



Chartered  
Institute of  
Environmental  
Health

## INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MANAGEMENT BOARD

NEWSLETTER No 2

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### COMMONWEALTH FELLOWS

Unfortunately, none of the overseas organizations submitted their applications before the deadline this year, and accordingly there will be no environmental health representatives amongst Commonwealth Fellows this year. It has been suggested that any late nominations for this year be held available for 2010, so applications can be submitted in good time.

However, we do currently have Chabala Chanda in the UK from Zambia. He is an EHO studying for an MSc in Environmental Management at Manchester University, and is in charge of solid waste management unit in the capital city Lusaka,

Sadly, we have also learned of the death of David Mwebaze who was a Commonwealth Fellow in the UK from Monday the 3rd October 2005 until the 4th January 2006.

David was the Town Health Inspector for Mukono Town Council which is some 20k east of Kampala, Uganda.

If you know of any professional colleagues from abroad but currently in the UK, why not share the information on these pages?

### NEW WHITE PAPER

A new poverty action plan to help the world's poorest people cope with the economic crisis was announced on 6 July by International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander.

Launching a new White Paper, Building our Common Future, Mr Alexander said the measures would bring help to the 50 million people worst hit by the global recession, keeping children in school, parents in jobs and the most vulnerable out of destitution.

The White Paper represents a fundamental shift in the way the UK delivers development aid, refocusing resources onto fragile countries and for the first time treating security and justice as a basic service alongside health, education, water and sanitation. Fifty per cent of new bilateral funding will be committed to fragile countries to ensure that security and justice are treated as a basic service – alongside health, education, water and sanitation – in the developing world with funding tripled to £120 m by 2014. This will include training police officers, setting up law courts and protecting women from violence

There are currently 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty, of whom one-third live in countries affected by conflict and instability. The economic crisis will force a further 90 million people into poverty and could lead to 400,000 more children dying every year.

Douglas Alexander also set out his desire to see a “fair and equitable” deal from the Copenhagen climate change conference in December. Building our Common Future reaffirms the Government’s commitment to contribute to a \$100bn fund to help developing countries tackle climate change which provides funding over and above existing aid commitments.

Building our Common Future also marks the launch of a new UKaid logo which will be used during humanitarian operations to show UK citizens how development money is being spent.

UKaid is a new logo intended to demonstrate how UK development work is improving the lives of the world's poorest people. UKaid will be used to highlight DFID's work, especially during our response to humanitarian emergencies.

[://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Quick-guide-to-DFID/How-we-do-it/Building-our-common-future/](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Quick-guide-to-DFID/How-we-do-it/Building-our-common-future/)

#### ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (from Rob Couch)

Members of this forum may also be interested in the Environment, Health and Development Network website. The network is intended as a means to bring together researchers, practitioners and funders focussing on environment/health issues and how these relate with processes of development. Network themes relate particularly to the poorer or more marginalized regions and communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Visit [://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/ehdnet](http://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/ehdnet) to download the background document and learn more.

## FATAL NEGLECT (from Rob Couch)

WaterAid report "Fatal Neglect" published in May, shows how diarrhoea, the second biggest killer of under-fives, is being ignored by decision makers, and includes a section on problems facing Zambian EHTs trying to respond to these problems. The WaterAid website is a very good resource generally, go to: [.wateraid.org](http://.wateraid.org)

## WHAT ARE THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight specific goals to be met by 2015 that aim to combat extreme poverty across the world. At the halfway point, many of the MDG's are still off track.

These goals were created at the UN Millennium Summit in New York in 2000, The largest gathering of world leaders in history.

The MDG's are drawn from The Millennium Declaration, adopted by the world leaders, promised to: "free all men, women, and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty."

The declaration was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and details to Goals as:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

## ATTENDANCE AT THET (TROPICAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION TRUST) CONFERENCE ON BEHALF OF ISIG – (from Helen Perry)

An interesting and useful day was spent in Cardiff on 2nd April 2009. After welcomes, there was an excellent presentation from Rhoda Ali (now of THET) who talked about the successful nurse and nurse tutor training project in Somaliland; how the health link had made a lot of it possible.

The first workshop followed which requested Links inputs for priorities for the framework revision to be done by DoH. Summary of the group feedback was:

- Broad agreement of the need to raise awareness of health links
- Awareness of the opportunities within Health Trusts
- Practical considerations for those going overseas as volunteers e.g. getting leave from work; accreditation of staff time spent abroad; pension etc.
- Getting consistency within links was discussed at length.

I raised the need for EHPs within health links and this was documented and will be fed back at the framework review stage.

