

World Federation of Public Health Associations
42 Annual Meeting Minutes
18 May 2008
Hotel Warwick
Geneva, Switzerland

1.0 Opening of the Session

1.1 Remarks by the President, *Dr. SM Asib Nasim*

1.2 Roll Call

President Nasim opened the meeting, welcoming all new participants and encouraging future participation. He dedicated the meeting to Dr. Allen Jones. He asked the assembly to honor Dr. Jones' past leadership as Secretary General of the WFPHA with one minute of silence.

All full reports provided by committee chairs will be available at http://www.wfpha.org/2008_geneva/pg_news_genevaagenda2008.htm.

2.0 Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda Adopted

3.0 Adoption of the Minutes of the 41st Annual Meeting

Adopted

4.0 Review of the Year's Activities

4.1 Annual Activity Reports of Member Associations, *Dr. Ulrich Laaser*

Ulrich Laaser summarized the annual reports of the member associations. WFPHA published a general format for more standardized reporting in the January 2007 issue of the Federation's Pages in the Journal for Public Health Policy. Only eighteen associations reported, which highlighted the inconsistent and limited participation of members. The Secretariat, with the help of the EB, needs to intensify contacts with member associations. In this regard, Laaser suggested developing a telephone call schedule to reach out to each association. The report reflected information to similar to that found in last year's report. The Federation represents approximately 200,000 professionals in associations around the world, with potential for incorporating many more associations into the WFPHA. The associations' activities include publications, websites, projects and planned activities. In order to produce an analysis of the situation for member associations, the reports must be compatible and written according to template provided. The Secretariat should promote the standardized format and encourage members to use it when reporting. Good examples of reporting are from India, Finland, and South Africa offer good model examples of reporting.

Members highlight the need for help securing financial support, as well as technical support through twinning programs. The report also showed the need to initiate new partnerships and to support the development of new public health associations in countries not represented in the WFPHA. Great potential exists for developing new membership. Over 200 member states are represented in the WHO and the WFPHA has incorporated only 73 members from this group; therefore, great potential exists for expanding the membership of the Federation. Finally, the regional PHA network remains an important avenue for strengthening the membership.

4.2 Annual Report of the President, *Dr. SM Asib Nasim*

Dr. Asib Nasim expressed gratitude to the WFPHA for allowing him to serve as President. He said that this past year has been a golden year for global public health and highlighted some key issues, including: the support of the MDGs by the associations, global consensus for priorities on human development; medical and technological advances; and sharing health education. Public health is at the heart of world development goals. Health for All can be a reality as health issues are commanding the support and interest of world leaders. The Federation must embrace the importance of strengthening PHAs and organizations, as well as understanding and reaching consensus on critical issues of governance. The strategic plan is necessary to deepen and broaden organizational capacity, as this roadmap will guide and support future activities. Finally, the Federation cultivated broad based partnerships over the course of the past year with important stakeholders like WHO and Avicenna, the global directory of public health associations. Additionally, Pfizer provided money for the infrastructure of the Federation

Some unfinished agenda items from his term still require action.

- The Federation needs to develop policies to promote the basic values of public health.
- The roles and responsibilities for the EB need to be defined in the EB manual.
- The Federation should develop more formal communications with members, as well as support sustainable offices linked to the Secretariat.
- The leaders must agree to decision-making processes and work to create a strategic fundraising campaign. Finally, the Federation should define the functional responsibility of the WHO officer.

President Nasim encouraged the leadership and members to communicate in a harmonious and peaceful manner. Some of the exchanges over the past year did not reflect respectful and professional communication strategies and he condemned such actions. He asked everyone to conduct correspondence in a collegial manner in order to work for the betterment of public health.

He concluded by welcoming incoming President Paulo Buss and thanked all of those who worked on behalf of the Federation during his term.

4.3 Annual Report of the Secretary General. *Dr. Barbara Hatcher*

Dr. Barbara Hatcher thanked Dr. Nasim for his time and commitment to this organization. Most of the recommendations from her report are covered in other areas during the business meeting, but she highlighted two important items. First, she expressed that the Secretariat staff felt that it is their privilege to organize and support the organization. Second, the Secretariat published two key documents: the WFPHA Annual Report and a Declarations Brochure, which translated the declarations from Rio, Brighton and Beijing into five languages (English, Spanish, French, Turkish, and Chinese). Both are located on the website in PDF format. The Secretariat printed a limited number of copies of the WFPHA Annual Report, as well as a bookmark to advertise the declarations. She asked everyone to share comments to help improve the documents, as well as future publications.

