

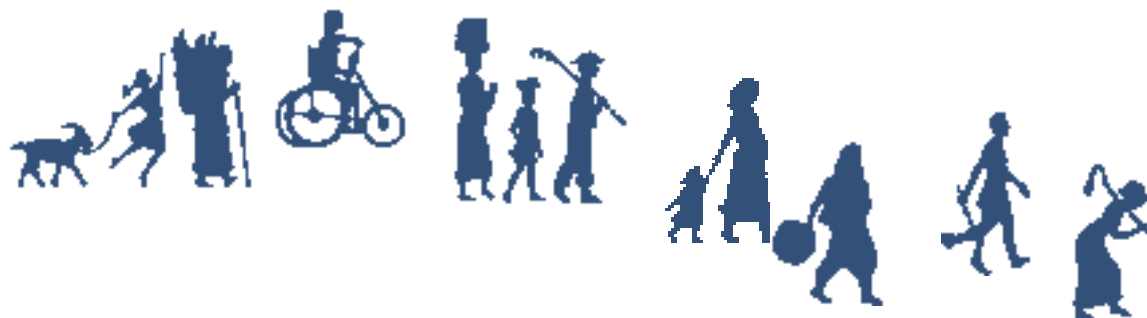
PHA at the World Health Assembly

THE PHA NETWORK participated in the recent World Health Assembly (WHA), 15-18 May 2000 in Geneva. David Werner from Healthwrights was the keynote speaker at the NGO Forum panel on *Breaking the Back of Poverty* while Mira Shiva, International People's Health Council/AIDAN spoke on the gender aspects of poverty.

The collective efforts and hard work of Ellen Verheul, WEMOS and Pam Zinkin and Mike Rowson, MEDACT paid off as the PHA briefing organised during the World Health Assembly went well despite logistical difficulties. 35 people attended this briefing including 4 WHO representatives. Dorothy Logie, Mira Shiva and Zafrullah Chowdhury presented very good inputs on the urgency in reviving health for all and the need to mobilise people, organisations and networks on organising a strong countervailing power.

Asha Singh Williams, the focal point from WHO for PHA explained that their regional offices will be collaborating with the PHA on funding requests. WHO will look into the possibilities of supporting the PHA in terms of publishing the outcomes of the PHA.

The discussion issues that were brought up include the need to involve young people in the PHA process. Other issues raised were the quality of humanitarian aid, integrating global issues in medical training, poverty and health, etc.



Who are we?

If you do not know us yet, go to our website at www.pha2000.org to find out about the People's Health Assembly process or write to the PHA Secretariat.

We are a growing coalition of grassroots organizations dedicated to health and equitable development. The PHA process is a collective effort in opening up opportunities, drawing in communities and civil society organisations in their work towards just and equitable health and health-related policies for all.

We are convinced that networking is indispensable for the concerted global actions that are needed. Become a part of the network!

If you are interested in becoming part of this exciting process, we invite you to contact the PHA Secretariat in Penang at: phasec@pha2000.org or write to us at 252A Jalan Air Itam, 10460, Penang, Malaysia; fax: 604-228 6506

Coordinating Group of the PHA: Asian Community Health Action Network (ACHAN); Consumers International (CI); Dag Hammarskjold Foundation (DHF); Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK); Health Action International (HAI); International People's Health Council (IPHC); Third World Network (TWN); Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)



The PHA Secretariat has moved. Please note our new address:

252A Jalan Air Itam, 10460 Penang, Malaysia
tel: 604-229 1318; fax: 604-228 8792; email: phasec@pha2000.org
website: www.pha2000.org

Pre-Assembly

AFRICA

Groups interested to be involved in the PHA process to contact the regional coordinator Norman Nyazema at nnyazema@healthnet.zw
Groups in South Africa to liaise with Dona Tversky at dtversky@yahoo.com

ARAB COUNTRIES

The PHA brochure has been translated into Arabic. This will soon be made available on the website www.pha2000.org or can be requested from Ghassan Hanani, the regional coordinator of the Arab countries.

Links have been made with groups from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

80 prominent NGOs in the Arab world, partners of Union of Palestinian Relief Medical Committee (UPMRC) have been contacted and their response to the PHA has been positive.

A working paper will be prepared on behalf of the Arab NGOs to be presented at the Copenhagen+5 meeting in Geneva in June 2000. (For more information, contact Ghassan Hanani.)