A promotional video was shown of 'Work of Links and THET' (available through their website [www.thet.org.uk](http://www.thet.org.uk))

After lunch, Karen Peachy (THET) gave a talk of their latest Good Practice Materials:

- Guide to Starting up and Maintaining Links Overseas.
- Toolkit on Monitoring and Evaluation for Health Links
- Risk and Security Guidelines

Again, all are available to download from the web site.

There followed a plenary session with a representative from DFID who took a battering regarding funding – particularly over the news that it appears in the future, funding is going to be restricted to 12 countries – as yet not selected, but will be “low income African countries that have a commitment to health.” Also, accessing funding that is apparently currently available from DFID appears problematic!!

The final work shop was a choice of 5 and I selected “Evaluation of Links – Sharing the Lesson”. Discussion revealed that from the beginning (some health links being 17 years old) there had not been a consistent approach to this. Some of these original links are struggling to introduce evaluation and monitoring in some form. Other newer links had integrated these aspects at the planning stage; and had recognised the need to evaluate the link structure itself – cost effectiveness, value for money etc. Different ways in which this had been successfully/unsuccessfully done were discussed and the THET toolkit referred to again.

A review of THET links – ‘yesterday, today and tomorrow’ was delivered by the Chief Executive, Andrew Purkis and then followed the closing remarks.

- 1) My Impressions .....I came away knowing more about Health Links and the networking during breaks and lunch were fruitful. Firstly, where EH can fit in....
- 2) EH – My opinion is that there is a definite need for our holistic skills within Links. I do not believe the way to go is to develop our own ISIG link; however, there is real potential to latch onto other existing Links. As each is different, a starting point could be for the ISIG to come up with a list of areas where we have expertise and get this information to THET. Alternatively, we could obtain a list of all Health Links and contact each of them directly. After the day however, I left still unclear about how EHPs overseas would be funded – through the Link? Local Authorities? Paying

their own way? Is it correct that the Health Trusts obtain funding to contribute to getting the UK health worker in country?

- 3) Networking: I spoke with a very interesting lady – Jane Fitzpatrick of U.W.E. who has worked extensively overseas but has strong link (including a Health Link) with Papua New Guinea. We discussed a telephone helpline for EH matters which she said would have been of great use to her at various times. I think she would be a good contact – possibly even getting her to attend and speak about her overseas and health link experiences at a future ISIG meeting.
- 4) Of the health link representatives I spoke with, the most interesting was the Somali Community Advancement Organisation. The 2 reps were [.zainab.warsame@thpct.nhs.uk](mailto:.zainab.warsame@thpct.nhs.uk) and Fadumo Warsame – [.\\_gems@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:._gems@yahoo.co.uk) . Both of these ladies are based in London, but have been key players in getting a health centre built in a remote part of Somalia and I believe could benefit from our expertise in many ways – clinical waste and other waste disposal; rain water harvesting; reinforcing personal hygiene; communicable disease control; pest control etc etc. Again, perhaps these would also be a good contact and a potential starting point.
- 5) Upcoming courses:
  - a) Working Overseas: Changing Lives Are You Ready For the Challenge?  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009 – Royal College of Nursing, London  
Fee : Registered Practitioners £50; Student £25 (includes VAT, lunch, refreshments).  
Further info: [.rcn.org.uk/events](http://.rcn.org.uk/events)  
Whilst this course would appear to be aimed at nurses, the details available look like it would be beneficial to EHPs too.
  - b) Conference 2009 “Healthy Communities” (Wales Centre for Health)  
10am-4.30pm, Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> July at  
All Nations Centre, Sachville Ave, Cardiff CF14 3NY  
Contact: [.\\_ornetzeder@wch.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:._ornetzeder@wch.wales.nhs.uk) for further details
  - c) I spoke to Sigrid (WCH) above who told me of an imminent workshop to be held by UPHO (Unified Public Health Organisation). She suggested an ISIG rep attend. Workshop is to look at how they see global health.  
It was tentatively suggested it would be held in first/second week of June in Abergavenny.

## Can You Help?

If anyone out there has knowledge/experience of Environmental Health consequences of discarded radio batteries and their contents, or the use of diesel oil in water storage tanks for mosquito breeding, and would be prepared to share the advice or information, please contact me (details below) for more details of a request received.

Why not share your copy of this newsletter with colleagues? You might even encourage them to join the ISIG – its FREE.

ISIG is aware that many of its members have not given e-mail details, or have moved since they joined us without updating their details. We would like to encourage members to receive the newsletter electronically so please remember to advise us if your details change, so we can continue to keep you informed.

Got some news you would like to share with colleagues? Contact the Communications Secretary, Barrie Whitehead at [bw@rochdaleuwh.co.uk](mailto:bw@rochdaleuwh.co.uk)