4.4 Annual Financial Report of the Treasurer, *Ms. Joan Bell Davenport*

Joan Bell Davenport, WFPHA Treasurer, reported on the Federation's financial situation in the past year. The collection of dues in 2007 was very limited. From the current membership, 43 member associations pay annual dues and of these, 10 associations are exempted. She gave an overview and explanations of some of the monies, noting that grant money is earmarked: Colgate covers the salary of WFPHA staff at the Washington Secretariat and the Rockefeller money covers projects. Transfers of funds from the Geneva help run the Washington, D.C. Office. The amount of support from APHA is also included on the financial report.

Ulrich Laaser thanked Joan for her work and raised several key points. He asked that board members receive the report in advance of the meeting to have time to analyze figures. The several big blocks of dollars should be subdivided into smaller line items. He requested a separate account and justification of money is spent for projects.

Theo Abelin questioned the Secretariat about the old relationship with Colgate Palmolive because it first allowed the Federation to have support for an assistant position in the office. A year ago, the relationship was discontinued, but he learned that the International Health Section of APHA has new program/renewed program with Colgate Palmolive that includes grants for several Federation countries. He asked the Secretariat to provide more information about the Colgate grants at APHA

Barbara Hatcher clarified the two sources of funding from Colgate in response to this question. When WFPHA first received the grants, one source was appropriated to APHA and the second source to WFPHA. When the Federation's Colgate contact, Diana Grina, left, Colgate restructured and she has not been able to reestablish the same link with WFPHA/APHA due to the elimination of Ms. Grina's position. The Secretariat is continuing to try to figure out how to re-establish that link. The International Health section grants came out of money to APHA, funding the APHA Maternal Child Health Institutes and research grants managed by International Health section.

Next, Barbara Hatcher clarified the income of the WFPHA. Approximately 3.4% came from member association dues, 32% came from the past Congress income from Brazil, 65% from grants that Secretariat received on behalf of the Federation. All new activities now come from those grants. The expenditures portion of the report reflects the grant money raised this year. For example, \$40,000 for a position with benefits was a \$62,000 position. \$40,000 was applied back to WFPHA for salary and APHA absorbed \$22,000 of the difference.

Decisions from this section are as follows:

1. The Treasurer will provide all financial information a minimum two weeks in advance
2. Expenditures above \$5,000 will be justified and detailed.
3. Project monies will be detailed in subaccounts.
4. All announcements for grants will be published on the website.

4.5 Annual Report of the WHO Liaison

Alena Petrakova reported on the WFPHA's official relationship with the WHO and its current workplan. The new home of the WHO liaison currently rests within the Human Resources for Health department and works in close collaboration with the leadership of the Federation.

- The KM4PH program continues as a global knowledge sharing network for public health workforce with over 500 registered members and involves using technology for the future.
- A special themed issue for the Bulletin of WHO covered public health education.
- Human Resources for Health include public health workforce education and production; migration; retention; deployment; networking; and partnerships.
- Avicenna is a global directory of health professions and educational institutions, including public health institutions. WFPHA will be responsible for the public health portion.
- The Global Health Workforce Alliance held its first Forum on HRH in Kampala, Uganda, March 2008.

Future collaboration with WHO includes: implementation of strategic plan; support to upcoming Congress; support to WFPHA projects focused on public health workforce; Avicenna directories; self assessment tool for public health education institutions; core public health competencies; masters' degree programs with a focus on health workforce development; and a WHA resolution on strengthening public health workforce.

Alena Petrakova encouraged members to brief their delegations on current resolutions for the World Health Assembly regarding the public health workforce. She also expressed that she can help make connections with other WHO departments on issues of importance to the Federation. Ulrich Laaser requested that the WHO webpage list the link for free access to the Federation's Pages in the Journal of Public Health Policy.

5.0 Awards

5.1 Report of Committee

5.2 Adoption of Procedures for Awards Committee

5.3 Candidates for Hugh Leavell and Organizational Awards

Francisco Paredes reported on the work of this committee. The Immediate-Past President was unable to attend to the duties this year and the EB asked him to assist with the Awards Committee. The committee first established the procedures to govern the operation of the committee, which are available on the website.

