

Letter from the President of the Ethiopian Public Health Association

Dear Colleagues

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA), established in 1989, is a local non-governmental and non-profit professional society that brings together health workers throughout Ethiopia for professional exchange, collaboration and action. EPHA is committed to, and promotes, high professional standards and better health for all Ethiopians through advocacy, networking, capacity building and active involvement of its members. It collaborates with partners and stakeholders nationally and internationally for improved health status and livelihood of the Ethiopian people there by contributing to regional and global health.

As the host of the 13th World Congress on Public Health, jointly organized with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), the Ethiopian Public Health Association is pleased to invite you to attend the Congress that will be held in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21-29 April 2012**. The theme of the Congress is **“Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats”**.

As we meet in April 2012, it would be twelve years since the declaration of the MDGs and only three years before the deadline, 2015. The achievements of these goals require concerted global strategies and efforts aimed at increasing equitable and sustainable access of the world’s population and specifically the world poor, to quality essential health services. Within these strategic approaches in public health, the WFPHA and its members have significant roles to play. The 13th World Congress on Public Health is expected to provide opportunities to the global public health community including service providers, trainers, educators, researchers, academicians and scientists to get together and deliberate on important and defining issues. It will also serve as a platform for public health professionals to share their knowledge and experiences and re-enforce their commitment to jointly forge ahead with national, regional and international players and help nations take the last sprint towards achieving the MDGs and sustaining them thereafter. Based on outcome of the Congress, the WFPHAs has been providing evidence-based advice and recommendations to national, regional and international players and stakeholders towards the achievement of global health.

Holding the 13th World Congress on Public Health in Africa, Ethiopia, has major strategic significance for the MDGs as many of the participating African countries have weak health systems and under-developed socioeconomies and thus are faced with immense challenges to achieve these goals. Yet against these odds, communities and governments are making courageous efforts to overcome the many challenges. Some of these include policies on decentralization, decision to allocate defined budget to the health sector as per the Abuja Declaration, and forging public private partnerships, and

involvement of communities are some of the efforts towards equity in health service delivery. At the 13th World Congress the community of health professionals will have opportunities to interact formally and informally with their African counterparts to get a deeper insight into the complex challenges and witness the optimism with which they are trying to find solutions. At the Congress major issues such as resetting financial aid and its effectiveness, household food security, health systems development, and global alliances for capacity building are some of the important areas that I believe will be well addressed. In this interconnected and globalized world it is imperative that everyone should join hands and contribute their share towards alternative solutions to speed up the achievement of the MDGs. The global public health landscape is also becoming increasingly complex with expanding old diseases, emerging new ones, and the potential for unprecedented level of spread of infectious diseases. The recent episodes from Mexico, China, etc., are reminders of how epidemics of high magnitude can emerge from anywhere in the world challenging the known control strategies. With global economic interdependence the magnitude of their negative impact can likewise be unprecedented.

Demography (aging population in the developed world and increasing youth population in developing countries), life style, nutrition, climate change, environment, natural and man-made disasters, pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria, as well as population growth are influencing global health more than ever. Chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes, cancer, other cardiovascular and degenerative diseases), long considered the problems of largely affluent societies, have now become additional burdens of the low- and middle-income countries that already suffer from communicable diseases.

The exodus of skilled health workers to high-income countries further weakens the already inadequate health system aggravating the problem in developing countries. Most biomedical research being carried out does not seem to be commensurate with the health problems of developing countries.

On the other hand it is recognized that good health provides the very foundation for a productive life, and thus health increasingly figures as a goal in poverty-reduction strategies. It is this appreciation of the interrelationship of health with development that the international community is converging for equitable global health opportunities. The WFPHA, as a broad based organization of public health professionals, can play important roles in bringing innovative approaches to achieve global equity in health. The Ethiopian Public Health Association is proud to be a partner in organizing and hosting this historic and important World Congress that aims at contributing to the realization of equitable global health for all.

I would therefore like to invite all public health professionals and stakeholders throughout the world to come to Addis Ababa and attend the 13th World Congress on Public Health. Your stay in Ethiopia will not only enable you to participate in what I believe would be a stimulating professional meeting, but also provide you the opportunity to visit a country recognized as the cradle of mankind. Ethiopia is one of the oldest civilizations in the world boasting with a rich history, culture, tradition and geographic diversity and hospitable people. I guarantee that your stay will be a memorable one.

Look forward to seeing you at the Congress in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia in April 2012

Best regards

Dr. Tewabech Bishaw, President EPHA



“Moving Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats”

<http://www.etpha.org/2012/>

[Abstract Submission](#)

Last Issue of the Federation’s Pages of the JPHP

[« Public health: How much evidence is needed to support our policies?»](#)

Samia A. Hurst, Bettina Borisch, Alex Mauron



The WFPHA and its members got involved

17-25 JANUARY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HELD ITS 128TH EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION; GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

The Executive Board (EB) of the World Health Organization (WHO) recently concluded its 128th session, which explored a diverse set of critical topics, including the **Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases** and WHO’s role in the preparation, implementation and follow-up to the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (September 2011).

