

news brief # 10 & 11

Nov. 2003

People's Health Movement

Alma Ata Anniversary

September 1978 was a defining moment in the struggle of the people, especially the poor, of the world for health. The health decision makers from 131 countries endorsed the Alma Ata Declaration, a document so much ahead of its time and so radical that the participants expected resistance to its implementation. Resistance to and subversion of the primary principles of Alma Ata was so widespread that in September 2003 as we look back on the last twenty-five years, the gains have been limited and the health status of the poor around the world continues to be abysmal. In between, another moment, Health for All 2000 came and went without causing any ripple.

There are several reasons why this happened, some of them being: the reduction of the scope of Primary Health Care through the concept of selective PHC, neo-liberal economic policies, the debt crisis, trade imbalances and such on the one hand and the prescription of the IMF and the World Bank in the form of Structural Adjustment Programs, on the other. Conspicuous in its absence has been political will, either of the implementers or people themselves around the world. The results are plain to see: vital indicators such as infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, malnutrition levels have deteriorated around the globe, diseases thought to have been contained or eradicated such as Leishmaniasis, Leptospirosis, Plague have reappeared. Malaria and Tuberculosis have returned in virtually untreatable forms, TB killing 500,000 people per year in India alone, HIV-AIDS, Ebola virus and a host of other newer diseases have appeared on the scene. Just to reiterate the point, in Alma Ata itself, since rechristened as Almaty, IMR which was 12 per 1000 live births in 1978, is now 60/1000. A sad but apt commentary on the state of public health in the world.

The 25th Anniversary, therefore, does not call for any celebration but rather calls for a deep introspection on why things have come to such a pretty pass. It is also the moment when meaningful efforts to reaffirm the principles and practice of PHC that would make health a reality for those who need it most need to be started and nurtured. One lesson that has been recognized is that unless people take charge of their own health, no systems would work. People's participation was indeed one of the bedrocks of the Alma Ata Declaration. People's Health Movement of which all of us are a part, is one very hopeful step in that direction.

PHM and its constituents across the globe will mark this year as the Year of Alma Ata to raise the consciousness of people and decision makers to the founding principles of Alma Ata and to re-establish the primacy of PHC in our struggle for equity in health. One hopeful sign is already on the horizon – Dr. Lee, the new DG of WHO has already started a serious initiative on primary health care. (PCJ)

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PHM Activities

WHY ALMA ATA ANNIVERSARY?

1. The Alma Ata Declaration was finalized at the Alma Ata Conference in September 1978. So September 2003 is actually the 25th anniversary month. For purposes of our local regional and global reflections, we could focus on 2003 as the year of the anniversary reflection.
2. The coordinates in the post Alma Ata reflections should include not only what happened to the Primary Health Care Strategy at the Global and country levels but also reflect on special initiatives and programme like Essential Drugs strategy; the code for Marketing Breast Milk substitutes; the expanded programmes of immunization and a series of international initiatives all the way from the GOBI-FFF, safe motherhood to RBM, TFI, GAVI, MMV, Global fund for AIDS, TB, Malaria and others.
3. The Alma Ata Declaration and the Peoples Health Charter could be used as the framework of analysis. With the changing visions and roles of international health agencies like WHO and UNICEF who were co-sponsors of the Alma Ata meeting; and the growing development of World Bank as a key health player; and the effects of neo-liberal economic policies of liberalization, Globalization and privatization; and evolving international instruments of governance like WTO, IPR, GATT etc., The whole primary health care/community health/peoples health context has changed drastically and our analysis must be both historical and contextual. The role of other actors including NGOs and civil society can also be discussed.
4. The changing leadership of WHO and UNICEF over the years including the change in WHO in 2003 must be added to the analysis and the opportunity used to discuss not only international health concerns and international health programmes- initiatives and trends but perhaps also significantly the type of international health leadership we have and what we need.
5. With PHA and WSF and similar, visible, international, solidarity and collectivity, this is also an important year to reflect on all our own networking, lobbying and advocacy efforts around the world. Since while it may be easier in our analysis to focus on WHO/ UNICEF/World Bank and national governments – the NGO-civil/society and peoples networks will also have to take the responsibility for not becoming an adequate countervailing power to this neo-liberal distortion in the HFA goals. While we too failed the people, – PHA and PHM at different levels may be the beginning of a new phase, a new collective commitment and 2003 must include a critical self reflection of our own initiatives, campaigns and perspectives before 2000 AD. We need to build sustainable mechanisms of functioning so that the momentum continues and gets more deeply socially rooted