The committee received four proposals for the Organizational Excellence Award: Physicians for Peace, Schools of Public Health in South Africa and Bangladesh and 1000 Peace Women Across the Globe. The group decided to award the 1000 Peace Women Across the Globe with the award.

Leavell Award honors one person with great work in the field of public health and this year's award will be given to Dr. Ayse Akin from Turkey. Federico Paredes emphasized the importance of the awards and the need for more input and nominations.

Theo Abelin raised a concern about the Leavell Award. He asked that the award honor continue to honor Dr. Leavell by ensuring that the award remains a central point at the triennial congresses in order to allow high level public health figures to share important messages with the Federation. Barbara Hatcher clarified that the Federation possesses documents related to the Leavell Lecture Award. Historically, it was an annual award to a young researcher. In recent years, it was elevated into a triennial award and lecture linked with the Congresses. The committee decided to capture this change officially by outlining the criteria in the procedures. The plenary lecture will be maintained, along with a \$1000 award. However, the procedure document needs some polishing to clarify these issues.

The AGM approved the awards.

6.0 Environmental Health

6.1 Report of the Committee

The EB established the Environment Committee at the 2007 AGM. The committee participated in several activities over the course of the last year: Health Care without Harm; evaluating the environmental impact of health care; phasing out mercury from health care institutions; and dealing with medical waste. The Medical Waste Project, expected to be operational shortly, is a long process that will allow model projects to handle medical waste.

The WFPHA email listserv for environmental focal points of national associations lapsed over the last year due to lack of funding and support, but thanks to secured funding, it is

operation through a virtual office with an official administrator. The focal points started receiving materials and are encouraged to begin exchanging information on key topics. Additionally, Peter Orris requested that the members submit names of people from their associations who work in the area of environment in order to begin reflecting the work of the entire Federation.

WFPHA is an NGO focal point for SAICM, working closely with the process on developing a global approach to promote safe handling of chemicals. The committee is also working with trade unions around the world to work on safer working conditions and raising questions about issues including asbestos and working with partners to ban asbestos. WFPHA wants to play a role in making contacts in country between trade unions and national PHAs. In terms of the discussing about how to handle the use of DDT in combating malaria, the WFPHA's position is the prioritization of combating malaria. The Federation supports balanced planning to move away from toxic chemicals and moving more towards a community mobilization process. Finally, Peter Orris is requesting endorsement from members on the NGO/CSO Global Common Statement on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

The committee remains active and the association's name remains relevant in these international forums. However, the small drawback is that the membership in this committee is slow to mobilize and solicit volunteers to be part of the committee.

6.2 GEOSS Symposium

Another major area of work of the Federation in the environment area is with GEOSS. The WFPHA partnership with this group was cultivated by Barbara Hatcher, with the help of Samir Banoob, and resulted in WFPHA's acceptance as a full member to the organization. GEOSS involves applying technologies to the work civil society to address issues related to climate change. GEOSS is a tremendous process. Therefore, GEOSS's acceptance of WFPHA as a full member is unusual. The Federation will move ahead and attempt to put PHAs in touch and will encourage members to provide technical assistance for public health. The committee will work to supply information on GEOSS to stimulate interaction. The leadership will explore how to have representation at an international level.

7.0 Membership

7.1 Report of Membership Committee

7.2 Member Contact Information Form

7.3 Membership Directory

Francisco Cabo reported that the Federation is comprised of 73 members with the following breakdown: AFRO-12, PAHO-13 EMRO- 3, EURO-26, SEARO-5, WPRO-8, and Regional-5. The newest members include Burkina Faso, Serbia, and Vietnam

In terms of consideration of new membership for this year, Algeria's application is still pending because no new information is available. One new application was received

from an individual associated with the Indian Red Cross Society. Based on recommendations and the Federation's Constitution and By-Laws, the committee unanimously decided that the individual did not fulfill the conditions for membership. The committee encouraged the applicant to have a role through his country's public health association. Individuals can only join WFPHA under the category of sustaining members who contribute financially to the organization.

Jim Chauvin suggested circulating membership applications to all members in order to receive feedback from those working with that country.

