



May
2005

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The Voices of the Earth are Calling!

The Second People's Health Assembly

The People's Health Assembly is coming together for the second time! From Savar, Bangladesh the caravan trails are now heading towards Cuenca, Ecuador.

The People's Health Movement demands Health for All!

17-22 July, 2005
Cuenca, Ecuador



What's happening in Cuenca?

Cuenca is calling!

Hope, happiness, and dreams, the enthusiasm to share, debate and unite our efforts for a healthy world has burst out in the city of Cuenca and in the country of Ecuador. The national crisis was an attempt to control the Supreme Court of Justice and different organs of the State and to distract attention of the people from the central problems of the country, Therefore, the PHA2 surely constitutes a transcendental event full of hope, happiness and optimism.

We call upon all of you to continue to work with enthusiasm and decisiveness. The Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Cuenca, the municipality of Cuenca, and Ecuador await you with open arms and a heart bursting with hope. The voices from around the world are calling us, to unite day by day, from the most isolated corner of the planet, to build the pathway to a healthy world

In solidarity,
Arturo Quizhpe
Coordinator, Second People's Health Assembly

Launch of the first Global Health Watch Report

The GHW report, the Alternative World Health Report will be launched in eight countries around the world on July 20, 2005, including at the second Peoples Health Assembly in Ecuador. A number of countries are launching the report after this date. An advocacy document highlighting the key messages from the Watch will be posted on the GHW website on July 20, 2005. It will be available in Arabic, French, German and Spanish. For more info: www.ghwatch.org

Tracks at the Assembly

- Track one: equity and people's health
- Track two: intercultural encounter and health
- Track three: trade and health
- Track four: health and environment
- Track five: gender, women and health sector reform
- Track six: training and communicating for health
- Track seven: the right to health for all in an inclusive society
- Track eight: health in people's hands
- Track nine: special workshops of the PHM



Read, Endorse and Translate
The People's Health Charter



We have Alegremia. Do you have it?

The Children's Global Forum is a chance for children to discuss, analyse and defend issues crucial to their well-being. It is an opportunity to celebrate diversity and hope. It is a chance to declare that we want energy, love and life and we want it now!

Alegremia is the bubbling, fizzing joy in our blood; helping us leap over mountains of doubt and fear, dissolving pride and racing past petty disagreements. This joy radiates positive thoughts, energy and hope to our families, our society and our institutions.

Aire

Agua

Amor

Albergue

Abrigo

Alimentacion

Art



Children's Film Festival

The Children's Film Festival is another important event planned as part of the assembly. The viewing audience will be students, parents, teachers and professors affiliated with the rural and urban schools in the Second People's Health Assembly participate. These schools include the network of 27 rural schools and 29 urban schools, which are located in the city of Cuenca and its outlying areas, and the network of schools located in the nearby city of Azogues, capital of Cañar province.

Date: July 4 to July 8, 2005

Venue: Cuenca, Ecuador

Other Events

Destruction of the wall of shame & the construction of the monument for dignity

The Youth Forum at the Assembly will construct and destroy a Wall of Shame to express their outrage over the condition of the people of Palestine.

July 19, 2005 Time: 6:00 PM

March for the globalization of solidarity and dignity for the oppressed people of the world

July 22, 2005 Time: 4:45 PM

Voices of the Earth Festival

An open call to all the various groups to march with joy and confidence to celebrate the diversity of the world. Wonderful music and dance groups from the five continents will fill hearts with happiness, color, diversity, and harmony, helping to construct a healthier world.

July 22 2005 Time: 8:00 PM

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The Encounter of Art, Communication and Health

Are there are ways of talking about health other than seminars and conferences? What is the role of art and music in the goal for Health for All! The Second People's Health Assembly will be a vast space for the exchange for information and wisdom.

It will also be a place for exhibitions, displays, music, dance, theatre, poetry and art!