6. The biggest challenge for all of us in PHM is to ensure that the PH Charter does not go the same way as the Alma Ata declaration - forgotten, distorted, selectivised, verticalised, commercialized and ignored. PHM was meant to be a global challenge to this global amnesia. We need to evolve a different strategy this time and use 2003 as a launching pad for it. As we celebrate the Alma Ata Anniversary, let us also celebrate the evolution of the People's Charter for Health. Two documents that support the struggle for Health for All, Now.

The Alma Ata Anniversary Pack

The PHM Secretariat has prepared a pack of materials that would make it easy for our constituents to mark this event. This pack consists of several papers such as: Why Alma Ata Anniversary, Some suggestions for the celebration, The Declaration of Alma Ata- September 1978, The People's Charter for Health-December 2000, The Million Signatures on the Internet to Demand "Health for All, Now".

Some background papers with excellent analysis of the problem based on available empirical data by well known thinkers and activists such as David Werner, Debabar Banerji David Sanders and Prem John are also there.

This compilation done by Unnikrishnan, the media coordinator of PHM, was released in PHM related events during October 2003 in the form of a booklet titled "Health for all Now! Revive Alma Ata!" first in Che and Espejo Forum in Ecuador followed by Italy, Canada, Philippines and India.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION / MATERIAL
PLEASE VISIT
www.phmovement.org**

A-Z of ideas for celebration of the Alma Ata

- A. DISCUSS** the Alma Ata Declaration and the People's Charter for Health
- B. SIGN** the million signature campaign for Health for All Now
- C. TRANSLATE** the signature campaign note into your own language and release a vernacular language website version
- D. REVIEW** the primary health care experience in your state or country and present it at this meeting
- E. IDENTIFY** case studies of primary health care projects by government or NGO/civil society initiative in your state or country and invite project leaders to share their experiences.
- F. RELEASE** a press statement or media brief for the occasion and release it through a press conference
- G. CELEBRATE** your Country's Health Policy if it has been Primary Health Care oriented or has tried to reach Health for All in your country context.

PHM Activities

- H. **HONOUR** Primary Health Care workers in your state or country.
- I. **ORGANIZE** a small exhibition on Alma Ata Declaration principles and the action points of the People's Charter for Health.
- J. **ORGANIZE** a convention of Primary Health Care workers and community level PHC volunteers. Listen to their experiences. Endorse their work.
- K. **WRITE** articles in bulletins and journals on the Health for All / Primary Health Care and People's Health Movement Themes.
- L. **ORGANIZE** a street event, a public march; a candle light vigil; a human chain; a children's rally; a cycle rally; a walkathon; a run for health; to express solidarity with the Health for All Now campaign.
- M. **ORGANIZE** street theatre or folk culture events that express solidarity with the theme through skits and songs and other forms of cultural expressions [Themes : Explore the distortions done by the market economy to the Primary Health Care; celebrate how the people have resisted these distortions or how they have taken health in their own hands].
- N. **ORGANIZE** talks in schools on the theme – People's Health in People's Hands. Thereby inspiring the next generation to the Health for All challenges.
- O. **ORGANIZE** a Radio talk on the theme.
- P. **ORGANIZE** a Television show – an interview or a panel discussion with Primary Health Care activists in your area.
- Q. **WRITE** a letter from your PHM Circle to the Government of your country (Health Ministry and other related ministries, i.e., women, child, labour, rural development, environment, etc.,
- R. **TRANSLATE** the Charter into your own language and release it at the anniversary celebration.
- S. **DISTRIBUTE** the Charter or translated version actively on this occasion and or present it to key health officials.
- T. **ORGANIZE** a rewriting of the Charter into a simpler local language version with examples, drawings and case sheet and release it / distribute it at the meeting to members of the community.
- U. **ORGANIZE** a public signing of the Charter and the Million Signature Campaign in the town square or town hall or some central point in the bulletin.
- V. **ORGANISE** Alma Ata Anniversary meetings in Schools of medicine, nursing schools, health worker schools and sensitise the next generation of health professionals to the Health for All Now campaign.
- W. **ORGANISE** a musical evening or cultural programme. Have a few health and development songs to endorse the HFA campaign.
- X. **LAUNCH** a PHM Circle in your institution / local area / state / country – do so as part of the celebration.
- Y. **INNOVATE** other ideas that are more creative, more collective, more in solidarity with the theme.
- Z. **FINALLY, SEND** us a report, copy of invitation, programme, poster, photographs, video clippings, press releases, background paper/s, educational materials or any other handouts about your event (whatever you do for the Alma Ata Anniversary) – so that we can put it on the PHM exchange or Website. (RN)