The WFPHA submitted a speaking note supported by the International Federation of medical Student’s Associations (IFMSA) and by the Global Alcohol Policy alliance (GAPA).

WFPHA Statement attached

If you wish to have the statement in any of the other official UN languages, please contact directly geneva@wfpha.ch

In addition, the WHO set out to propose a plan for strengthening the WHO’s role in global health governance, including the proposal for a regular multistakeholder forum first to be held in 2012, which will be further discussed at the World Health Assembly in May 2011.



The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) joined the **Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future**.

The *Alliance* is a worldwide group of experts who have joined together to promote integrated clinical and public health action in order to stop caries initiation and progression in order to move towards a Cavity-Free Future for all age groups. Overall, the group believes that global collaborative action is needed to challenge global leaders and other stakeholders – including country and community leaders, health and dental health professionals, public policy, and the public - to learn the importance of caries as a disease continuum and to participate in action toward the delivery of comprehensive caries prevention and management that can positively influence the continuing problem of caries.

<http://www.allianceforacavityfreefuture.org/en/us/home>



Global Consensus on Social Accountability (GCSA) conference in East London, South Africa from 10 to 13 October, 2010.

Thanks to Rebecca Bailey, our Designated Technical officer at WHO, two of our member associations could attend this conference : **Professor Makonnen Asefa** from the Ethiopian Public Health Association and **Dr. Rose Nabirye Chalo** from the Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health.

The following are the ten themes/areas which the conference has reached a consensus on GCSA to medical schools.

1. Anticipation of society's health needs and vision and mission of the medical school
2. Partnerships with the health system and stakeholders
3. Evolving roles of doctors and other health professionals
4. Outcome-based education
5. Governance of the medical school
6. Scope of standards
7. Quality improvement in education, research and service
8. Mandated mechanism for accreditation
9. Global principles with context specificity
10. Role of society

Website and consensus statement document: <http://healthsocialaccountability.org/>

The «**Kobe Call to Action**» is a statement by and for national and local leaders to address health and health equity in cities. This policy commitment originated in the discussions and conclusions of the Global Forum on Urbanization and Health, 15-17 November 2010, Kobe, Japan, where Ministers, Governors and Mayors from over 80 countries shared their experiences and recommendations to better the urban environment.

[Kobe call to Action](#)

WFPHA's President's answer to the Kobe call to action attached

The "**Conference on Public Health and Preventive Medicine 2010**" was successfully held at the Hospital Authority Main Building, 147B Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong from 6th to 8th November 2010. The said Conference was well-attended by over 300 participants including scholars, medical doctors, public health professionals and nurses from Hong Kong, Gaungdong Province, Taiwan and Macau as well as other countries such as Singapore, Australia, Europe and USA.

[Declaration of the Conference on Public Health and Preventive Medicine](#)

ACOSAP would like to share this information with other associations :

The "**San Jose Charter for Health Promotion in the Workplace**" given in San José, Costa Rica, on the twentieth day of October two thousand and ten.

English version attached

If you wish to have the statement in Spanish, please contact directly geneva@wfpha.ch



Briefing on the Secretary-General's **priorities for 2011 for non-governmental organizations** with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Remarks by Mr. Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze attached

Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

[United nations in FOCUS](#)

INTERESTING LINKS

HEALTH DIPLOMACY MONITOR

A publication of the Centre for Trade Policy and Law

[The January 2011 * Volume 1 * Issue 5 is now available](#)

The document on SRH (Sexual and Reproductive Health) competencies is available from the following list of documents :

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/health_systems/en/index.html

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/sexual_health/en/

<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/general/en/index.html> (under policy)

<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/policy/en/index.html>

The International Association for the Study of Obesity

[The International Association for the Study of Obesity Newsletter](#)



<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/newsletter/2011/february/index.shtml>



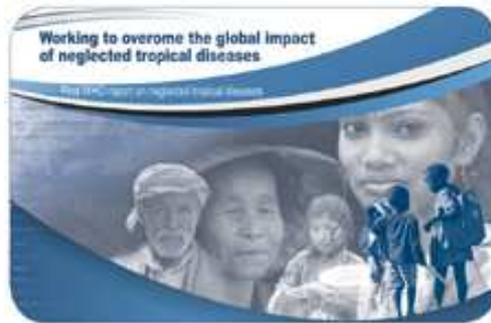
Rio 2012: Making it Happen - Newsletter of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Newsletter is produced by the Rio 2012 Secretariat in the Division of Sustainable Development of DESA with input from UN System Offices and other international governmental organizations, Member States and Major Groups from around the world.

