



NGO ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION

The NGO Alliance for Health Promotion

has evolved through eleven years of NGO contributions to the Jakarta, Mexico City and Bangkok Global Conferences on Health Promotion organised by the World Health Organization. The Alliance started as the NGO Advisory Group for Health Promotion in 1997 at the 4th Global Conference held in Jakarta. The Alliance answers the need to formalize the work of this group and thus enhance NGO contribution to Health Promotion.

Our Mission

is to promote the health of all people by strengthening advocacy, developing partnerships, generating and sharing knowledge and thus build a collective NGO voice.

Our Goal

is to generate awareness of and bringing added value to the existing efforts of NGOs in the promotion of health, thereby supporting the individual's responsibility for their own health.

The Alliance

- ◇ seeks to develop a common vision and to build bridges between WHO and NGOs with diverse social-economic objectives at international, national and grassroots level.
- ◇ adheres to all principles that promote equality and the open participation of children, youth, women and those that are disadvantaged.
- ◇ provides a platform for NGOs to examine issues relating to health promotion and to identify opportunities to formulate strategy and advance areas of interest..
- ◇ is open to NGOs, across the socio-economic spectrum, that have a concern for health and development.

Current focus

The current Alliance Programme draws significantly from Commitment 3 of the Bangkok Charter on Health Promotion (BCHP) 2005. This makes it clear that the promotion of health should be a key focus for communities and civil society. The NGO workshop "From Vision to Action" that was held in WHO, Geneva a few months later, in February 2006 agreed an Action Plan for the implementation of the BCHP.

A key focus of this Action Plan is to demonstrate the value of integrating Local Knowledge as a community asset in health promotion strategies and overall successful development whether in developing or developed country settings. This theme is the main basis of our contribution to the 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion "Health and Development – Closing the Implementation Gap" to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2009.

Health Promotion

is the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health.

In the context of today's unprecedented threats and challenges triggered by the current financial crisis, the climate change and food shortage as well as potentially catastrophic pandemics health promotion has never been more timely or more needed. Over the period from the Ottawa Conference (1986) through the six global conferences, a large body of evidence and experience has accumulated on the importance of health promotion as an integrative, cost effective strategy, and as an essential component of health systems primed to respond adequately to these emerging concerns.

Governance

The Alliance is governed by a Board of seven representatives of international NGO who are the founding members of the Alliance. The Secretariat is hosted by the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, one of the founding organisations, and run on a voluntary basis with the support of WHO.

Members of the Board

Ms Berhane Ras-Work, President - Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices
www.iac-ciaf.com

Mr Bernard Kadasia, Vice-President – International AIDS Society
www.iasociety.org

Ms Gabriella Sozanski, Secretary – International Health Co-operative Organisation
www.ica.coop/ihco

Mr Xuanhao Chan, International Federation of Pharmacists
www.fip.org

Ms Sonia Heptonstall, Solar Cookers International
www.solarcookers.org

Ms Joanna Koch, Associated Country Women of the World
www.acww.org.uk

Ms Myrna Lachenal, World Federation of Mental Health
www.wfmh.org

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Visit www.ngos4healthpromotion.net to learn more and Join the Alliance.