Coordinating Office

The Coordinates of the new office:

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Comm.phmsec@touchtelindia.net

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+91-80-5128 0009 (Direct line)
+91-80-552 5372 which number is also the fax

Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Savar, Bangladesh will continue to be in charge of publications, the News Brief and also the Archives. Dr. Qasem Chowdhury, the outgoing Coordinator will handle this.

He is at: gksavar@citechco.net

Dr. Prem Chandran John helps edit the Newsbrief.
He is at: prem_john@vsnl.net

Enlarging the Network: The validity and strength of any movement depend on how far and how wide we are able to spread (not to speak of how soon and how much in depth). Every new contact, every new network brings hope and joy. Here are a few new places where PHM's foot print has been implanted:

1. West Africa:

- a) A new country contact established in the Western African region E-mail: asdebtg@yahoo.fr
- b) Sierra Leone
- c) Cote D'Ivoire
- d) Ghana

2. Southern African region: Mauritius .

3. East and Central Africa : Congo

4. Europe: Bulgaria

5. South America: Bolivia

6. India: The states of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal

The **Million signature campaign** launched to demand Health for All Now! in this Alma Ata Anniversary year is now available in 2 other international languages namely **Italian** and **German**. Similar efforts can be undertaken by different countries to translate the website in their country languages. For further information and help on this please contact unni@phmovement.org

PHM Activities

News from the Secretariat

1. The new PHM Global Secretariat in Bangalore, India inaugurated by Mr. Olle Nordberg and Dr. Qasem Chowdhury:

Mr. Olle Nordberg from Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, one of the founding networks of the PHM inaugurated the PHM Global secretariat in Bangalore, India on 19th February 2003. Dr. Qasem Chowdhury, the outgoing coordinator of the PHM Global secretariat was also present during the time. Besides Dr. Ravi Narayan, the Coordinator, the secretariat consists of Prasanna Saligram as the Communications Officer and Srindhi as Secretariat support staff. The PHM secretariat in Bangalore is hosted by the Community Health Cell. Besides electronic communication systems, the secretariat also houses a lot of resource materials from various parts of the world and in various languages

2. Jagdishwar Goburdhan, former Health Minister of Mauritius visited the Secretariat

Mr. Jagdishwar Goburdhan, former health minister of Mauritius who was responsible for setting up a people-responsive “**Community Health Fund**” in Mauritius, spent two days at the Secretariat starting July 4th sharing his experiences in the field of Primary Health Care. Since his visit a new initiative called “Mouvement Sante Communautaire” (People’s Health Movement) has taken root there. They are also sending a delegation of 7 people to the International Health Forum, Mumbai, India preceding the World Social Forum in order to learn the process of Health Forum so that a similar meeting can be held in Africa.

3. Meeting in Bangalore of some of the Steering committee members to finalize the proposal for PHM

Some of the Steering group members: Zafrullah Chowdhury, Prem John, K. Balasubramaniam and Mira Shiva met on July 28th 2003 to finalize the proposal for PHM Global activities.

4. A meeting on the Traditional systems of medicine (TSM)

30 people - activists, academics and practitioners people involved in Traditional systems of medicine (TSM), met on 29th July 2003. The meeting focused on bio-piracy involving herbal plants as well as the increase in commercialization of the traditional systems of medicine. An urgent need to systematically document these systems of medicine was felt. Also discussed were WHO’s initiatives in traditional systems, whether they promote pluralism or hamper it with a new set of regulations? A small PHM- TSM circle was formed. A TSM workshop at the World Social Forum highlighting people’s voices in TSM is planned.