A regional workshop on *Health and Globalisation* will be held in Amman-Jordan in August 2000. Arab NGOs/partners will be invited. The concept paper is being drafted. (Contact Ummaiah at mrs@baraka.org or PO Box 514483, Jerusalem, Israel; fax: 972-2-583 0679)

ASIA

Activities in India have picked up momentum with state preparatory workshops being organised in different parts of India. Below are some of the scheduled activities:

20 May	Kerala
17-28 May	Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh
3 June	Bhubaneswar, Orissa
4 June	Baroda, Gujarat
9-11 June	Trichy, Tamilnadu
13-15 June	Patna, Bihar
16-18 June	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
17-19 June	Rohtak, Haryana (to be confirmed)
23-25 June	Bangalore, Karnataka
26-27 June	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (to be confirmed)
29 June-1 July	Jaipur, Rajasthan (to be confirmed)
1-2 July	Guwahati, Assam
2-4 July	Agatala, Tripura
1-3 July	Bhubaneswar, Orissa (to be confirmed)
1-3 July	New Delhi (to be confirmed)
6-7 July	Proposed working group meeting (venue to be confirmed)

These meetings involve a large number of NGOs and people's movements. State coordination committees will be formed following these meetings and special efforts are being made to make contact with the state equivalents of the NCC member organisations. If you are not already part of this very exciting national process, do contact All India Science People's Network (AIPSN) at cerd@satyam.net.in or 46, II Street, PR Gardens, Reddiarpalayam, Pondicherry - 605 010, India; fax: 0413-251 346

Women's Development Society organised a one-day seminar on *Women's Health for Social Empowerment* in Kathmandu on 27 April 2000. Issues of diseases, nutrition, reproductive rights, etc. were discussed. 78 women and some local leaders participated in this seminar. For more information on this seminar, contact Purna Shova Chitrakar at wodes@unlimit.com or P.O. Box 5840, Kathmandu, Nepal; fax: 977-1-270396/276517)

The PHA process was shared at the recent ASEAN Workshop on the *TRIPs Agreement and Its Impact on Pharmaceuticals*, Jakarta, 2-4, May 2000 organised by the Directorate General of Drug and Food Control, Ministry of Health, Indonesia. Links were made with some Indonesian Health groups, namely Catholic Health Group (PERDHAKI), Forum of Cooperation for the Development of Public Health (FKPKMI) and YLKI, the Indonesian consumer group. As part of the PHA process, PERDHAKI will conduct a training workshop for about 100 participants on the effects of globalisation on health, 30 June-2 July in Jogyakarta. For details of this workshop, please contact Edelina de la Paz, regional coordinator

for Southeast Asia.

EUROPE

Medact, UK WEMOS, The Netherlands, PSR, Finland, Health Action International (HAI), European Public Health Alliance and Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF) organised a meeting on the *WTO: Implications for Health Policy* which was held in Brussels on 18 April. The meeting was successful. Slides and presentation from the meeting are available. Contact Mike Rowson, Medact at info@medact.org or 601 Holloway Rd, London N19 4DJ, UK; fax: 44-171-281 5717

The meeting on *Global Problems, Local Solutions* was organised as a People's health Assembly event on 13 May 2000. About 100 participants consisting of health professionals and community groups from East End of London and Glasgow attended this meeting. The outline of the People's Charter for Health (PCH) was discussed. A booklet will be published on the meeting and should be ready in August. Contact Mike Rowson.

A European travel grants committee will be initiated and set up by Bas van der Heide, HAI Europe and Pam Zinkin. More information later.

Kilen is organising an international meeting on *Consumer reports on Medicines* from 29 September - 1 October at Sigtuna Foundation, Sweden. Kilen is organising this in collaboration with Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, HAI International, HAI Sweden, PHA, Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Sigtuna Foundation and The Swedish Consumers' Association. For more information contact Kilen at Kammakargatan 7, S-111 40 Stockholm, Sweden; fax: 46-8-696 0110.

International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA), The Netherlands endorses the PHA process. Information about the PHA will be shared during their General Assembly, 6-13 August in Porto Portugal. IFMSA will be assisting in organising a workshop on Ageing and Health during the Assembly.

Contacts have now been established in Italy, Greece and Bosnia.



LATIN AMERICA

The coordinating committee in South America has been formed, consisting of medical academics, rural and community professionals, popular leader, health workers. Links with organisations viz. EPES in Chile, INCUPO in Argentina, Association of Ecuadorian Faculties of Medicine (AFEME), medical schools, people's popular organisations and health organisations in Colombia and Peru have been established. The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Ecuador is distributing information on the PHA to the Federation of Faculties of Medicine of Latin America. Contact Arturo Quizphe, regional coordinator of South America.

The Ecuadorian national mass media has been used to communicate information about the PHA. Currently a database of the principal mass media in the neighbouring countries is being prepared and updated.

The Regional Committee for the Promotion of Community Health (which works in the regions of Mexico, Central America and the Spanish speaking Caribbean) celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. This network has been working on monitoring health care reforms and its impacts on local communities and health promoters. In conjunction with this landmark occasion, the regional committee has lined up a number of country and regional meetings from June-November, working within the framework of Health for All and the People's Health Assembly. For details of these meetings, contact Maria Hamlin-Zuniga, regional coordinator for Central America.

PHA materials are being distributed through the national organisations of the Regional Committee. The draft outline of the PCH has been translated and is being widely shared with network groups.

A Regional Assembly is being planned for October 2000 to consolidate the region's input into the Assembly in Bangladesh. Local and national feedback on the draft charter will be shared, main issues of the framework paper will be discussed, small workshops on pertinent issues to the region will be proposed for the Assembly.

The San Isidro project for the restoration of Old Havana, a project working with grassroots community in decision making for the future of their community are now part of the PHA activities. They will provide the process with an alternative model to interdisciplinary, integrated, community-based approaches to health.

