

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

After a three year investigation the WHO Commission on Social Determinants presented its Report "Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health". The central message of the report is that a combination of poor social policies, unfair economic arrangements and bad politics is responsible for most of the unavoidable health inequities we see in the world. The report acknowledges the power of civil society and the community to generate the grassroots pressure that can ignite policy change. Civil society is brought on board as a full partner with a welcome voice. The report also recognizes that nearly all social determinants of health fall outside the direct control of the health sector.

Read to full [Report](#) or the Executive Summary.

FORMING AN ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION

Six members of the NGO Advisory Group on Health Promotion have signed up to form the NGO Alliance for Health Promotion. By this act they confirmed their commitment to strengthen joint efforts to promote health in close collaboration with WHO. The Statutes of the Alliance was adopted 30 August.

Read the Statutes on our website: www.ngos4healthpromotion.net

7TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH PROMOTION

"Health and Development – Closing the Implementation Gap" will be the title of the next Global HP Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, 10-14 August 2009

The NGO HPA is planning to make a joint contribution to the subject: Working in Partnership to Enhance Community Assets. Community leadership is fundamental to health promotion. Examples of community empowerment and capacity-building abound in health promotion practice, ranging from settings approaches (in schools, workplaces, cities) through to community development and organization.

Read more on our website: www.ngos4healthpromotion.net

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

FIP Congress, Basle

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) had a record number of participants in attendance at its 68th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences held in Basel, Switzerland at the end of August. Almost 3000 pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, academics, researchers, students and press from 120 different countries participated in sessions, workshops and discussions focused on Reengineering Pharmacy Practice in a Changing World, the main theme of the Congress.

Pascal Couchepin, President of the Swiss Confederation addressed the Congress at the Opening Ceremony.

[Read more about the Congress](#)

UICC Congress, Geneva

A summit of more than 60 high-level policymakers, leaders and health experts adopted a global plan on 31 August - contained in the [World Cancer Declaration 2008](#) - aimed at tackling the growing cancer crisis in developing countries.

The plan recommends a set of 11 cancer-busting targets for 2020 and outlines priority steps that need to be taken in order to meet them. It offers a global template for governments and other groups to tailor their own plans and to guide local efforts.

"The rise of cancer in less affluent countries is an impending disaster," WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan told delegates at the opening of the congress. "The time is right to make cancer control a development priority."

The next World Cancer Congress will meet in Beijing, 18-21 August 2010.

IUHPE – International Union of Health Promotion Education

The IUHPE is half a century old organisation devoted to advancing public health through health promotion and health education. The IUHPE is working to promote health worldwide and contribute to the achievement of equity in health between and within countries. Members range from government bodies, to universities and institutes, to NGOs and individuals across all continents.

The IUHPE decentralizes its activity through Regional Offices. It works in close cooperation with WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, and other major inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations to influence and facilitate the development of health promotion strategies and projects.

FEATURE STORY

IPSF – International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

The International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy students with the aim to promote improved public health through provision of information, education, networking as well as a range of publications and professional initiatives. Today, the Federation represents over 350 000 pharmacy students and young graduates from 71 countries worldwide. IPSF is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious organisation run entirely by volunteer members. IPSF holds Official Relations with the WHO, Operational Relations with the UNESCO, and Roster Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. IPSF also works in close collaboration with the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). IPSF initiatives focus mainly in the areas of public health, pharmacy education and professional development. Initiatives include public health campaigns, international pharmacy education and workforce research, the Student Exchange Programme, and international and regional congresses and symposia.

54th IPSF Congress, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 1-11 August 2008

IPSF annual world congress gathered nearly 200 pharmacy students and recent graduates from 35 countries from all continents. This year congress was organised by Federation of Pharmacy Students' Associations in Romania (FASFR), a national organisation representing Romanian pharmacy students. The congress took place in a living university city Cluj-Napoca in Transylvania, western part of Romania.