5. Funding group meets in London

Most of you may not be aware that PHM secretariat (Global) and most of the PHM activities have so far been running on the pitiful remnants of funds that were raised for PHA 2000. This is of great concern to all of us. Therefore the funding group consisting of Andy Rutherford, Prem John, Ravi Narayan, Olle Nordberg as well as Pamela Zinkin, Dave McCoy, Alifia Chakera, Mike Rowsen and Udayakumar met in London on 23rd and 24th of October 2003 to discuss the strategies for future funding and to finalise the Proposal.

6. Dialogue with WHO in Madrid:

From London Ravi Narayan went to Madrid to participate in the WHO meeting entitled “Future strategies for Primary Health Care”. This was an opportunity used by PHM to present people’s perspectives as expressed in the People’s Charter for Health. This opportunity was also used to present the PHM’s concerns on WHO’s policies.

7. Planning Strategy

A three-year strategy planning exercise has been initiated by the Secretariat through a series of communications to all members of the Steering Group and the Secretariat support group. The process is ongoing and will be completed in October 2003.

8. A communication strategy

A communication strategy is being evolved so that all the methods presently being used including website; PHM exchange; news brief; press releases; publications and email communications are better focused and directed towards specific objectives to support the growth of the movement. The strategy evaluation was stimulated by a thought provoking paper by Andrew Chetley entitled ‘PHM Communication Matters’. (chetley.a@healthlink.org.uk & webmaster@phmovement.org).

9. PHM – Global Website

The baton of the Global web site has been transferred to Prasanna (PHM Communications Officer) from Nand Wadhvani (PHM - Cost Rica), who was the website consultant and manager till recently. We hope all of you will actively participate in telling us of your activities to help us update / upload the website actively. As a PHM policy, we are now suggesting some standardized methods of communication regarding events and initiatives (A separate communication follows).

10. The Global Health Equity Watch project

The PHM / GEGA / WEMOS joint initiative for a Global Health Equity Watch report has progressed well with a detailed framework evolved by Dave McCoy, Mike Rowson and an informal advisory group through e-group discussion. This has now been circulated for wider comments. ((David.McCoy@lshtm.ac.uk & mikerowson@medact.org).

PHM Activities

WHO and PHM

After the close interaction at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, May 2003 when we introduced PHM to the incoming DG, Dr. Lee Jong-wook, PHM received a letter from him expressing his desire to work closely with PHM in the coming years. This is good news indeed!

News from the Regions

1. SOUTH AFRICA REGION

A South African Alma Ata Anniversary meeting entitled 'Twenty Five years after Alma Ata' was held end of August 2003 supported by David Sanders and the PHM Circle <lmartin@uwc.ac.za>

2. EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION

Kenya

PHM Kenya Circle was launched on 23rd August 2003 at Mombasa. Participants from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Netherlands participated in solidarity.

A post launch seminar was held, attended by 20 participants from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, which chartered the way forward for PHM Kenya and its collaborators and partners in health (p hmkenya@yahoo.com)

Tanzania

Mwajuma has continued to establish contact with other networks and the Alma Ata Anniversary pack was mailed to 150 addresses in Africa (masaigana@africaonline.co.tz)

Uganda

'Uganda Coalition for Access to Essential Medicine' was formed to be a stronger voice for advocate and campaign for fair legislation and access to essential medicine. (heps@utlonline.co.ug)

3. MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA REGION

Palestine

A regional meeting of PHM contacts was held on October 17th in Cyprus. (jihad@shabaka.net)

Egypt

AHED conducted a one day seminar on 25th year Alma Ata Declaration in Egypt at the end of August 2003. The PH Charter was distributed / promoted during this meeting (hserag@yahoo.com).

