

AAAHA NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010



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Greetings

from the chair of AAAH Steering Committee

" In recent years, AAAH is being well recognized regionally and globally.

With valuable supports from our partners; the GHWA, the RF, the WHO, the WB, and the CMB, we could successfully organize our 4th AAAH conference in Hanoi on 'Getting Committed Health Workers to the underserved areas' to strengthen our Human Resources for Health management capacity in the Asia and Pacific. WHO expert group on retention of rural health workers has agreed to add the spiritual dimension into their recommendations.

In this coming year, I would like to welcome our new AAAH member from Bhutan. The AAAH also looking forward for new partners to develop networks in building up capacity.

With our spirit and strength, we will gradually build up our 'social capital' and to work together towards better HRH management for better health of our people.

May I wish you all a very Happy New Year. "

Dr.Suwit Wibulpolprasert

The 4th AAAH Conference



Highlights from the fourth AAAH Conference in Vietnam

Story by Mrs. Nguen Huong, the AAAH Steering Committee, Vietnam

The people's health is the foundation for socio-economic development of each nation. Human resource for health is the most precious resources in the health care system in providing health care services for the population.

We are all aware of the crisis in global human resources for health. Many countries are facing the shortage of human resource for health, especially qualified staffs, mal-distribution, inappropriate skill-mix, and support system. Problems regarding human resources for health are hindering the technical and professional performance of the healthcare system and the roadmap in achieving the MDGs.

Globally, about 50% of population living in the rural and underserved areas are served by only 38% nurses and 24% of doctors. Therefore, it's required to get committed health workers to the underserved and rural areas in order to provide equitable access and quality health care services for populations.

The AAAH/WHO Joint Conference with the theme "Getting committed health workers in underserved areas: a challenge for the health systems" was held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 23-26 November 2009. This was the fourth AAAH annual meeting and the third meeting of the WHO Expert Group. The Con-

ference was organized by the Ministry of Health Vietnam, Asia-Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAH), and the World Health Organization, with support from the Global Health Workforce Alliance, the Rockefeller Foundation, the China Medical Board, and the World Bank. There were more than 150 delegates from 15 AAAH member countries, Africa, WHO experts and resource persons

The objectives of the joint conference are:

