

AAAH Highlights : 2008

The AAAH was in its second year in 2008 and the AAAH took parts in a number of HRH activities. At the beginning of the year the AAAH took part in preparation for the Parallel Session 1: "Who services Primary Health Care and how can they be effectively and equitably created, motivated and maintained to provide good PHC services" of the Prince Mahidol Award Conference. The focal point from Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) together with the AAAH secretariat synthesized case studies from each region on experiences and evidences of successes and failures to develop PHC workers, which was presented in this session. Then, in March at the First Global Forum on HRH in March 2008, the AAAH organized the pre-forum meeting with participants to advocate the work of the AAAH to participants and exchange ideas of how the AAAH can play active roles in development of the HRH in the region. The secretariat also set up AAAH booth at the market place to distribute in brochures and related materials. Later at the end of June, AAAH secretariat participated in the consultation of the Pacific Health Alliance for HRH in Nadi, Fiji. Finally, in November 2008, a representative from the AAAH participate in the Asian Consultation on Education for Global Health Leadership in Hanoi, Vietnam (see a brief report on page 7)

To strengthen for strengthening capacity, the AAAH together with the Philippines team held a training workshop on Regional Guidelines for Country Strategic Planning of HRH on May 5th to 9th 2008 in Philippines. Six resource persons from various organizations are invited and eight member countries participated in this workshop.

The workshop aimed to provide assistance in skill development necessary for the development of a national health workforce strategic plan or master plan to priority AAAH countries. It is anticipated, at the end of the course, that participants develop their competencies on stakeholder analysis, situation analysis, process and outcome evaluation, scenario building, and human resource forecasting and bring these skills to work with stakeholders within their countries to develop a national health workforce strategy.

The annual AAAH conference was held in Sri Lanka on 13-15 October under the theme Globalisation and its Implications for Health Care and Human Resources for Health". Participants exchanged experience, discussed situations and recommended actions to be taken.

The AAAH wishes to thank our partners, supporters, member countries and all networks for their continued supports.

New members of the AAAH Steering Committee

AAAH is very pleased to introduce two newly appointed Steering Committee Member, **Ms. Nguyen Lan Huong** from Vietnam and **Dr. Sarath Samarage** from Sri Lanka.

Ms. Houng is currently the Principal Expert on Human Resource Development, the Manpower and Organization Department, Ministry of Health Vietnam. She graduated with B.A. in Economics from the National Economics College in Hanoi, Vietnam, and obtained Master of Public Health (Health System Development) from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Houng has been an active AAAH country focal point for Vietnam since 2006.

Dr. Samarage is the Deputy Director General of Health Services (Planning) at Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition, Sri Lanka. He is also a AAAH country focal point. Dr. Samarage served as the Chair of the Organising Committee for the Third AAAH Conference.

In addition, AAAH would like to congratulate to Dr. Fadia Saadah, a AAAH Steering Committee member from the World Bank, for her new assignment as Manager for the Investment Policy Group in Operations Policy and Country Services Vice-Presidency (OPCS). In this connection, **Dr. Toomas Palu**, Lead Health Specialist at the World Bank Cambodia Office, will represent the World Bank on the AAAH Steering Committee.

Please visit <http://aaahrh.org/steering.php> for more information.



Ms. Nguyen Lan Huong



Dr. Sarath Samarage



Dr. Toomas Palu