Cyprus :

A PHM Regional meeting was organized in Aya Napi, Cyprus, on 17-18th of October 2003 to make a year plan for the region. 13 countries were represented. Documents in Arabic and English are being prepared <jihad@shabatic.net>

Portugal :

The World Consumer Congress, facilitated by Consumer International, was held between 17th to 19th October 2003, at Lisbon, Portugal. bala@haiap.org and <carmelita@ciroap.org>

4. INDIA REGION:

The National Working Group of the Jana Swasthya Abhiyan (PHM India) met in Bangalore on 26-27th July 2003 to plan for PHM activities and the Alma Ata Anniversary in India. The discussions included themes such as **The Right to Health Care campaign** to be launched by PHM India on 6th September 2003 at Mumbai as part of the Anniversary campaign; planning the initial framework of the International Health Forum in Mumbai on 14-15th January 2004. cehatpun@vsnl.com

In August 2003, PHM India held a workshop on 'Hunger Watch' in Bhopal.

On 5th September 2003, a Workshop for activists from 18 states on the "Right to Health Care" campaign was organized by PHM India, at Mumbai, as part of the Alma Ata Anniversary celebration and over 250 people attended the meeting. On 6th September 2003, a National Public Consultation of PHM India with the National Human Rights Commission was also held. **Testimonies** from many states on the 'Denial of the Right to Health Care' were recorded. PHM meetings and workshops have taken place in several states – Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan.

5. SOUTH ASIA REGION:

Bangladesh

PHM Bangladesh Circle management committee met on 5th June 2003 to review the experience of Bangladesh participants at PHM Geneva, May 2003 (dorpc@bangla.net, afmimam@dhaka.net & p hm bc@dhaka.net).

A National Health Convention on 25 years of Alma Ata Anniversary was held on 6th September 2003 at Dhaka (dorpc@bangla.net, afmimam@dhaka.net & p hm bc@dhaka.net).

Sri Lanka

Prem John of ACHAN/PHM visited Colombo on 29th August to 1st September 2003 to meet PHM contacts and increase their involvement in PHM. (hariprem@eth.net & prem_john@vsnl.net).

6. SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION:

Philippines

Health Action Information Network and Health Link Exchange Worldwide, UK, organized a 6-day Communication for Advocacy Training workshop in Manila from July 22-26, 2003 <hain_sj@kalusugan.org>

PHM Activities

A forum on 25 years of Primary Health Care was held in Manila on 12th September 2003
(bdelapaz@uplink.com.ph)

Philippines :

An International Conference on 'Challenges in Health work in a Globalized and Terrorized world: Continuing our Resistance' was organized in Manila, from 2nd – 10th November 2003 by the International League of People's Struggles – Adhoc Health Commission, PHM Philippines and IPHC – Philippines (bdelapaz@uplink.com.ph).

7. NORTH AMERICAN REGION:

USA

As a follow up of PHM -USA 8- city tour in March 2003 of Zafrullah, Ravi and Thelma (PHM South Asian leaders) the coordination of PHM-USA activities is evolving. Four circles have been launched - War and Health Circle; Health and Trade Circle; Environmental Justice Circle; and US Health Care Access Circle (sarahs@hesperian.org).

A coordinating group has been set up to address different needs including listserv relations / monitor; website; conference coordination; publications; finances and PHM International relations (sarahs@hesperian.org)

Alma Ata celebrations were organized at the Doctors for Global Health Annual Meeting at Berkeley - end of July 2003 (dghinfo@dghonline.org)

Canada :

The Canadian Conference on International Health on the themes : The Right to Health influencing the Global Agenda and How Research, Advocacy and Action can shape the future was held in Ottawa, 26-29th October 2003. '**A Right to Health Care Now Campaign**' from the perspective of PHM and IPHC was organized by Maria Zunega <maria@iphcglobal.org>. A workshop on '**Public Private Partnerships**' was organized by Jose Utrera with WEMOS and IPHC participation <jose.utrera@wemos.nl>. Another Workshop on "**Liberation Medicine and PHM**" was organized by Lanny Smith <vze2x6qm@verizon.net>. Abhay Shukla from PHM India presented a paper on "**Right to Health Care**" campaign cehatpun@vsnl.com

8. CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO & CARIBBEAN REGION

Guatemala

A meeting of PHM activists took place to share experiences and to plan action strategies from the region.

Mexico

A workshop on 'WTO – Food and Nutritional security : A Global Concern' was organized by WEMOS for delegates on 12th September during the 5th WTO Ministerial conference at Cancun, 10-14th September 2003 <trade@wemos.nl>. Many PHM members

including Mira Shiva and Carmelita Canila attended the Cancun meeting.

