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Thanks go to David Musoke from Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health at Makerere University School of Public Health in Uganda for this:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STUDENTS CONFERENCE IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

The Makerere University Environmental Health Students Association (MUEHSA) is an association of students studying Bachelors of Environmental Health Sciences at Makerere University School of Public Health, Kampala, Uganda. It holds annual scientific conferences to provide a forum for interaction amongst academicians, researchers, and other partners engaged in the diverse fields of Environment and Public Health for information sharing to enable a wide approach to Environmental Health challenges.

MUEHSA held its 7th Annual Scientific Conference between 3rd and 4th May 2010 at Imperial Royal Hotel, Kampala, Uganda. The conference's theme was "Environmental Health Strategies towards Global Health Solutions" and attracted delegates from Uganda (universities, local government, and private sector), Kenya (Moi University) and Rwanda (Kigali Health Institute). One of the key resolutions of the conference was formation of various associations and networking between various Environmental Health associations across the world. The next annual conference is scheduled for March or April 2010.

More information about MUEHSA can be obtained at <http://www.muehsa.4t.com/> or email muehsa@yahoo.com

In the meantime, if you have colleagues you think may be interested, why not encourage them to join the ISIG?

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE



Coimbra, located in the centre of Portugal and known as the “city of knowledge”, will host the International Congress on Environmental Health (CISA 2010) to be held in the auditorium of the College of Health Technology of Coimbra (ESTeSC) between 4th and 6th November of 2010. This event is organized by course of Environmental Health from Coimbra and co-organized by the Environmental Health courses of Lisbon, Oporto and Beja.

The event offers a unique opportunity for all those involved in Environmental Health, to present their work, share expertise and promote partnerships, at a nationwide context, thus providing a current snapshot of this interdisciplinary field. They will hold three days of interactive research workshops, bringing together scholars and academic leaders working in organizations and the natural environment.

The CISA 2010 Conference provides a unique venue for the discussion over the relationships among health, environment and development, thus enabling the arising of proposals and knowledge to ensure life quality and health of the populations.

All information of CISA 2010 available in the Conference website: www.saudeambiental.org
For any question you can contact us in: cisa@estescoimbra.pt

RAINWATER HARVESTING ANYONE?

ISIG members may be interested in looking at the latest newsletter from the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance at: http://www.irha-h2o.org/N_30/0_Newsletter_N30.pdf

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISOR WANTED

Irish based international humanitarian NGO Concern worldwide is advertising for an EH advisor to contribute to their EH programmes and build competence in EH. More information on page 27 of EHN 3.9.10 or go to www.concern.net/jobs

COMMONWEALTH FELLOWS 2010

Members of ISIG have been busy putting together programmes for the four Commonwealth Fellows who will have arrived when you read this. We welcome Albert Musonda from Zambia, Emmery Mbaha from Uganda, Florence Muriithi from Kenya and Karen Brown from Jamaica. They will be hosted respectively by the North West, East Midlands, Northern and Greater London Regions and travelling around to various conferences and meetings during the 3 months they are with us. In addition we will also be joined by Anselmo Kapandila, from Tanzania who is to be hosted at East Lindsey Council, in Louth, Lincolnshire.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT OCTOBER 15?

It's Global Hand Washing Day.

The event focuses on children and schools and is meant to raise awareness around the world -- particularly in countries with limited access to sanitation -- about the importance of washing hands to prevent the spread of disease.

Of the approximately 120 million children born in the developing world each year, half will live in households without access to improved sanitation, at grave risk to their survival and development. Poor hygiene and lack of access to sanitation together contribute to about 88% of deaths from diarrhoeal diseases, accounting for 1.5 million diarrhoea-related under-five deaths each year. Children suffer disproportionately from diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases and deaths. But research shows that children – the segment of society so often the most energetic, enthusiastic, and open to new ideas – can also be powerful agents of behavioral change.

DEVELOPMENTS MAGAZINE SCRAPPED

Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Developments has written to subscribers of Developments magazine to advise of his decision to cease further publication as part of the current government comprehensive spending review. DFID has made public their pledge to put women at the forefront of development with a new emphasis on girls' education and maternal health. Malaria is also a key priority. If you want to keep up with international development you can join their e-bulletin at www.dfid.gov.uk/ebulletin-subscribe

PAKISTAN FLOODS

Although flood waters are receding in parts of Pakistan, conditions in the thousands of camps that have sprung up in recent weeks are still desperate with waterborne diseases, shelter shortages and limited quantities of food for children being persistent threats.

Widespread water contamination is causing outbreaks of hepatitis as well as respiratory, gastrointestinal, skin, and other diseases, and a desperate shortage of food and potable water exists and is steadily worsening across the disaster zone.

Thousands of families are also living on the streets lacking water and sanitation, the victims of the disaster, which has left a fifth of the country under water and affected more than 17 million people.

The sheer scale of the disaster is staggering, with reports suggesting that 20 million people have been affected. This is doubly devastating in a country where 60% of the population was already living below the poverty line.

For its part, the UN World Food Programme (**WFP**) says that it has reached 3 million people with monthly food rations in August, voicing hope that it will double that number this month.

Pakistan will need all its available resources to help it recover from this crippling crisis and to fight long-term poverty. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) – the institution that oversees debt repayments—can play a key role in this. It is currently considering ways in which Pakistan's debt can be eased, and how to make sure the money is effectively used to help people affected.

NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE

Whilst the recent earthquake event in New Zealand was one of the strongest for some time with widespread devastation and damage we are pleased and thankful to hear from colleagues there that they are safe and without injury, which could be attributed to good building codes and the quake's early morning timing.

<http://www.geonet.org.nz/earthquake/index.html> is an interesting site to visit for an idea of how regular quakes occur in New Zealand

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