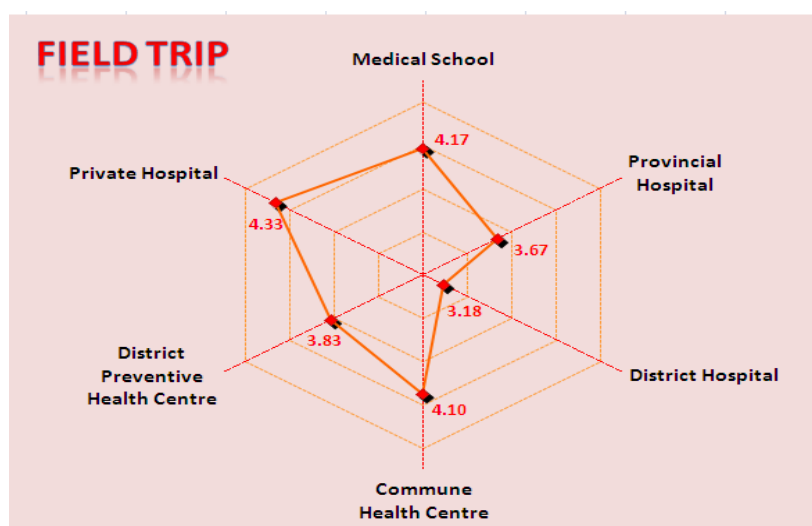
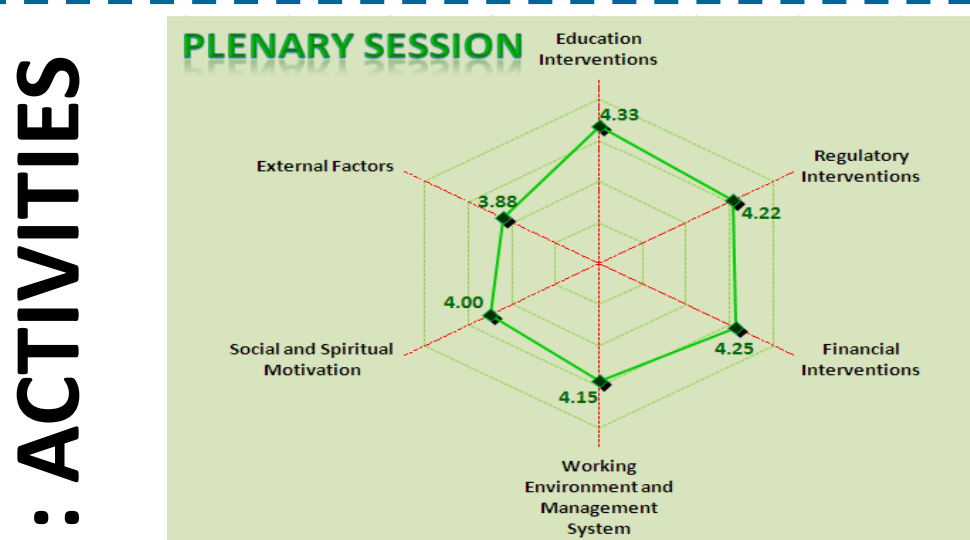
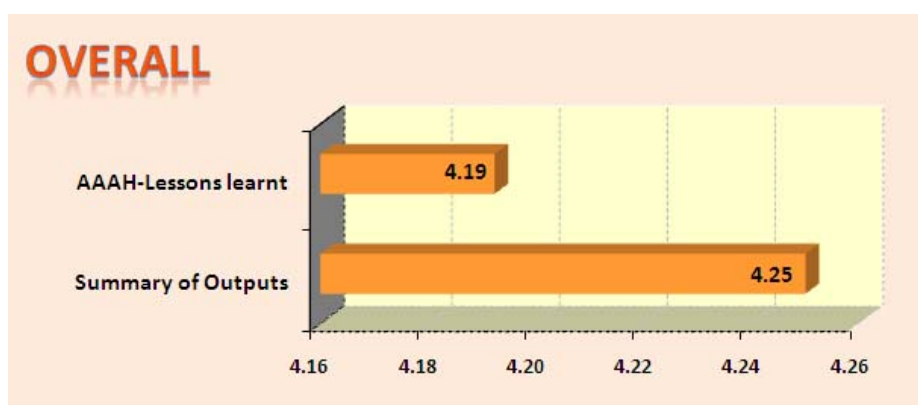
- To gain an in-depth understanding of the current situation and strategies to tackle the problems of inequitable distribution of health workforces, especially those in the underserved areas.
- To discuss and refine a set of draft recommendations initiated by WHO, to support countries in formulating and implementing appropriate, comprehensive and feasible interventions to get committed health workers to underserved areas.
- To learn experiences from different countries/continents concerning the distribution and retention of health workers in underserved areas, and
- To foster networking and capacity building of institutions, researchers and policy makers in the area of human resources for health among partners.

During the Conference, the delegates have followed presentations made by WHO representative on the status of human resource for health in the world and in the region. Delegates from different countries have made 16 presentations and shared practical experience on issues relating to utilization and retention of health workforce working in the rural and underserved areas. Reports and discussions have pinpointed influencing factors and impacts on retaining human resources for health working in rural and underserved areas. Regarding to the retaining of health human resources to work in underserved areas, recommendations have been focused on training, policies, financing, and improvement of working environment and incentives for health workers. Also during the Conference, delegates joined the field trips to Vietnamese private and public health facilities.

After 3 days of working the joint AAAH/WHO Conference with the theme "Getting committed health workers to the underserved areas: a challenge for the health systems" has successfully completed.

Results from the Evaluation the 4th AAAH Conference

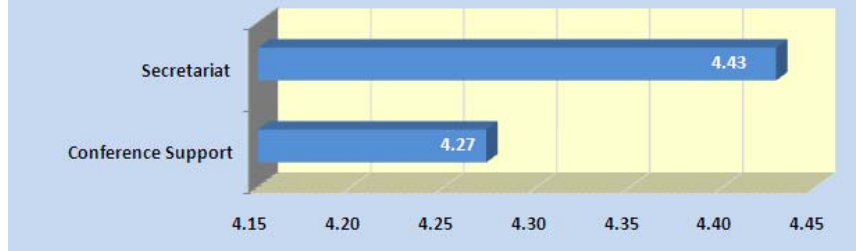
From... evaluation forms we received, there were many helpful comments and suggestion for the AAAH Conference organizer to improve for the next conference. Here are the results...