Nicaragua

The E-mail list serve called REDLATINOAMERICANASALUD has been very active. This list serve is moderated by the IPHC office in Nicaragua and is open to all Spanish language persons who attended PHA 2000, as well as others who have subscribed to the first serve.

Apart from the above, this region has a network called "The Regional Committee for the Promotion of Community Health" founded in 1975, which is vital to PHM Mexico, Central America and the Spanish speaking Caribbean and is fully involved in PHM and its activities. Efforts are on in most countries for the Million-Signature campaign. Regular activities are being carried out in the framework of the 25th Anniversary of Alma Ata. Activists are also preparing a response to the PAHO PHC document.

Ecuador

An International Primary Health Care Forum in Quito was held, 20-24th October 2003. It was preceded by the Che and Espejo Forum in Cuenca in the week 13-17th October 2003 (aquizhpe@yahoo.com).

9. SOUTH AMERICAN REGION

Brazil

Sr. Ani, PHM Brazil, informs us of the PHM campaign **Hearing the Voices of the Unheard** is going on well, of special significance in a country affected by the domination of Banks and Multinationals and where the vast majority of people do not have computers. PHM is promoting pamphlets explaining the campaign, adding a slip for signatures and enclosing a copy of the declaration of Alma Ata. All these are presented in assemblies – local and regional meetings as well as individually among poor communities. Hundreds and thousands of grass roots folk are signing up.

[Can other countries adopt (adapt) this simple low cost method to their own cultures and situation? Write to Sr. Ani for further details <Acwlepalis@aol.com>].

Bolivia

MAP International, Bolivia, has informed that they are endorsing and promoting the spirit of the People's Charter for Health in their educational activities as well as in the different projects.
<mapbol@supernet.com.bo>

10. EUROPEAN REGION

UK

Reaching the 40th Translation of Charter

A recent list from Pam Zinkin who is coordinating / tracking translations of the Charter, brings great news.

PHM Activities

Finalised and on the website – Arabic, Bangla, Chinese, Danish, English, Farsi, Finnish, Flemish, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Malayalam, Ndebele, Nepalese, Philippines, Portuguese, Russian, Shona, Sinhalese, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Urdu, Ukrainian. **Promised** Cambodian, Tonga, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Welsh, Thai, Dari, Pastun, Creole, Vietnamese, Welsh and Bulgarian.

Also available Audio in English and in English with Braille titles

[If you have done translation into your own language not in the above list, please let us know immediately to add to the list. Can we reach the 50th Mark by the PHA anniversary on 8th December 2003? (pamzinkin@gn.apc.org and gksavar@citecho.net)]

Russia

A Conference was held in the Medical Academy of Postgraduate study in St. Petersburg on Alma Ata - Health for All is necessary and possible. 300 participants attended including over 32 social and medical NGOs. The Charter was published in the Medical Academy Newspaper and a special Russian edition of Charter distributed to all participants. This was reported widely in the popular press (simb@comset.net).

The materials of the conference were also used during the Hearing on the Medical compulsory insurance reformation at St. Petersburg legislative assembly (simb@comset.net).

Netherlands

The Women's Access to Health Care campaign was launched by WGNRR in collaboration with a large network of organizations including PHM on 27 May 2003. In many parts of the world, there have been local and national launch and related events <wahc@wgnrr.nl>.

Germany

PHM was invited for a meeting on Genetics Research in Germany to discuss the profound challenges of the new human genetic technologies and the need for social controls. The conference was held, October 12-15, in Berlin. It was organized by the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Institut Mensch, Ethik und Wissenschaft (in Berlin), and the Center for Genetics and Society in California (Dr. Sigrid Graumann - graumann@imew.de). PHM was represented by Gilles de Wildt <gillesdewildt@yahoo.com>.

A Seminar on 'Public, Private Partnerships – Hand in Hand with Industry?' was organized by BUKO, in Bad Boll, in Germany, 3rd October – 2nd November 2003. Panelists will include Zafar Mirza (Pakistan), Thelma Narayan (India), Jose Utrera (The Netherlands), Judith Richter, Christiane

Fischer and Andreas Wulf (Germany). This was followed by a series of smaller meetings in different towns of Germany, with Zafar Mirza of Pakistan and Thelma Narayan of India as resource persons.