Gambian PH Officers Association is interested in membership thanks to the help of Gunnar Tellnes of Norway. The committee needs to receive the membership application and more information from this organization in order for it to be considered for the next general assembly.

In response to the question raised by the colleague from Bosnia Herzegovina, the committee recommends that they consult the new membership application form. Two organizations within one country can be members, but they will only have one vote. Each country is allowed one vote. Jim Chauvin noted CPHA's willingness to endorse and sponsor Bosnia Herzegovina with their application.

Theo Abelin suggested the committee work closely with the Secretariat to identify countries where the Federation works to obtain the membership of leading associations in addition to the current, less active members.

8.0 Nominations

8.1 Report of the Committee

The Nominations committee looked at filling vacant positions. The VP/President Elect issue will be discussed at a later point. The Nominations committee reviewed the procedures manual on the roles and responsibilities of board members. The committee recommends wants to increase accountability of board members individually and as an association. The suggested term for board members will be a maximum of two, three-year terms. A second term may be approved after a letter of interest to continue on the board is submitted to the committee.

The committee also commends that if an EB member is absent for 2 consecutive meetings, she/he will be replaced. Members will sign a pledge as sign of commitment.

The Nominations committee also discussed mechanisms of replacement for EB members finishing their terms. Last year this topic was postponed due to the need to finalize the strategic plan. The committee recommends that members with expiring terms will have their terms extended. In the meantime, the committee and Secretariat will communicate with regions to nominate replacements for members finishing terms. They are planning to start meeting with members from different regions to begin nominating candidates.

Asib Nasim suggested a “conflict of interest pledge” signed by all members, as well as asked the committee to reach out to the regions to fill the gaps on the EB. Based on this proposal, President Nasim requested that the current EB serve until 2009 while the AGM approves the plans and allows for time to find new replacements.

Jim Chauvin expressed the concern that all people will be leaving the EB at once, thus losing important institutional memory. Retaining some members is critical in order to mentor new board members. Alvaro Matida agreed with this proposal and Jim’s comments. He suggested the possibility of criteria for balancing the board by region, with two members from each WHO region. Board members from the past will need to work one year together to maintain the institutional memory. The proposal should mention keeping 50% staying and 50% new.

Alena Petrakova mentioned the afternoon election. During the 42nd General Assembly, members will elect new VP/Pres Elect to serve in the next two years. Applications were received for three candidates and the process of election will proceed as follows. Members of the Federation will have closed meetings and two rounds of election. Each member organization has one vote and will be represented by one person. After the first round, the person with the lowest votes will be eliminated and then the second round will be a run-off. The candidates are Mengistu Asnake, Ulrich Laaser, and Hikmet Pekcan. - Elect.

Mengistu Asnake attended the meetings of the World Justice Project on behalf of the WFPHA. The World Justice Project is a joint project activity led by ABA and other sponsors. WFPHA’s co-sponsored the meeting for the African Region in Accra, Ghana. This project aims to mainstream the rule of law in different sectors, maintain the accountability of governments, set clear laws, access to fair and sufficient laws, and an independent judicial system. The role of public health is to develop another key side of the rule of law through the public health system. The project will help WFPHA develop letters and resolutions to leaders on public health and human rights violations through a legal perspective.

9.0 Policy Development

9.1 Report of Policy Committee

9.2 Proposed Policy Statements

The Journal of Public Health Policy serves as a public archive of WFPHA activities. Many members have contributed articles on a broad spectrum of information and the scientific integrity of the journal is increasing. All PHAs are encouraged to participate and to submit to the journal. Ulrich Laaser requested that all members go to the Journal to review the report on IANPHI and offer comments to the editors.

Associations submitted a total of five resolutions for the WFPHA to consider adopting. Additionally, the committee considered how to handle proposals related to commenting on the public health situation in Zimbabwe and Darfur. The committee decided to issue a letter sent by the President.

Jim Chauvin provided an update on the situation in Zimbabwe. He spoke with colleagues from Zimbabwe PHA on a trip to a meeting. CPHA used to collaborate with ZPHA and hopes the opportunity will arise again. However, the current situation in Zimbabwe is drastic and human rights violations are rampant. The public health system is nonfunctional with immunization systems broken down with scattered delivery of vaccine and equipment no longer working. CPHA is working with ZPHA and will inform WFPHA of updates. This effort will involve many countries to help rebuild Zimbabwe's health system.