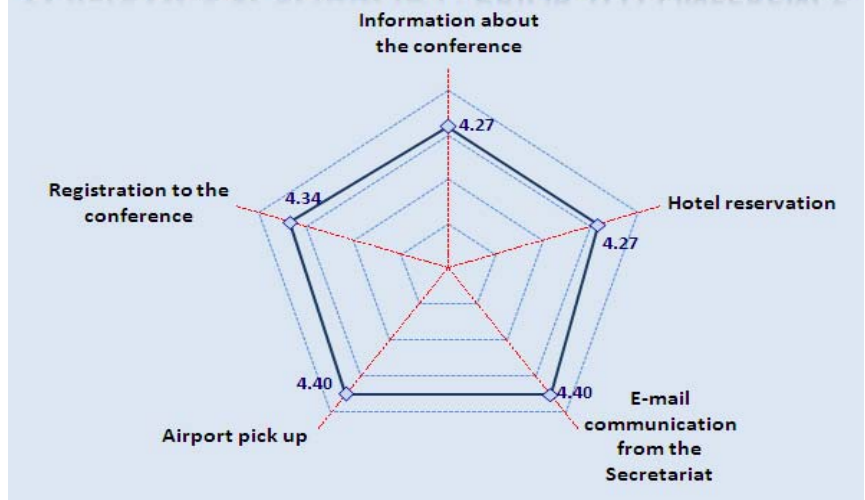
EVALUATION : ACTIVITIES

EVALUATION : LOGISTIC AND SUPPORT

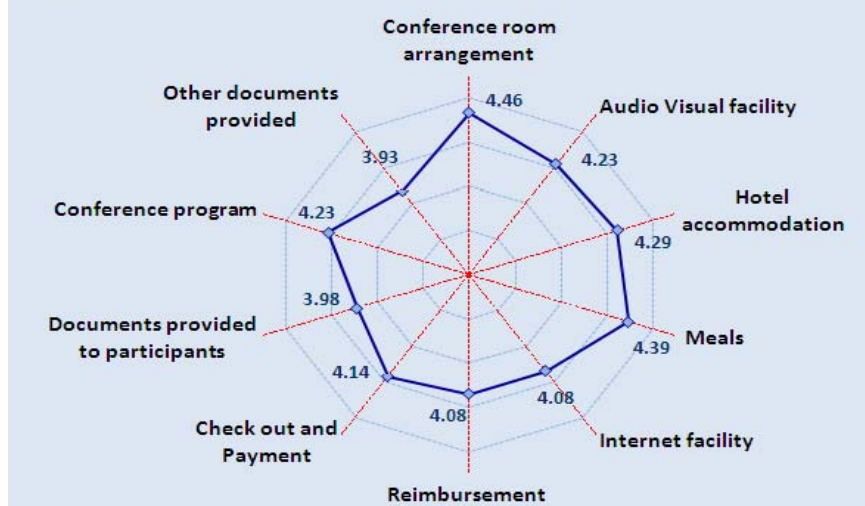
LOGISTICS & SUPPORT



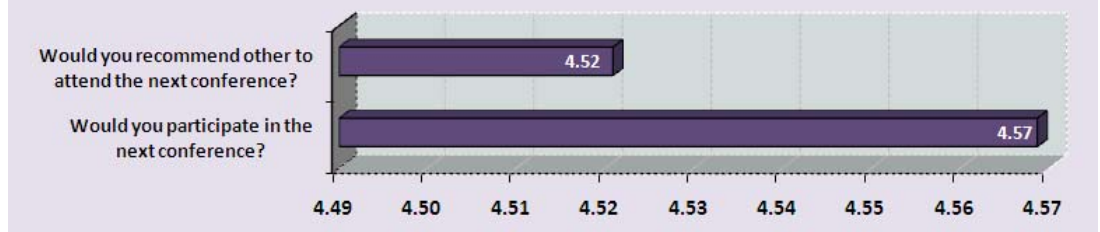
LOGISTICS & SUPPORT: PRIOR TO CONFERENCE



LOGISTICS & SUPPORT: DURING THE CONFERENCE



FUTURE PARTICIPATION



USEFUL FEEDBACK

Feedback for AAAH

- Increase the membership of Asia-Pacific region by getting Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, etc. which will help a lot to learn and collaborate with them

- Excellent conference – Congratulations!

- Maybe the South Pacific Islands can host a future meeting

- In all the other previous conferences, the presenters (case studies) were recognized by awarding them either by giving a certificate of some kind of token. I think this good piece of work should be continued, and at least after the conference a certificate should be emailed or posted to respective presenters. This is some kind of recognition for their hard work. Please think about it. Sri Lanka.

- Very encouraging also to witness the dynamics of the AAAH.