Switzerland

Dr. Bala and David Woodward represented HAI and PHM respectively in the Millennium Development Strategy Task Force on Access to Medicine Workshop at Geneva in June 2003. David presented a paper on 'Medicine and Pharmaceutical Technology as Public Goods' (bala@haiap.org and woodwarddavid@hotmail.com).

Bulgaria

An IBFAN linked Bulgarian NGO called NM – Women and Mothers against Violence which has more than 1600 members and volunteers has offered to translate the Charter into Bulgarian and spread PHM in their country. They work on protection of mothers and children's health, support of breast feeding, infant feeding and trade issues <ibfanbg@rtsonline.net>.

Italy

A PHM Italy meeting was held in Bologna, Italy in July 2003 facilitated by AIFO. Dr. Thelma Narayan, PHM India was a special invitee and resource person in Health. A discussion with Medical faculty and students of the University of Bologna was also facilitated by her and Sunil Deepak of AIFO (sunil.Deepak@aifo.it).

The AIFO biennial conference was held in Rome on 25th and 26th October 2003. A three member PHM team (Ravi, Maria and Mwajuma) received a Human Rights Award on behalf of PHM.

REJOICE WITH US!

The President of Amici di Raoul Follereau foundation (AIFO) of Italy, Dr. Enzo Venza, presented the award to PHM for safeguarding Human Rights at their Biennial meeting on 25th of October 2003. It was received by Ravi Narayan from Asia, Maria Hamlin Zuniga from Latin America and Mwajuma Masaiganah from Africa. The meaningfully done Citation reads:

“To the Multitude of excluded people for whom the People's Health Movement speaks. To their desire for life and future. To their intelligence and abilities. To the new world sprouting from the actions of grass-roots movements, a world where the supremacy of people over profit can be re-established”.

Spain

A WHO Global Meeting on 'Future Strategic Directions for Primary Health Care', was organized in Madrid, Spain, 27-29th October 2003. PHM was represented by Ravi Naraya, the Global Coordinator.

secretariat@phmovement.org

Switzerland

Forum 7 of the Global Forum for Health Research, will be held in Geneva from 3rd to 7th December 2003. PHM participation in many sessions is evolving. lmartin@uwc.ac.za

11. AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND PACIFIC REGION

Australia

The Government of South Australia launched a Revitalised Primary Health Care policy on 12th September 2003. Fran Baum and other PHM colleagues were involved. PHM has sent a congratulatory message. Fran had also requested PHM friends to send short messages of how they could support struggles for health in other countries <fran.baum@flinders.edu.au>

Macmillan Education, Australia, publisher of secondary school textbooks in Melbourne had requested permission from the PHM Secretariat to reproduce a screen shot of the PHM Website in their forthcoming book – Achieving Health and Human Development. A print run of 10,000 copies to be distributed in Australia and New Zealand in November 2003 is planned. School children will be invited to visit the PHM website and answer a set of questions about what they find there (Karen Forsythe - <kforsythe@copperleife.com>).

12. CHINA REGION

Our efforts to re-start the process in China have not yet been very successful. Unnikrishnan will be visiting China shortly for an Action Aid workshop and will try and make some contacts with PHA-I participants.

[Suggestions and volunteers to follow up in this region are welcome]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Australia :

An International Health Education and Health Promotion Conference will take place in Melbourne, Australia, in April 2004. PHM Australian colleagues are exploring how to organize a PHM event in the Conference. Please contact the Conference authorities after visiting the web page <2004.com.au> and request for nomination for a scholarship if you are keen to attend. You will need to send your name, address, email, age, area of interest and whether you would present a paper. Send this information also, urgently, to Fran Baum at fran.baum@flinders.edu.au

ONWARD TO MUMBAI

India :

The International Health Forum in defense of the Health of the People is being organized by PHM on 14-15th January 2004 at Mumbai, India. This Forum will precede the World Social Forum, which will be held from 16-21st January 2004 at Mumbai. (For further information see Section B) <ctddsf@vsnl.com> and <secretariat@phmovement.org>

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