

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit match, with a glowing, textured surface in the background. The match is lit, and the flame is visible. The background is a dark, textured surface with a grid-like pattern of glowing spots.

A Warm Welcome

From the
World Federation of Public Health
Associations

The Role of Public Health in Today's Global Setting

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World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and WHO

- WFPHA is in official relations
- Collaboration plan 2013-2016
- Point 1: “Role of Public Health in Today’y Global Setting”
- Initiated through a with the DG Dr Chan in 2013

WFPHA – WHO timeline

PH in Today's Global Setting

| May 2013 | Kick off | WHO Lunch seminar |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2013 | Internal Consultation | WFPHA members |
| January 2014 | ThinkTank | World wide experts |
| 2014 | Delphi Study | World wide exerts |
| February 2015 | Results presented | World Congress Kolkata |

Classical definitions of PH

- C.E.A. Winslow, 1920
- Sir D. Acheson, 1988:
“Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society.”
- This definition is:
 - Intentionally generic
 - PH as science and art; knowledge and action
 - Prevent disease, promote health, prolong life
 - PH is an organized societal function

Other definitions of PH

- WHO HQ, WHO/PAHO, WHO/WPR, WHO/EUR, European Commission, EUPHA/ASPHER, UK PH Faculty, APHA, Karolinska Institute, Institute of Medicine US, World Bank, ...

Definitions of PH

- Is a contested area
- We may recognize three different types of definitions of PH according to main axes to the extent of which they
 - a) frame PH functions and PH work force
 - b) are normative and descriptive
 - c) incorporate wider social determinants and environmental factors influencing population health and health inequalities

Health care system – Public Health

Health care systems

- Clear organizational boundaries
 - Familiar to most people
 - Highly visible and valued
 - Identifying and repairing health problems arising from past exposure*
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- *Graham H. Where is the future in public health? The Milbank Quarterly. 201088(2):146-168

Public Health

- A definition describes public health as that which we as a society do to assure conditions in which people can be healthy*

* Institute of Medicine

Kenneth Clark “Civilisation”

- What is civilisation?
- I don't know. I can't define it in abstract terms
- yet.
- But I think I can recognise when I see it.

Katmandu



Questions

- What should Public Health do? What should be done elsewhere?
- Is Public Health the solution to better health?
- Who should be doing ?
- Does Public Health fully capture current health challenges, current societal changes?
- Do we need Public Health experts?

Questions

- what do we mean by 'public' in public health?
- How do empirical and normative issues relate to each other?
- Is it all about governance for/of health?
- Is the new world order the multiplicity of empires and civilizations, not the dominance of one?
- new types of political organizations may arise

Future orientation of PH – challenges I

- Industrialisation and technology impact on ecological systems of future generations
- Lack of future conditions for health, instead: immediate risk and short-term benefits
- Evidence base is ill-suited; RCTs will not identify the result of complex interventions

Future orientation of PH – challenges II

- Equity, human rights and political empowerment
- Inter-generational equity
- Trans-national, global aspects of health
- Integrating the complexity and non-linearity of PH problems
- New approaches based on understanding linkages, relationships and interactions

Future orientation of PH – ongoing discussions :

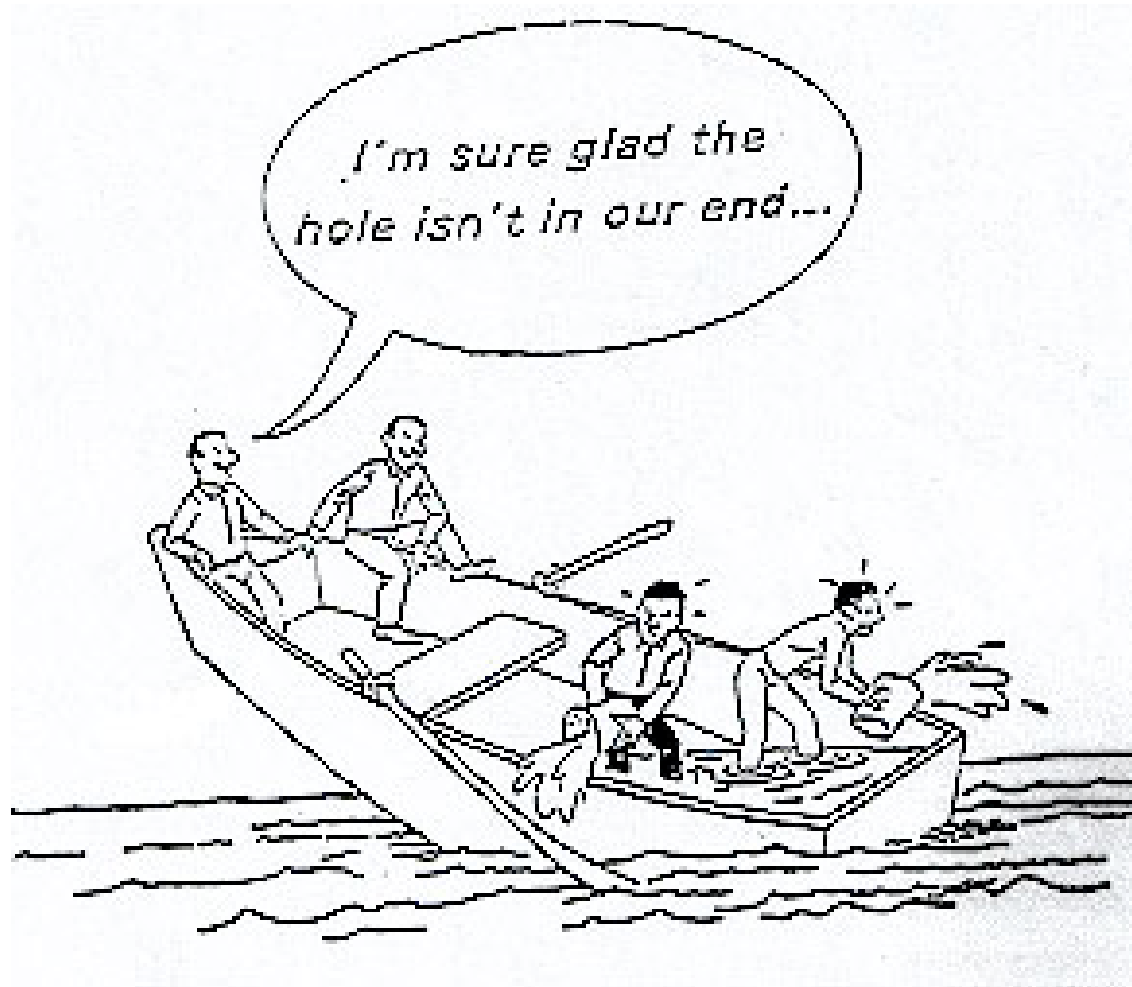
- UN “The World we Want”
- Post2015 process: multiple actors
- Define common priorities for collective action for the next 15 years
- Political process: End of the autocracies and hierarchical patronage machines
- Societal process: worldwide conversation

Civilisation and Public Health

- What are its enemies?
- **Fear** (of war, intrusion, plague, famine)
- Fear (that you don't dare question anything or change anything)
- It requires:
- **Confidence** (in society, its laws, philosophy)
- Vigour, **energy**, vitality

Ways “out”

- Systems science
- System philosophy
- Avoid the silo thinking
- Integrate the regional members
- get the global interconnectivity into the picture: “all in one boat”



Thank you!

