up sound Human Resources for Health (HRH): a core but neglected health system component. The 7<sup>th</sup> AAAH Annual Conference aims to identify this knowledge gap by serving as a regional platform for countries in the Asia Pacific region to learn and share their experience with each other. This session will provide an overview of the conference and stimulate debate and discussion among participants to make the forthcoming sessions productive and fruitful.

[Read more](#)

**Abstract submission**

To submit your abstract, please click [here](#).

**Registration** for the conference will open on Friday 1st of June.

Early Bird (Discounted) Registration will be available until Sunday 16th of September.

Standard Registration will close on Wednesday 31st of October.

## Your contributions:

We want to get readers of the AAAH newsletter more involved in providing comment and content; as a result we are going to start asking for discussion topics to feature in upcoming editions. Our topic for the next edition is: **Open Borders and Closed Professions**, our question is:

What Human Resources for Health issues do you think will arise as a result of the removal of visa controls and freedom of movement for workers, under the ASEAN Economic Community ?

Please email your thoughts, contributions, and suggestions for future questions to [secretariat@aaahrh.org](mailto:secretariat@aaahrh.org) with the title 'Newsletter' in the subject line.

## Conference Alert!

<b>Topic</b>	NETNEP 2012 - the 4th International Nurse Education Conference
<b>Date</b>	17-20 June 2012,
<b>Venue</b>	Baltimore, USA
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.netnep-conference.elsevier.com/">http://www.netnep-conference.elsevier.com/</a>
<b>Topic</b>	NET 2012 International Networking for Healthcare Education Conference
<b>Date</b>	4–6 September 2012
<b>Venue</b>	Cambridge, United Kingdom
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.jillrogersassociates.co.uk/net-conference-home.html">http://www.jillrogersassociates.co.uk/net-conference-home.html</a>
<b>Topic</b>	Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research
<b>Date</b>	31 October- 3 November 2012
<b>Venue</b>	Beijing,, People's Republic of China
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.hsr-symposium.org/">http://www.hsr-symposium.org/</a>

### A Message from the AAAH Secretariat

In this Year 6 Issue 2, the AAAH Secretariat wish to send our best wishes for the full recovery of our colleague, the AAAH Focal point for Bangladesh, Dr. Khaled Shamsul Islam.

His road traffic accident, and the excellent care he received, brought it home to us all how important it is to continue working to ensure that everyone in this region can receive such good care, and the medical staff who work so hard can get the rewards they deserve.

We are very thankful that Dr. Islam is now recovering and we send all our best wishes for his full recovery as soon as possible.

### Secretariat Team

Dr Weerasak Putthasri  
 Dr Rapeepong Suphanchaimas  
 Dr Thunthita Wisaijohn  
 Mr Tanavij Pannoi  
 Ms Kanang Kantamaturapoj  
 Mr Alex Dalliston  
 Ms Kanokwan Junmon

### Address

International Health Policy Program (IHPP)  
 Ministry of Public Health, Sataranasuk 6  
 Tiwanon , Muang Nonthaburi, 11000 Thailand

E-mail: [secretariat@aaahrh.org](mailto:secretariat@aaahrh.org)

Webpage: <http://www.aaahrh.org>

***“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”***