10-day congress programme consisted of IPSF General Assembly, workshops, and Educational and Scientific Symposia. General Assembly is the highest decision-making of IPSF where member countries are represented. It approves reports from the past year, elects incoming executive committee, and gives directions for the future work of the federation. The theme of Education Symposium was this year New Challenges of Pharmacy Profession that discussed how to develop pharmacy curricula to respond new requirements of pharmacists. Quality of Pharmaceuticals – Idealism vs Reality did not focus only on counterfeit drugs but had also wider view on quality issues of pharmaceuticals. Dr. Sabine Kopp from WHO was giving the WHO viewpoint on the topic. Scientific symposium was featured by Poster Exhibition showcasing the situation of counterfeit drugs in different countries.

Congress workshops deal each year with current IPSF topics and campaigns including public health, pharmacy education and professional development. Workshops are aiming to display the campaigns and activities done by IPSF members in the past year or building and developing the future activities. In addition, Patient Counselling Event is regularly included in the congress

programme. The aim is to show participants how they can improve their counselling skills and it consists of a workshop and an interactive competition.

Social events are also an integral part of student congress as they give a great chance to meet and discuss informally with students from all over the world. This year participants were able to visit Turda Salt mine and take part in traditional Romanian weddings that were certainly unforgettable memory for everyone. Each IPSF congress also feature International Night showing performances from all participating countries and Developing Fund Auction, a charity auction which income is used to support pharmacy students.

The Congress of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation elected new leadership at its Congress in August. **John Nguyen** (Australia) as IPSF President and **Yash Jalundhwala** (India) as Chairperson of Public Health. Read more about IPSF and its Congress in the Feature Story below.

The next IPSF Congress will be organised 3-13 August 2009 in Bali, Indonesia www.ipsf2009.org and it will celebrate the IPSF 60th anniversary.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

The representative(s) of the NGO Alliance for Health Promotion attended the following major international meetings:

61st Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

"Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration at 60"

3 - 5 September 2008, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Several workshops discussed health related issues such as mental health education, environmental damage, community outreach: the right to be healthy

WHO Planning Consultation with NGOs

"Renewing and Enhancing Collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisations Towards a Shared Agenda"

22-23 September 2008, WHO, Geneva

More information from the Secretariat

WTO Public Forum - "Trading into the Future"

24-25 September 2008, WTO, Geneva

"At our Public Forum last year I cited to you some of the success stories that civil society has had in influencing the WTO: most notably in the area of TRIPS and access to medicines. Just yesterday we saw the first shipment of AIDs generics from Canada to Twanda under the provisions resulting from the Doha mandate. Today I call on civil society to continue bringing its ideas and solutions forward. It is only with your active participation that the WTO can come to reflect the type of institution you seek for the future" – said Pascal Lamy, WTO Director General in his opening speech.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Launch of the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP)

Geneva, 9 October 2008

http://www.who.int/mental_health/mhGAP/en/index.html

Social participation co-responsibility and co-management in health systems – II International Seminar on Health and Co-operatives

Madrid, 16-17 October 2008

Seminar programme: www.espriueventos.org

IAC General Assembly and International Conference

"Partnering with the Media to Reach Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)" - Cairo, 27-30 October 2008

More information: www.iac-ciaf.com

Civil Society Development Forum 2008 – Geneva Component

Following the Civil Society Development Forum (CSDF), New York, 27-29 June 2008, the CSDF 2008 Geneva Component is now scheduled to take place in Geneva, 27-28 October 2008

[Invitation/registration](#)

Microinsurance Conference 2008

Cartagena, Colombia, 5-7 November 2008

UN ECOSOC High-level Segment

"Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health"

Geneva, June-July 2009

[Read more](#)

7th Global Conference on Health Promotion (GCHP)

"Health and Development – Closing the Implementation Gap" will be the title of the next GCHP

Nairobi, Kenya, 10-14 August 2009

For more events consult our [Calendar](#) and [Events](#)

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