We want your memories (preferably in high resolution)

You have seen joy, anger, sadness and resurgence in your work. Now let the world see them at Cuenca. Please help us remember your journey from Savar to Cuenca.

Send us photographs of your milestones, your actions, your victories and losses in the last five years. Send us pictures of people you met along the way. The people who inspired you. The people for whom you have stayed in the fight. Send us photographs that speak. It's alright to not send us photographs of people on stage standing behind mikes. Everyone has seen plenty of those.

Contribute to the photo-essay, "From Savar to Cuenca" that will be presented at the inaugural ceremony at Ceunca. If you would like to post the photographs send it to the PHM Secretariat in Bangalore or email them to secretariat@phtmovement.org

WHO COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH THE PHM CONNECTION

- ✎ Fran Baum, highly regarded academic, well known health activist and the PHM focal point for Australia and the Pacific is one of the Commissioners.
- ✎ At the inaugural discussions in Chile, the Commission identified the Second People's Health Assembly as a key opportunity for the Commission to engage with civil society constituencies from all over the world, whose support will be critical to the long term success of the Commission's goals. Some of the Commissioners are expected to attend PHA 2 and participate in various sessions including a special session on CSDH.
- ✎ At the first meeting of the Commissioners in Cairo, Egypt in early May, a special session on the second day was organized on People's Health Movement. An example of how global civil society organizations would interact with CSDH. PHM members in the region participated as observers. For details, contact: fran.baum@flinders.edu.au

The Tsunami and its aftermath

PHM's involvement in the post-tsunami action was well reported in the Newsbrief # 14. Subsequent to our

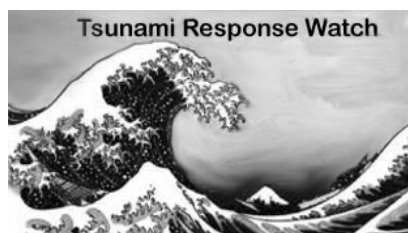
immediate involvement, PHM planned a four-pronged PHM response to this huge humanitarian crisis.

The **first** was an international consultation that went beyond mere humanitarian aid and looked at community empowerment as a lasting solution to disaster preparedness. There were fifty people from disaster-prone countries of the world such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Middle East as well as from Australia, Germany, UK, USA, Tanzania and South Africa. The Consultation looked broadly at human rights and the various factors that affect them even in times of disasters such as the politics of aid, gender and social exclusion such as that of Dalits in India, disaster response and development, public health and psycho-social concerns. Log on to www.phmovement.org for the Declaration.

The **second** PHM initiative was the Tsunami Response Watch, an electronic newsletter that would monitor aid, its use, the politics of aid etc., www.indiadisasters.org/tsunami is an interesting website with plenty of graphics and simple writing. There is a team of experienced editors and media persons who produce this. You can contact them at indiadisasters@gmail.com for further information.

The **third** PHM initiative was a series of consultations with PHM partners in the region. A team of experienced PHM stalwarts visited/would visit Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia and Maldives to assess the experience of PHM partners and to discern the paths that need to be taken.

The **fourth** is a workshop that would be part of PHA 2 in Cuenca, Ecuador which would bring a broad spectrum of civil society groups engaged in humanitarian disasters worldwide. (www.phmovement.org/pha2)



What is PHM doing at the World Health Assembly ?

A small PHM team of around twenty delegates will attend the World Health Assembly sessions from 16th 24th May 2005 in Geneva.

PHM members will speak at

- ✎ the NGO Forum session "On Health and Millennium Development Goals An NGO perspective" (17th May Salle VIII, Palais des Nations, 1400-1800 hrs)
- ✎ a special PHM / AIFO session on "Right to Health as a Fundamental Human Right" (19th May Salle XXIII, Palais des Nations, 1200-1400 hrs).
- ✎ The delegates will also make inputs into sessions organized by SCF, WEMOS and other NGOs.
- ✎ We shall also advocate PHM concerns at WHA sessions and at the informal discussions with Assembly delegates at all potential occasions for interactions.