A similar situation exists in Darfur. The committee decided to approach the response by sending a letter to key figures and national public health associations, asking them to work to remedy the situation.

Proposed Resolutions

Peter Orris submitted two proposals on behalf of APHA. The first reviewed and supported the activities with SAICM. The amendments proposed by the Policy committee were approved and the AGM passed the resolution. Deborah Klein Walker will help organize a session the destruction of chemical weapons at the 2009 Congress in support of this resolution.

The second resolution from APHA discusses a Healthy Food Pledge that approaches the subject from an industry and systems point of view. Edits to this resolution included adding colleagues from other organizations. The amendments had unanimous support from the committee and were adopted by the AGM.

ABRASCO submitted two proposals. Alvaro Matida explained that the Federation needs to improve its response to implementing and taking action related to previous resolutions. The WFPHA should renew this commitment to peace and human rights and has great opportunity to speak out on situations like those found in Darfur, Zimbabwe, Tibet and East Timor. The WFPHA should play a role in monitoring and responding to these situations. These declarations ask the Federation to renew its commitment to the principles embodied in the Alma Ata declaration and to the previous declarations.

Cai Jiming noted China's objection to the inclusion of Tibet in the list of examples, but would not block the resolution. The AGM adopted the resolution. After the meeting, it was decided to exclude all examples in the final version of the policy in regards to concerns raised by China.

The next agenda item involved the proposal for supporting a Committee C for the World Health Assembly. This proposal from Theo Abelin, on behalf of the Swiss Society, refers to the proposal in the Lancet where the committee in the WHA will provide a forum for international health programs by country stakeholders. This committee will allow members to present and discuss global and country programs. WFPHA realizes the

importance of being involved in the early phases of this proposal and encourages WHA to accept this proposal.

After being involved in the WHA and EB of WHO for the past 30 years, Bijan Sadrizadeh wanted to share concerns about the two committees already dealing with the public health issues. The current rules of procedures allow International NGOs to provide input to the committees through interventions. Committee C would need the approval of the WHA EB, provided that it does not require the modification of WHO's rules of procedures and constitution. It should consult the WHO counsel responsible for dealing with rules and regulations.

UKPHA raised concerns that the creation of this committee would stretch the resources of small delegations by increasing the demands upon them for covering the committees.

Theo Abelin commented that the Lancet article emphasizes the large and influential organizations that develop programs without coordination and have immense impact in the health field. WHO is reminded of its rights and responsibility to coordinate organizations outside of the WHO structure. The end result may or may not be a committee C, but the WFPHA should support coordination and make itself as available as a key NGO advisor.

President Nasim supported the importance of this action as a first step to raise the voice of the Federation on this matter. A need exists for a coordination mechanism for the WHO. The AGM approved the proposal.

10.0 WFPHA World Congress on Public Health

10.1 Report on Planning 2009 Congress in Istanbul, Turkey

Hikmet Pekcan reported on the progress of planning for the 2009 Congress in Istanbul, Turkey and shared a video to advertise the venue. Three committees of the WFPHA were formed to oversee and manage the 12th Congress. The committees are International Planning Committee (IPC), Scientific Committee and a Local Planning Committee.

1. International Planning Committee (IPC)

The tasks include overall management of the 12th Congress including the oversight of the Scientific Committee, the Call for Abstracts, finalization of the congress program, and exploring of funds.

The IPC will be appointed by the EB and confirmed by the General Assembly. The following members have been proposed for the IPC:

SM Asib Nasim (Chair), Paulo Buss, Barbara Hatcher, Ulrich Laaser, Hikmet Pekcan, Alena Petrakova, Markus Kaufmann, Bekir Metin, and Incoming President (to be named in next May-08 AGM).

The IPC would be able to co-opt members, as and when necessary, with notifying the EB. Beginning with this Congress, the outgoing President will Chair the IPC and the incoming President is a member.

2. Scientific Committee

The tasks include review and final selection of abstracts, proposing preliminary program for finalization by the IPC, and providing technical support to help submitters to improve the quality of their abstracts.

The members of the Scientific Committee will be nominated by the IPC and approved by the EB. The following members have been proposed for the Scientific Committee:

Ulrich Laaser, as Chair
Hikmet Pekcan, as Co-Chair

The Scientific Committee would be able to co-opt members, as and when necessary, with confirmation by the IPC. The Scientific Committee Chair will come from the IPC.

