



## AAAH Welcomes the new GHWA Executive Director



Pakistan. Before joining GHWA, he was the WHO Country Representative in Iran, where he also served as Resident Coordinator of the UN system as well as Representative for FAO. The AAAH welcomes Dr. Sheikh's appointment to this important new role and looks forward to close collaboration with GHWA under his leadership. The AAAH also thank Dr. Francis Omaswa for many crucial development and achievements in global health workforce policies during his executive directorship. We appreciate his continuous support to the AAAH and the development of health workforce in the Asia-Pacific Region.

## The Global Health Workforce Alliance, GHWA, recently appointed Dr. Mubashar Sheikh as its new Executive Director. Dr Sheikh succeeds Dr Francis Omaswa, on 31 May 2008. Dr Sheikh is a specialist in health system policy and planning with extensive experience in health workforce development, including the creation of the famous 'Lady Health Workers' initiative in

Iran, where he also served as Resident Coordinator of the UN system as well as Representative for FAO. The AAAH welcomes Dr. Sheikh's appointment to this important new role and looks forward to close collaboration with GHWA under his leadership. The AAAH also thank Dr. Francis Omaswa for many crucial development and achievements in global health workforce policies during his executive directorship. We appreciate his continuous support to the AAAH and the development of health workforce in the Asia-Pacific Region.



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-this condition makes it more difficult for nurse to move. So it is different from the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in the EU or in other regions. This MRA was developed to satisfy the country leaders who have agreed on the mandate and was designed by the nursing professional bodies in the ASEAN countries who are not supportive of the MRA. They have reasons for that, mainly due to the difference in the nursing standard among the 10 countries. We may need another 20 years to have a real MRA. After all, the EU spent 50 years or more to achieve theirs.

**ICHRN:** Within Asia, Thailand has been less affected by the out migration of nurses. Why do you think this is?

**Suwit Wibulpolprasert:** Firstly, many Thais do not speak good English, and those that do speak good English have often not entered nurse training. Secondly, because our systems pay them quite well, in both the public and private sectors, we retain them. Thirdly, there is an adequate working environment. And because of the excellent working spirit and care, Thai nursing care has attracted many foreign patients which has drained the limited resources from the rural public facilities.

**ICHRN:** Can you briefly describe for our readers what the

AAAH is and how is it working to improve HRH in the region?

**Suwit Wibulpolprasert:** AAAH stands for Asian Action Alliance on HRH. It is a network of HRH coordinators and those who are interested in HRH in the Asia-Pacific region. We started with only 10 countries in the first year and expanded to 15 in the second year. We are continuing to expand. The main purpose of AAAH is networking, knowledge and skill sharing, capacity building, and advocacy. More details can be retrieved from our website at [www.aaahrh.org](http://www.aaahrh.org).

**ICHRN:** Is there anything further you would like to communicate to our readers interested in HRH issues?

**Suwit Wibulpolprasert:** HRH problems are complex and need long-term solutions supported by strong institutional and human capacity for policy development and implementation. A programme based on outside consultants will not work and will not be sustainable in the long run. Multiple strategies, both demand and supply side, need to be integrated and implemented in a well coordinated manner with multi-sectoral support in order to be effective. The Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action, endorsed at the First GHWA Forum on 5 March in Kampala, Uganda, is a very good tool for each country to consider applying to their needs.

Source: *International Council of Nurses International Centre for Human Resources in Nursing* [www.ichrn.org](http://www.ichrn.org)

## New HRH Technical Articles

- Return Migration of Nurses
- Supportive Supervision to Sustain Health Worker Capacity in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and North Sumatra
- Non-Physician Clinicians in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Training and Retaining More Rural Doctors for South Africa
- Scaling Up, Saving Lives
- Guidelines: Incentives for Health Professionals
- I Can Make a Difference in One's Family Life: Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Ethiopia
- Working from the Inside: Mainstreaming HIV into Government Planning in Kenya
- Spotlight 3, Monitoring education and training for health workers
- Spotlight 2, Gender and health workforce statistics

- Human resources for health challenges of public health system reform in Georgia
  - Review of the utilization of HEEPF - competitive projects for educational enhancement in the Egyptian medical sector
  - Empowering the people: Development of an HIV peer education model for low literacy rural communities in India
  - Intent to migrate among nursing students in Uganda: Measures of the brain drain in the next generation of health professionals sectors
- More information about these recently released or published technical documents are available on the AAAH Website.
- Please do not hesitate to contact the AAAH Secretariat ([secretariat@aaahrh.org](mailto:secretariat@aaahrh.org)) with your questions or requests.
- Regularly check our Website at <http://www.aaahrh.org/articles.php> for latest update on recent HRH development.