As always the PHM delegates will represent different countries and continents Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe including delegates from Congo, Bangladesh, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Switzerland and UK.

The focus at this year's presentations will be the Global Right to Health Initiative which we want to discuss at PHA2 and launch soon after. This will also be a unique opportunity for us to invite and involve as many networks, PHM supporters, endorsers of the People's Charter for Health and PHM campaigners in the Second People's Health Assembly (PHA2).

Join us and connect to the People's Health Movement!

For further information contact

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PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF HEALTH A SHORT COURSE FOR HEALTH ACTIVISTS Cuenca, Ecuador, July 11-15 2005

The IPHU is a project of the International People's Health Council and part of the People's Health Movement, globally.

The International People's Health University aims to contribute to 'health for all' by strengthening people's health movements around the globe, by organising and resourcing learning, sharing and planning opportunities for people's health activists, particularly from Third World countries. The IPHU will

- ✎ Organise and resource short course opportunities for health activists from Third World countries
- ✎ Develop an on going program of short courses for Third World health activists (moving progressively to more frequent courses; courses of longer duration and more varied content; and presented in more cities in Third World countries);
- ✎ Develop a broad range of learning opportunities; a growing collection of resource materials; and a wider network of resource people to progressively enhance its programs.

The content of the IPHU program will cover: the struggle for health- strategies, lessons and new directions

- * the political economy of health - understanding globalisation, the WTO, the IMF and the WB; local issues and global pressures
- * comprehensive primary health care - experiences, lessons and new directions
- * working with communities and with grass roots health organisations, including participatory research methods and conscientization
- * health development and the right to health - principles, frameworks, lessons and new directions
- * oppression, hierarchies, alienation, exclusion and materialism and the struggle for health
- * gender, equity and participation and health AIDS, SARS and avian flu - global solidarity in confronting global challenges

The IPHU brings together a rich faculty including public health experts from many developing countries. Further inquiries to the Course Convenors, David Legge (d.legge@latrobe.edu.au) and Maria Hamlin-Zuniga (maria@iphcglobal.org)

Steering Group Meeting, Bangalore

The Annual Global Steering Group meeting of the People's Health Movement was held in Bangalore from 10th to 13th April 2005, at the St. John's Institute for Population Research and the PHM Global Secretariat. A detailed strategic plan will be featured in the special next issue of the New brief No. 16, to be released at the Second People's Health Assembly in Cuenca, Ecuador in July 2005. It will be entitled 'From Savar to Cuenca and beyond'. Please keep track of it !

PHM India, Kolkata

Under the leadership of Federation of Medical Representatives of India (FMRAI) a network within PHM India a "National Seminar on the Pharmaceutical Policies and Access to Essential Medicines" was held in Kolkata, India on **16th and 17th of April 2005**. A similar seminar some years earlier had led to substantial changes in National Drug Policy. At the end of the Seminar the Forum came up with a "Kolkata Declaration" on the action points towards a comprehensive National Drug Policy and access to Essential medicines. Subsequent to the Seminar, the constituent networks and organizations of PHM India met as a preparatory and mobilization meeting for the Assembly in Cuenca.



HAI-AP, Penang, Malaysia

Health Action International is a founding member of PHM and greatly assisted at PHA 1. They held the Asian Health Forum, **25-27 April** followed by their Annual Planning meeting, 28-29 April, both in Penang, Malaysia. The Health Forum looked at several issues of crucial importance to the health of Asians with special reference to trade treaties. The planning meeting was of importance to PHM as well since most of the members are also members of PHM and since we have converging interests and activities.

There were twenty five people from twelve Asian countries. PHM was given prime time to talk of its aims, objectives and activities with special reference to the Second Assembly. PHM believes that some of the new contacts made here, especially from Vietnam and Indonesia will help us enlarge our network in those countries.