3. Local Planning Committee

The tasks are overall local management of the 12th Congress, including the Call for Abstracts at local level, reviewing local abstracts, finalization of the local congress program, and exploring of funds.

Chair, Hikmet Pekcan

Beginning with this Congress, the Chair comes from the Host Association and also serves as Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee.

11.0 Report on JPHP/Palgrave Journal

See policy report.

12.0 Re-Cap of WFPHA Projects

12.1 Salus America

Federicio Paredes reported on the work of the Salus America project. This network intends to promote the work of the Federation in the LAC region. ABRASCO is the most powerful PHA in South America, but most countries are not of the same caliber and need assistance for building their capacity. The project works to determine how to bring people together to focus on health issues since not all country associations of the world are represented here in WFPHA. This project aims to model how associations can network better. SOPHA currently assists Nicaragua with the establishment of an association. Many other countries do not have established associations and would require assistance. Other complications include the wide range of languages spoken in the LAC

region. The assembly proposed relocating the SA project to Washington, D.C. because the project lacks enough resources to support full implementation. Currently, the project works in Costa Rica (ACOSAP), along with PAHO, to use cyber instruments to help the different countries without PHAs. The strong connection associated with incoming President Buss will help to enhance these ties. China could also take this model to develop the same idea in the Far East, considering the complexity of countries in Asia or even Africa.

12.2 Tobacco Project

The past year has been a year in reflection for the tobacco program and WHO. The framework development is completed and signed by 168 countries. The framework, ratified by 156 countries, is considered very large for an international convention and a great success. However, only a few countries have fully implemented the framework. The current objective focuses on implementation. WFPHA should lead its members to action by utilizing a structure that allows the Federation to observe and to inform member associations of opportunities and goals set by WHO entities. WFPHA can provide indications on how countries can follow objectives. In terms of implementation, WHO decided to commit itself to the same objective by monitoring the state of implementation and comparing data with other countries. Unlike the Framework Convention, the implementation process is longer and may take several years.

WFPHA could assist countries with similar situations by grouping them together in clusters, to compare and establish contacts on how they achieve their goals. At this time, the WFPHA can work to collect country reports on the implementation status and analysis of situations, as well as ask partners in those countries to write reports for late fall this year. Based on results in December, the Federation can plan a session for the 2009 Congress to promote lively discussion in exchange of experience and forge partnerships. Turkey and China both offered reports on actions on tobacco control.

13.0 Election of Executive Board Members

13.1 Confirmation of Executive Board Members

See separate, attached chart.

13.2 Election of Vice President/ President – Elect

Alena Petrakova was appointed Election Commissioner due to her neutral status. The three eligible candidates introduced themselves and spoke about the main challenges facing the Federation. The three candidates are: Mengistu Asnake, Ulrich Laaser and, Hikmet Pekcan.

Ulrich Laaser was been elected as incoming Vice President/President Elect.

The Nominations committee decided that those finishing their two terms since the last annual meeting will be replaced, while the remaining will stay for another term. Those who finished at the last meeting will be replaced between now and next general meeting.

In 2009, we will have 6 vacant spots--3 will retire, 2 are absent and Ulrich will be upgraded. Therefore, other six will continue for another term of three years.

INSERT CHART about EB and EB replacement

The membership raised concerns about the lack of clarity of the proposal of the committee for extending the terms of the board and the mechanisms of replacement. Many expressed concerns about the by-laws and whether or not the proposal was legitimate within the governing rules. The by-laws stated that members are only allowed one term of three years. The committee is suggesting this extension while they work on developing an appropriate rotation schedule. Members asked the Secretariat and the committee to provide a written clarification of the rotation schedule.

The AGM agreed to this chart and the extension of the EB members until 2009. In the course of the next year, all members will work to define appropriate regional replacements for EB members with terms expiring in 2009. This proposal ensures that five existing members remain to mentor new members.

In order to solve the issue related to the by-laws, President Nasim asked the Turkish colleagues to work with the EB to lead a committee to consider updating the by-laws.

