

International Steering Committee meeting Bangladesh, 15-16 May 2017: Report

Members of the HAIAP-PHM International Steering Committee (ISC) met at [Gonoshasthaya PHA](#), Savar, Bangladesh during May 15-16, 2017 to discuss the planning and agenda of the proposed November meeting.



Not all members of the ISC could attend due to problems in obtaining funding and visas. Those who attended were self-funded. Regrettably, due to Internet problems, other members of the ISC could not be linked in via Skype. Those present (from left to right in the above photo) were:

1. Dr. Mira Shiva, All India Drug Action Network, India
2. Dr. Manzur Kadir, Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), Bangladesh
3. Dr. Edelina P. Dela Paz (Delen), Health Action Information Network (HAIN), People's Health Movement representative for PHM Global Steering Council, Philippines
4. Dr. Ken Harvey, Monash University, Australia
5. Dr. Laila Parveen, Gono Bishwabidyalay, Bangladesh
6. Dr. Qasem Chowdhury, GK, Bangladesh
7. Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury, GK, Bangladesh
8. Shila Kaur, HAIAP Coordinator, Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia

In addition:

9. Md. Fazle Karim, Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Bangladesh – documenter
10. Dr. Ishak Ali, GK, Bangladesh.

It was decided that holding a major meeting on the theme of “Revive Health for All” in November 10-14, 2017 was too ambitious and this meeting should be postponed for later in 2018. This would also commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care. It was noted that people are having difficulty obtaining funds for air-travel, PHM has no resources to

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commit, donor funding does not look promising and several people have committed to attend a Nutrition Conference with dates close by.

It was accepted that the proposed “Revive Health for All” conference, and the issues outlined, were still of great relevance but more time was required to finalise the planning and explore options for funding.

Instead, it was agreed that a HAIAP meeting would take place at GK from November 10-12, 2017 concentrating on one of the issues previously identified: Ensuring Access to Affordable, Safe, Quality Essential Medicines and their Rational Use.

There would be a focus on antibiotic resistance, the failure of a profit-orientated pharmaceutical system to meet the challenge of providing new antibiotics, the role of antibiotic guidelines and other educational initiatives, meeting the challenge of pharmaceutical promotion and a multi-country study on drug pricing.

Relevant country stories would be solicited and presented (action-orientated initiatives that have made a difference). The aim is to stimulate HAIAP members to further action, nurture younger health activists by promoting intergenerational exchange and identify underlying problems for placing on the agenda of the 2018 meeting.

It is hoped that [ReACT Asia Pacific](#) and the [Therapeutic Guidelines Foundation](#) might be partners for this meeting.

Some HAIAP members involved in this 2017 meeting are also members of PHM South Asia, PHM India and PHM South East Asia, Australia and the Pacific and this should facilitate PHM involvement in the 2018 meeting

Regrettably, HAIAP is unable to provide financial assistance for travel to Bangladesh. However, GK has committed to providing full hospitality for this meeting including airport pick up and drop, modest accommodation, all meals and AV facilities.

More details of what is proposed for the 2017 meeting are in Appendix I.

The Revive *Health for All!* meeting will be rescheduled for later in 2018 (the 40th anniversary of the [Declaration of Alma Ata](#)).

The focus of this meeting will be on grass-roots community involvement (and the health problems they experience), strengthening the defence of health rights, and root cause analyse of problems caused by the neo-liberal, market-orientated approach to health. Practical strategies for radical, transformative change of the current unfair socio-economic system will be identified.

It was agreed that themes previously identified remained relevant:

1. **Containing malpractice (corruption) in healthcare:** the conflict between profit and ethics. What must health activists do to more effectively make health services providers accountable?
2. **Health Financing.** What steps are needed locally and globally to counter the increasing private provision of health care and its role in influencing policy and undermining health?
3. **The ongoing battle for affordable, rational drug use.** How can social movements and community organisations do more, both locally and globally? What organisational aspects are needs for a world-wide campaign? Issues include rational selection, essential drug lists, registration, quality control (WHO-prequalification service), antibiotic resistance, (MDR TB,

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nutrition, etc.) procurement, tackling irrational fixed dose combinations, post-marketing surveillance and countering unethical promotion.

