



Chartered
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Health

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

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December 2009

Message to all members from Peter Minhinnett, President of the CIEH International Special Interest Group, (ISIG)

To all ISIG Members I wish you all the best for the festive season and a happy New Year. As your newly elected President, I would like to thank my fellow board members for giving me this chance to represent you officially and I look forward to continuing the development of the ISIG.

I know the Management Board would be pleased to receive your input into what the ISIG should be doing and where we should be assisting the CIEH with its development internationally. If you would like to contact me direct with any suggestions or offers of assistance then please do so.

In the coming year we are looking forward to success with our recent applications for Medium Grant support from DFID under their International Health Links Scheme. If we are successful then we would be able to further strengthen our links with Uganda and Zambia. This will help their professional associations to move forward, building capacity of their members and therefore assisting their communities to solve many of their Environmental Health problems.

We are then intending to make further grant applications to strengthen the links that the regions of the CIEH have with Kenya, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. In addition, I am also leading the applications of the CIEH for more Commonwealth Scholarships and, if successful, we will be welcoming the selected Fellows to our shores in the autumn of 2010.

The ISIG will also be organising further events where we can assist with CPD and again widen your knowledge of International Environmental Health; if you have any ideas or requests then please advise what you would like us to provide.

We hope you are pleased with our communications. Please encourage your colleagues, who are also interested in the International work of the CIEH, to join us if they are not
ISIG Newsletter December 2009

already members and therefore ensure they receive regular updates and news. If you can forward this Newsletter to fellow members, please do.

As many of you will know I regularly take groups of interested professionals and friends to Uganda each year. If you are interested in joining me either in 2010 or in future years, then again get in touch.

As I said, I look forward to representing the ISIG as the President, and if you would like me to come and talk to your region or interested Group, college or student body, then please ask and even if I am unable to fulfil your wish, we may be able to arrange for one of the other Board members to visit you and further advise about our international practice.

I hope to hear from many of you, meet you at a future meeting or perhaps you will join me in Uganda or somewhere internationally soon.

Regards and Best wishes,

Peter Minhinnett,
President International Special Interest group,
Chartered Environmental health Practitioner.
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As we're all aware Festive Seasons and the New Year are creeping up on us, and although International matters might not be top priority this time of year they should not be forgotten! Many of our members have developed and cemented International contacts and friendships which will no doubt be remembered at this time of year.

2009 REVIEW

There has been some good coverage of International issues during the year in EHP, so if you missed them here's a reminder. In January we saw a report on one of Africa's biggest environmental disasters in the Ivory Coast. In February John Opio, a Commonwealth Fellowship recipient reported on his work rebuilding a shattered infrastructure in Uganda's displaced persons camps. In April we heard how EHPs in Trinidad and Tobago were dealing with the Summit of the Americas conference. September highlighted Andrew Berry's trip to Zimbabwe where EHOs were struggling with staff shortages, poor water supplies and ever present threats from Cholera. In October Sajil Liaquats profile illustrated how EHPs can use their skills to help developing countries, and finally the current bumper issue has both David Ssemwanga's profile on his work to improve environmental health in Kampala, and a report on how UK EHP's are helping train the next generation of health professionals in Rwanda's Kigali Health Institute

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH LINKS CENTRE (IHLC).

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine are developing a new, DFID funded, International Health Links Centre (IHLC).

The primary role of the IHLC is to act as a 'one-stop-shop' Resource Centre. The Centre will provide independent advice and guidance to potential developers of links and existing links on the technical and administrative aspects of establishing and maintaining links. With a dedicated 'Links Centre' open access website, a library of resources will be available which is appropriate to both international users and NHS organisations in the UK and which will assist them in developing their link.

In addition, the IHLC will signpost UK partners to developing country health plans, to tools that can help them evaluate the impact of their work, and act as a signposting function to appropriate agencies for health professionals interested in voluntary or humanitarian work.

The IHLC website (Phase 1) is now accessible at www.ihlc.org.uk

They want to ensure that the IHLC is useful to all those interested in international health links. and are keen to encourage wide participation in developing this resource.

Among other features, they are developing a Directory of International Health Links. If you or your institution are currently involved in an international health link and would like to be included in the directory, you can e-mail the web address with a brief paragraph (up to 200 words) describing the link to ihlc@liv.ac.uk

Over the next 2 months a 'stakeholder consultation' will be held, following which the functionality of the website will be expanded to include a 'Members Area' and additional features recommended by participants in the consultation.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dear colleague,

We are pleased to announce the launch of the International Development and Local Government Community of Practice (CoP). This is an online forum for those working in local government who have an interest in development issues and are currently involved or considering getting involved in international development work.

The International Development Community of Practice has been set up by the UK Local Government Alliance for International Development following responses by councillors and council staff to our recent survey. You told us that the current biggest barrier to councils undertaking development work is staff & resource pressures. You also told us that you want more online information and support to get involved in development activities. This is

the first of a number of initiatives to give you greater access to information & support without having to worry about pressure on budgets or days out of the office.

What are communities of practice for local government?

Communities of practice for local government is a website that was set up by the Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA) to support collaboration across local government and the public sector. It is a free resource that enables like-minded people to get together and explore ways of working to identify common solutions and share good practice and ideas. Please see the attached flyer for further information on how communities of practice can help local government improvement

What is the purpose of the ***International Development and Local Government Community of Practice:***

Whether you are an officer needing some advice to get an international project off the ground, a councillor trying to work out how your council could get involved or just someone who sees that there is an opportunity for local government to do more to help in the fight against global poverty, this community provides an environment for you to get in touch with others doing similar work and share experiences, ask questions and work together to promote the good work that is happening in the world of local government and development

We hope that this will be a useful forum for you to find out more and improve how we in local government can and are contributing to international development.

How to register: To register, select the "Register" button on <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/2376393/home.do> and become a community of practice member today. Follow the simple steps to set up your profile.

Poll Question

Once you register, to get started, please answer the poll question (*on the bottom right hand side of the CoP page*)

We are happy to hear your thoughts and feedback on our Community. Please contact a member of our team using the contact details below.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The International Development in Local Government CoP Team,

Libby Ferguson, Partnership Manager, LG Alliance - libby.ferguson@lga.gov.uk

Ioana Serghiuta, Support Officer, LGA - ioana.serghiuta@lga.gov.uk

Hannah Cook, Projects Officer, CLGF - hannah.cook@clgf.org.uk

And Finally....

I hope you have found something of interest in these newsletters during the year. If the content has not been what you expected, or if you have suggestions for additional content please let me know. Member involvement is all good.

It has been my pleasure to edit this years newsletters, and I would like to wish all of you a very happy time over any coming celebrations and holidays, stay safe and healthy ready for whatever 2010 has in store for us. Thanks to all the contributors during the year, and best wishes to the rest of the management team.

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