14.0 Strategic Planning Meeting

14.1 Strategic Planning Report

14.2 Adoption of Strategic Plan

14.3 Report on Funding

A half day session on 18 May 08 finalized the draft of the strategic plan to be presented to the AGM. The recommendations and input received during this session will be incorporated. President Nasim asked the assembly to approve the plan, given that drafts have been online, along with requests for further input. The AGM agreed to finalize the strategic plan. The Federation now has an official document to move forward and congratulations to all who have contributed.

15.0 Old/New Business

15.1 Old Business

15.1.1 Regional Liaison Office

Cai Jiming reported on the establishment of regional liaison office in China. The office sent an email to nine members in the region and received limited feedback. The office intends to coordinate dialogue with member associations and will attempt to organize a WFPHA regional conference in China. The conference will be postponed until November 2009 to ensure enough time for involving the regional members and sufficient preparation. The Secretariat will give support to contact the regional membership. JPHA will discuss with its planning committee means to support CPMA in organizing the regional conference because of its experience organizing three regional conferences in the past.

15.1.2 Office in Geneva

Markus Kaufmann and Thomas Vogel reported on a proposal submitted by the Swiss Society to explore a permanent presence in Geneva. The objective of this report is to enable an ongoing professional presence in Geneva where many international stakeholders are located. Thomas Vogel conducted study and presented results. See power point.

The goals of a Geneva office include sharing of information with members; supporting global initiatives related to public health; reinforcing the network of PHAs, developing partnerships; contributing the public health view to international organizations, and assisting WFPHA Goal 3. The office will offer a place to conduct advocacy, a location for meetings and organizational support to those meeting, as well as support to Secretariat. Services would include access to international organizations in Geneva; lobbying and advocacy work; information about ongoing initiatives and work related to public health issues; and organizational and administrative assistance.

The Swiss Society proposed that the AGM decide to approve this proposition to give them a mandate of two years in order to secure financial support. The Swiss Society will assure financing of this initial two years in order to build this office. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed and Thomas Vogel will be recommended to staff the office.

Discussion of the proposal involved concerns about financing. Politically, it is necessary to have an office Geneva and the members of the assembly strongly support the proposal. Details about collaboration with the Secretariat and WFPHA leaders must be outlined. The office in Washington exists and the role of the Geneva office must complement the work done at the Secretariat. Finally, this initiative highlights how the Federation is moving to implement the strategic plan and to establish key partnerships.

The proposal was accepted by the AGM and the leadership must work to discuss questions related to Geneva office, including precise definitions for office in Geneva, the Secretariat and the President's office in Rio.

15.1.3 Discuss and Adopt Procedures Manual

Gaps exist in the current by-laws, but a committee worked on procedural manual as a first step in addressing governance issues. The AGM agreed last year to adopt the procedural manual until reform is completed. All committees have proposed changes to this manual. The AGM approved the procedures manual.

15.2 New Business

15.2.1 Creating a Committee C – World Health Assembly

See policy report.

15.2.2 Announcement of 2012 World Congress location

The EB asked four countries to provide an unbiased suggestion for the location of the 2012 Congress based on a predetermined set of criteria. Based on these criteria, the committee rated Canada with the highest score.

Members of the AGM expressed concern about the criteria. Several noted that the Federation prioritizes a rotating location and that location should be weighted more than other criteria. Secondly, one of the purposes of the WFPHA is to build capacity of member associations. Organizing a Congress would allow a developing PHA to strengthen its association. The criteria need to take these types of considerations into account. Building the infrastructure of developing countries is a key consideration.

In order to support these ideals, Canada withdrew its candidacy for the Congress. The AGM discussed how to make the final decision and voted to choose the site for the Congress during this meeting in order to begin planning.

The AGM decided to re-evaluate the criteria for next time. Ethiopia will be the site of the next Congress in 2012. The proposed date in Addis Ababa was originally in October, but would have flexibility in terms of arranging date. Ethiopia had the full support from MoH and discussed with bilateral and UN agencies. Ethiopia will have seat for AU and will work to improve the areas where they scored low.

The commission was congratulated on accomplishing a great task.

16.0 Adjournment

16.1 Pass Gavel to new incoming President Paulo Buss

16.2 Date of Next General Assembly – April 26, 2009 – Istanbul Turkey

President Nasim was honored for his contributions as President and then passed his gavel to incoming President Paulo Buss. President Buss read his inaugural speech which will be available on the website.