- Would appreciate for AAAH to have a mechanism for member countries to monitor and evaluate HRH systems status based on work plans/strategic plans.

Feedback regarding conference and parallel sessions

- PowerPoint presentation should be printed before to help in following discussions

- Please allow one day to have enough time for tour

- Conference materials should be included in the folder for referrals during the conference

like done in Sri Lanka

- Schedule is too tight
- Perhaps 3.5 days would be helpful

- It would be more convenient before the parallel sessions for the participants to receive the documents

- A good well organized conference. It was a brilliant idea to seize the opportunity of getting feedback on the WHO recommendation guidelines.

- May need capacity for policy and analysis for above activity

- Site visit needs to be improved

- Start meeting sessions should be on time.

- Require speakers to manage time properly.

- Need a good translator for the field trip and background information in advance

- More focus on regional issues/concerns discussion

Other feedback

- Congratulations for all organizers

- The more important thing for the next step is to put the guideline we have mapped out in the conference into practice in the neediest places – SERO, Sub-Saharan countries.

- From now onwards, I have to redefine the word “Quality” in medical education. A student with brain and empathy is true quality health professional. Good bye to meritology education system.

- You could have included ½ day sightseeing visit. In China

they took visitors to Great Wall and Forbidden City therefore the entertainment part is poor.

- This is my first time to attend such conference, and I would like to say here that, it was a very positive experience for me. Through that, I have learnt a lot from the shared experiences during the presentations and reflected on my country situation and how to make improvements, as well as creating awareness and mobilizing the department as well as the service providers to work together. Thank you Secretariat for AAAH and Vietnam.

- More civil society, NGO, university people should be invited rather than government people.

- Keep the good thing to reach the unreached people in the periphery. They deserve the health service.

Thank you very much for your inputs and suggestions. They will help us improve our work in the future. Should you have any further suggestions please do not hesitate to send us an email. We will highly appreciate it!

With warmest regards,
The AAAH Secretariat
secretariat@aaahrh.org

CALENDAR

Short Course on Human Resource Planning and Management

Place: Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

Date: February 8 – March 4

This short course aims to provide health service managers with the skills to develop and sustain a high performing workforce. In a way that is demonstrably informed by appropriate theory and documented evidence and experience, the student will be able to analyze factors critically that influence the external and internal labor markets relevant to a particular organization, develop a strategic plan for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the health workforce in a given situation, design organizational capacity for managing human resources effectively, review critically and evaluate the planning, management and development of human resources in a health care organization, and access, adapt and use tools for human resource planning and management.

4th Routine Health Information Network International Workshop

Place: Guanajuato, Mexico

Date: March 8-12, 2010

The workshop will address the critical role of the Routine Health Information System (RHIS) in improving health system performance and will examine how to measure and improve RHIS performance, how RHIS can better support health system performance and how changes in RHIS and health system performance lead to the ultimate goal of better health outcomes.

UN General Assembly discussion on road safety

Place: New York, USA

Date: 2 March 2010

On 2 March 2010, the UN General Assembly is scheduled to discuss and hopefully adopt a new resolution on road safety. Its goal is to halt or reverse the increasing trend in road traffic deaths and injuries around the world. The resolution is likely to underline the importance of Member States to continue using the 2004 *World report on road traffic injury prevention* as a framework for their road safety efforts, calling for action on five main risk factors: the non-use of seat-belts and child restraints; drinking and driving; the non-use of helmets; excessive speed; and the lack of appropriate road infrastructure.

Panel discussion on women and health

WHO calls for action to improve the health of women & girls: What would it take to make health systems work better for women?

Place: Millennium UN Plaza Hotel, Manhattan Room, New York, USA

Date: 3 March 2010

This panel discussion at the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take forward the evidence of the global report "Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda", recently released by the WHO. The discussion will bring together country representatives, UN partners and civil society on making health systems work better for women.

Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Health

Place: Parma, Italy

Date: 10–12 March 2010

The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, organized by WHO/Europe and hosted by Italy, is the next milestone in the European environment and health process, now in its twentieth year. Focused on protecting children's health in a changing environment, the conference will drive Europe's agenda on emerging environmental health challenges.

International Nurse Education Conference

Place: Sydney, Australia

Date: April 11-14

The program will focus on sharing research and best practice within the global nurse education community and will encourage networking and collaboration for future research within the following areas: inter professional education; education in clinical practice; technology in health and social care education; history, policy and theory in education; research methodology in nursing education; teaching and assessment in practice.