PHM Pakistan

PHM Pakistan meets on **16 May** as a preparatory and mobilization meeting for PHA 2 as well as to select the 10-member delegation to the Assembly. They will also identify a contact person for PHM Pakistan and holding of People's Health Convention on 11 July 2005.

PHM Egypt

The "Association for Health and Environmental Development (AHED) in collaboration with PHM will hold its fifth general conference, **14-15 May**. The conference aims at identifying the current challenges facing people's health, determinants of ill health as well as identifying alternative strategies for better health. This is also a pre- PHA2 event for the Middle Eastern Region where the delegates to PHA 2 would be identified.

Travel Plans

Individuals and groups should make travel plans very soon. That is why pre-registration and registration is very important. When you travel in groups you may be able to secure group rates for your travel.

Avoid flights that require entrance into the United States. US Visas are required for travellers from many countries, even for in transit passengers.

Southern participants should use Southern routes or should fly directly to South America from European airports.

Flights may be taken to either Quito or Guayaquil. Do NOT make internal travel arrangements because it will be much cheaper if that is done by the PHA2 Secretariat in Cuenca. There will be forms for you to fill out related to travel plans which will be sent out once the registrations are accepted.

About your visa

Step One: Do not worry but register soon so we can facilitate your visa!

Step Two: Check the list on the PHM website to find out if you belong to one of the countries whose citizens that need a visa before arrival. For many nations Ecuador will issue entry stamps on arrival.

Step Three: If you do need a visa before arrival check in the same list whether you live in a country which has an Ecuadorian consulate. For those countries, who need visas and who have consulates in the country, the visa can be stamped before departure in the country consulate itself.

Step Four: For people from countries who need visas but do not have consulates...hang on. More information is coming your way. Keep checking the website.

Step Five: Now, let us know what you have found out from the list so that we can take care of the steps needed to authorize a visa for the assembly in the appropriate country. List of all participants / delegates to PHA 2 should be made available with the above details by 15 June 2005.

Accommodation and Food

There are many hostels, pensions, and hotels available in Cuenca. Costs may run anywhere from \$2.00 per day to over \$100.00. However, we recommend that people register for hostels which are lovely old colonial mansions that have been turned into Bed and Breakfast facilities. These run about \$13.00 per day with breakfast. If fully booked we would receive discounts. Of course, single occupancy is more expensive than shared facilities. The form for Accommodations will be provided upon the receipt of the full registration form. Food costs for lunch and dinner could easily be kept under \$10.00 a day. We hope to have a food fair where people will be able to secure a variety of meals, including vegetarian options.

For more information about travel/visa/food and accommodation: Please email: asamblea05@yahoo.com
Or log on to www.phmovement.org/pha2

Fifteen Ideas to get involved in the Second Assembly

In your country

1. Organize a parallel event in your own country/city. If you have an exciting one day event scheduled in the latter half of the week in which the Cuenca assembly is happening (i.e July 20 onwards) it may be even possible to webcast parts of the event to Cuenca or vice-versa. Send (email or post) photos and reports of your events to the secretariat.
2. Send films and videos from your country, which are relevant to the themes of the Assembly.
3. Send posters, T-shirts and exhibitions which are relevant to the themes of PHA2
4. If you represent an indigenous community organize a public endorsement of the declaration of the indigenous peoples in Cuenca.
5. Organize a large drive for people to endorse the People's Charter for Health
6. The People's Charter for Health has reached its 42nd translation. Help the charter team reach the 80th translation before the Assembly.
7. Mobilize local journalists to write about health issues keeping the Assembly or the Global Health Watch as a point of interest.
8. Have a public launch of the Global Health Watch Report in your region.
9. Raise funds for delegates and media persons from your region to attend the assembly in Cuenca.
10. Contribute material towards the photo essay "From Savar to Cuenca" that will be part of the inaugural ceremony. For details turn to page 2.
11. Send translations of the slogans: Health For All! & The Voices of the Earth are Calling You

In Cuenca

1. Bring handicrafts that are indigenous to your region.
2. Bring photographs, graphic testimonies, publications, comics and books that are relevant to the themes of PHA2
3. Bring white clothing to use during the ceremony of the indigenous peoples on 17 July 2005
4. Bring your children if they are below the age of 12 to join the Global Children's Forum.