4. **Priority threats: Non-Communicable Disease and Social Inequality:** the need to address the structural drivers of diet related NCD's, especially the corporate food system by working with civil society organisations on food, agriculture and trade issues.
5. **Role of the WHO:** What can it do, what can't it do, what is it being blocked to do and by whom, and what can we, as health activists, do to set this right?
6. **Revitalising the education of health care professionals:** including a more relevant curriculum (emphasising the social determinants of health), practical experience in areas of health and social need, and examples of physicians as health activists, (Virchow, Allende, Zafrullah, etc.).

The following notes which have come from previous email discussion remain relevant:

- The focus of the meeting must be on making an impact on the most important issues we are concerned about (action-orientated, concrete solutions).
- We must engage strong communication/advocacy dimensions to the meeting so that once the key issues are decided, communication/advocacy come into action with pre-, during and post-meeting advocacy.
- We should invite some keynote speakers of global profile who have taken practical steps to change the things. They will enthuse and inspire the meeting. For example, Zafrullah's life long contribution in taking practical actions for the health of the poor and Dr Adeb Rizvi's initiative in Karachi for providing free of cost services for dialysis, transplantation, cancer etc.
- Community involvement will require resources and funding proposals will be required. Who will volunteer to do this?
- We should identify, invite and nurture younger health activists by promoting intergenerational exchange. Some of us are now in the twilight of our careers and succession planning is important.
- We must focus on evidence (and activities) that go beyond the biomedical / techno-managerial domains including social, political, economic, cultural and ecological determinants. This was the vision of Dr Mahler and has been emphasised by others.
- Interactive and participatory approaches will be used. Hence the suggestion of morning plenary sessions that may involve a few keynote talks, country reports and panel discussion followed by small group discussion in the afternoons to focus on participatory action.

It was agreed that representatives of the WHO, WTO, World Bank, etc. be invited to come and listen to people's health concerns after these issues had been explored and agreed upon. It was also suggested that some positive initiatives of these organisations should be identified as well as the most problematic.

19 May 2017

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Appendix I

HAIAP Meeting, November 10-12 at GK: Ensuring Access to Affordable, Safe Quality Essential Medicines and their Rational Use.

Objectives:

1. Stimulate and reenergize HAIAP members;
2. Nurture, increase and sustain younger health activists by stimulating inter-generational exchange;
3. Share of country experiences and learning from each other;
4. Build and strengthen the HAIAP core group to ensure sustainability;
5. Understand current challenges and developments in the context of global forces / policies that impact on medicines policy;
6. Identify underlying problems for placing on the agenda of the 2018 HFA meeting,

Programme/Agenda (preliminary for further discussion)

1. *Plenary key note lecture: Placing medicines within the context of global forces/policies*

Possible keynote speaker (Shila to organise)

- Datuk Dr Anwar Fazal
- Dr Martin Khor

2. *Updates on National Medicinal Policies (including State Medicines Policies)*

Panel Discussion: Dr Delen de la Paz (Moderator and session organiser):

- Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury – Bangladesh
- Dr Prasad Ranaweera / Manuj Weerasinghe - Sri Lanka
- Dr Mira Shiva / Dr Ekbal – India?
- Dr Ken Harvey – Australia
- Dr Michael Tan – Philippines?
- Dr Dzulkifli Abdul Razak – Malaysia?