Contact us at: uncsd2012@un.org

View full Newsletter at <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>

WHO PUBLICATIONS



Neglected tropical diseases blight the lives of a billion people worldwide and threaten the health of millions more. These close companions of poverty weaken impoverished populations, frustrate the achievement of health in the Millennium Development Goals and impede global public health outcomes.

Wider recognition of the public health significance of neglected tropical diseases and better knowledge of their epidemiology have stimulated necessary changes in public health thinking to approach and achieve control.

This report presents evidence to demonstrate that activities undertaken to prevent and control neglected tropical diseases are producing results – and that achievements are being recognized. By 2008, preventive chemotherapy had reached more than 670 million people in 75 countries.

[Full report](#)

The global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol which was endorsed by the Sixty-third World Health Assembly in May 2010 is now available for download from the WHO web page in its final form.

To better prevent and treat alcohol and illicit drug use disorders, the World Health Organization has launched the first global report on resources currently in use to respond to these health concerns.

The Atlas on substance abuse: Resources for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders has collected information from 147 countries, representing 88% of the world's population. It has a particular focus on low- and middle-income countries.

Both documents are available from this web site:

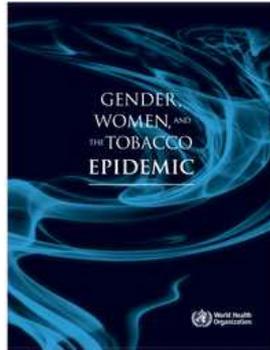
http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/en/

On February 11, the WHO Secretariat hosted the first meeting of a global network of WHO national counterparts on alcohol. This global network was established to ensure effective collaboration and consultations with Member States on implementing the Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. The aim of this first meeting was to discuss and elaborate implementation mechanisms and plans for the strategy.

More information about the two day meeting in Geneva is available on the WHO website here:

http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/activities/counterparts/en/index.html.

This web page has links to the "Scope and purpose" document and the program for the meeting.



This monograph contributes to the scientific understanding of gender, women, and tobacco in the context of efforts to control the global tobacco epidemic. Topics covered include determinants of starting to use tobacco; exposure to second-hand smoke; the impact that tobacco use has on health; addiction and cessation; treatment programmes; and gender and human rights policy. The monograph also addresses national economic policy with regard to tobacco control, international treaties, and strategies for tobacco-free mobilization at the regional and international levels. Special attention is paid to an analysis of policies that affect girls and women throughout the life course. Men's responsibility to protect women against second-hand smoke is also highlighted.

[Download the full publication](#)

[English \(file size: 2.09 MB\)](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



ICN CONFERENCE AND CNR 2-8 May 2011 Malta

Nurses driving access, quality and health



<http://www.icn2011.ch/>

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA

INSTITUT DE HAUTES ÉTUDES
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

[Executive Course on Global Health Diplomacy](#)

Next Course: **June 6-10, 2011**

Course Director: Professor Dr Ilona Kickbusch



Canadian Public Health Association 2011 Conference
**Public Health in Canada:
Innovative Partnerships for Action**
Montreal, Quebec • June 19-22, 2011

Conférence annuelle 2011 de l'Association canadienne de santé publique
**La santé publique au Canada :
des partenariats novateurs en action**
Montréal (Québec) du 19 au 22 juin 2011

Public health professionals, researchers, policy-makers, academics and students from across the country and around the world will meet in Montreal, Quebec for the CPHA 2011 Annual Conference as the Association enters its second century of service to Canadians. The Conference will explore the role of partnerships in creating the conditions in which people can lead flourishing lives and will showcase innovative collective actions that support the maintenance and improvement of the health of populations. We are interested in how partnerships help us 'do things differently', how they 'bridge divides' in the broad field of public health, as well as how they are conceived, developed, implemented and sustained. For more information, see:

<http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2011.aspx>

Please note that CPHA does not provide personal invitations or financial support to attend the conference. Attendance at the conference is self-financed.



Public Health and Welfare – Welfare development and health
10 to 12 November 2011
The Bella Centre
Copenhagen, Denmark

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA), the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and the Danish Society of Public Health (DSOP) are pleased to invite you to the 4th European Public Health Conference, combining the 19th annual EUPHA meeting, the 33rd annual ASPHER meeting and the 5th annual Public Health days of DSOP.

[Conference website](#)

The 3rd WFPHA West Pacific Regional Conference on Public Health

« HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO ADDRESS HEALTH INEQUITY »

17- 19 November 2011

Bali, Indonesia, Sanur Paradise

Contact: Mr. Deddy, Executive Manager IAKMI: prof_die@yahoo.co.id



[Geneva Health Forum, 18-20 April 2012](#)

**TO ALL MEMBER PHA'S : IF YOU HAVE INTERESTING INFORMATION TO SHARE
WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS ; PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO :**

geneva@wfpha.ch