For more information:
log on www.phmovement.org/pha2

The Opening Ceremony

The Assembly will begin on July 17 2005 with the ceremony of the Native Peoples of the world in Pumapungo Park, Tumipamba (Cuenca) Ecuador. All guests **MUST** wear white.

SAVE UNICEF CAMPAIGN AND SETTING UP OF "UNICEF WATCH"

UNICEF is known as being one of the more people-responsive of global institutions. Therefore the appointment of Ann Veneman, a close associate of George Bush came as a big shock to health activists and those concerned about the plight of the children of the world. Veneman is particularly ill suited to head such an organization as many of her statements during her tenure as the Agriculture Secretary under Bush have been anti-child. PHM members and other activists have been incensed at the manner in which she (as well as John Bolton, another completely unsuitable candidate with a known antipathy to the UN as the US Ambassador to the UN) have been thrust upon an unsuspecting world by USA. The Save UNICEF Campaign initiated by PHM has launched a "UNICEF WATCH" to monitor Veneman's 'anti-child' activities and to defend UNICEF and the rights of children.

This campaign, like all such initiatives, will work only if all PHM members and PHM Exchange readers support it in the following manner:

1. **Sign on to the Open Letter of Concern** at www.saveunicef.org to express your concern about the appointment Ann Veneman, as the new Executive Director of UNICEF. To-date over 2000 individuals and organizations from around the world have signed on! (Thanks to all who have already done so.)
2. **Circulate widely the press release** announcing the launch of UNICEF Watch to monitor Ms Veneman's work at UNICEF found at www.saveunicef.org
3. Finally, communicate with us at phm-usa@phm-usa.org if you want to become more involved with the Save UNICEF Campaign and participate in UNICEF Watch.

The key issues that will come under the scrutiny of the UNICEF WATCH are:

- * **Any move that may place children's well-being beneath corporate profits** because Ms. Veneman has championed the unrestrained pursuit of profit for corporations as an economic right at the cost of human rights.
- * **Any move that may undermine child nutrition and food security** because in the past, Ms. Veneman's activities in the United States have consistently worked against people's access to safe, nutritious food and the land to grow it on.
- * **Health of women and mothers** because Ms. Veneman publicly stated that women's reproductive health has nothing to do with child health, despite all studies and experience to the contrary, and suggested that UNICEF would not continue program activities in these areas.

For more information, contact:

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Call for Action: Violence Against Women: A Global Health Emergency

Violence against women and girls is a human rights and public health emergency worldwide. This is a call to join the campaign to end violence against women and hold our governments accountable for women's access to health!



This Call for Action is part of the Global Women's Access to Health Campaign, launched on 28 May 2003 by the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) in collaboration with the People's Health Movement (PHM).

The Women's Access to Health Campaign mobilizes all those concerned with women's health on the 28th of May every year for activism all year around. *Join the Women's Access to Health Campaign:* wahc@wgnrr.nl

Help us reach the 80th translation before the PHA2

We are happy to announce we have reached the 42nd translation of the People's Charter for health. According to our records, these are:

Arabic, Bangla, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, English, Farsi, Filipino, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Guarani, Gujarati, Huasa, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Kazakh, Malayalam, Marathi, Mauritian Creole, Nepalese, Oriya, Portugese, Punjabi, Quichua, Russian, Shona, Sindhi, Sinhala, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Telugu and an audio-cassette version in English for people with visual disabilities.

If anyone has already translated the people's charter for health in any other languages or is willing to do so please get in touch with **Pam Zinkin** (pamzinkin@gn.apc.org)

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