3. *Plenary: Pharmaceutical Promotions and Marketing ([Mexico Principles](#))*

Dr Christiane Fischer (No Free Lunch) Session organiser / speaker

- Dr Narendra Gupta?
- Dr Gopal Dabade?
- Dr Peter Mansfield?
- Dr Ken Harvey?
- Dr Mike Tan?
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- Ken to be HAIAP nodal point for collecting unethical promotional materials?
- Ken's "[Whack-a-mole](#)" project - a potential HAIAP multi-country project?
- Reactivate / publicise [HAI-WHO Manual: Understanding & Responding to Pharmaceutical Promotion?](#)

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4. *Antibiotic Resistance (MDR – TB, community efforts/involvement, farming/food animal sectors, effluents/groundwater contamination)*

Panel Discussion: Shila Kaur / (Moderator / Session organiser)

Speakers

- Niyada Kiatying – Thailand
- Dr Sujith Chandy - India ([ReACT SEA coordinator](#))
- Prof Mahbul Rahman – Bangladesh
- Prof Azmi Hassali – Malaysia
- Ken will provide name – Australia
- Dr Eric Salenga – Philippines

5. *Plenary: Multi country study on Medicines Pricing*

Prof Niyada Kiatying (Keynote speaker / session organiser)

- Comparison between public and private sector prices of medicines
 - i. Hep C
 - ii. 2 – 3 cancer drugs
 - iii. 2 – 3 Abs
 - iv. Anti-hypertensive drug

Possible study contributors / panel speakers

- Prof Saidur Rahman – Bangladesh
- Dr Delen – Philippines
- Dr Mira Shiva – India
- Dr Manuj Weerasuriya – Sri Lanka
- Dr Azmi/Shila – Malaysia
- Dr Sharad Onta/Dr Arjun Karki – Nepal
- Dr Tanveer/Prof Bhutta - Pakistan
- Beverley Snell – Australia and the Pacific

6. *Plenary: Unique country sharing/experiences/challenges*

Dr Laila Parveen Banu (Moderator / session organiser)

- Lifework of luminaries
- Pharmaceutical promotions
- Community efforts/initiates/consumer groups
- Systems of Medicines/ TCM

Possible speakers

- Dr Mira Shiva – India
(court cases, FDCs, Free Medical Scheme of Rajasthan (State Drug Policies))
- Dr Zafrullah – Bangladesh
- Dr Gene Nisperos – Philippines
- Dr Tanveer/ Prof Bhutta – Pakistan
- Prof Azmi – Malaysia
- Dr Ken Harvey – Australia
- Prof Niyada/Drug Study Group – Thailand
- Dr Manuj – Sri Lanka

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7. *Trade and Medicines (RCEP, TPP, ISDS, IP)*

Dr Amit Sengupta Moderator / speaker (Shila to approach)?

Panel Discussion members

- Susanna Baria – PHM Global?
- Bel Townsend – Australia?
- Kajal Bardwaj – India?

8. *Identification of key underlying issues for the 2018 meeting*

Claudio Schuftan Moderator (Shila to approach)?

9. *Session on HAIAP Internal Matters*

Moderators session organisers: Beverley and Shila

- Governing Council
Communication; HAIAP News
- New Blood – nurturing the young, intergenerational exchange, e.g. short-term internships - “Experience in Activism” - link universities to institutions like GK:
 - Dr Laila
 - Dr Dzul
 - Dr Ekbal
 - Dr Karki
 - Chancellor Mike Tan
 - Dr Ken Harvey
 - Dr Qasem Chowdhury
 - Other - Dr Laila to provide name

Possible timing:

Day one (Nov 10)

Morning

- *Welcome*
- *S1. Plenary key note lecture*
- *S2. Updates on National Medicinal Policies (including State Medicines Policies)*

Afternoon

- *S3. Pharmaceutical Promotions and Marketing (Mexico Principles)*
- *S4. Antibiotic Resistance*

Day two (Nov 11)

Morning

- *S5. Multi country study on Medicines Pricing*
- *S6. Unique country sharing/experiences/challenges*

Afternoon

- *Visits to Gono Bishwabidyal, Jatiyo Sriti Shoudho (National Martyrs’ Memorial), etc.*

Day three (Nov 12)

Morning

- *S7. Trade and Medicine*
- *S.8 Identification of key underlying issues for the 2018 meeting*

Afternoon

- *S.9 HAIAP Internal Matters*
- *Farewells*