THE PACIFIC

Contacts have been established in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Kiribati. Palau will be contributing to the PHA process with stories and ideas on organising workshops while PNG with a suggestion for a story on the effects of the OKTED! gold mine on local environment and health. More contacts are needed for the Pacific. Contact Mary Murray at memhnh@ozemail.com.au or 42 Urambi Village, Crozier Circuit, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia; fax: 61-26-296 2530



"Feed a baby in here? Out of the question!"

Who to contact?

CONTACT the **Regional Coordinators** at your respective regions/countries to get into the PHA loop!

Africa

Norman Nyazema, CI ROAF, 11 Connaught Road, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe; tel: 263-4-302 283; fax: 263-4-303 092; email: nyazema@healthnet.zw

South Africa

Dona Tversky, Public Health Prog., University of Western Cape, P Bag X17, Bellville 7535, South Africa. email: dtversky@yahoo.com

David Sanders, IPHC, University of Western Cape, P Bag X17, Bellville 7535, South Africa. fax: 27-21-959 2809; email: lmartin@uwc.ac.za

Asia

Prem Chandran John, ACHAN, Post Bag 1404, Madras 600 105, India; tel: 91-44-823 1556; fax: 91-44-827 0424; email: achan@eth.net

Southeast Asia

Edelina de la Paz, ACHAN, 201C M Recto St, Barangay Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila, Philippines; tel: 63-2-726 8977; fax: 63-2-726 2682 email: hain@phil.gn.apc.org

Europe

Pam Zinkin, MEDACT/IPHC, 4/45 Anson Road, London N7 0AR, United Kingdom; tel: 44-207-609 1005; fax: 44-207-700 2699; email: pamzinkin@gn.apc.org

Pacific

Mary Murray, 42 Urambi Village, Crozier Circuit, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia; tel: 61-26-231 7746; fax: 61-26-296 2530; email: memhnh@ozemail.com.au

Ken Harvey, School of Public Health, La Trobe University, Bundoora, 2083, Australia tel: 61-3-9479 1750; fax: 61-3-9379 1783 email: k.harvey@latrobe.edu.au

Latin America

Maria Hamlin Zuniga, IPHC, Apartado #3267, Managua, Nicaragua; tel: 505-2-662 225; fax: 505-2-662 225; email: iphc@cisas.org.ni

Arturo Quizphe, Faculty of Medical Science, University of Cuenca, Casilla, Postal 01-051876 Calle Chile 1-85, URB. Senderos, Cuenca - Ecuador tel: 593-7-841 865; fax: 593-7-841 865 email: aquizphe@yahoo.com

The PHA will be agenda item in the Health Summit organised by Aboriginal Medical Services Northern Territory (AMSANT) in September. The draft Charter will be discussed. More information later. Also in September the Consumers Health Forum will be discussing their involvement in the PHA process during their annual meeting. Public Health Association Australia (PHAA) is planning a series of consultations around Australia on the draft Charter in September/October. Their inputs will be fed into the Assembly process.

NORTH AMERICA

We have established contacts with the Population and Development Programme in Hampshire College. Possible networks will be made with The Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Society for African-American Public Health Issues (APHA) and others. Groups working on health and health-related issues interested in the principals of the People's Health Assembly, join us in this interesting and challenging process of making the voices of communities heard. Organisations interested to join in the PHA discussions on the US Health Systems and related issues, contact Elizabeth Hartmann at ehss@helios.hampshire.edu or the Population and Development Program, CLPP, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002, USA; fax: 413-559 6045.

PROPOSED WORKSHOPS FOR THE ASSEMBLY IN BANGLADESH

We have received very interesting and exciting proposals to organise workshops during the Assembly in Bangladesh. If your organisation wishes to hold a workshop during the Assembly, please contact the PHA Secretariat. You are encouraged to organise workshops in collaboration with other groups working on similar issues.

The proposals for workshops that we have received have an inspiring diversity which reflects the different yet converging needs for better health and equitable development for all. Some of the proposed workshop topics include:

- Access to essential drugs in the global market place
- Ageing and health
- Children's health and women's; health
- Combating AIDS and teenage pregnancy through the concept and practice of voluntary abstinence
- Community-directed treatment with Ivermectin in Onchocerciasis control
- German drugs: Made in Europe, not safe for the world
- Globalization and health
- IMF, World Bank and health
- Prefecting breastfeeding through the International Code and Resolutions
- "Our role in 'Epilepsy Care"
- Primary Health Care
- The challenges of health for all and national budgets
- Health sector reform and control of tropical disease
- Natural living + Natural diet + Natural curatives
- Women and HIV in the developing country context
- Popular and traditional medicine as an alternative for deficient health services in rural communities
- The links between family food production, nutrition and health
- Youth and health

If you wish to organise workshops, please fill in the application form which you can easily download from our website at www.pha2000.org or send in a proposal to the PHA Secretariat.

If undelivered return to
PHA Secretariat
252A Jalan Air Itam
10460 Penang
Malaysia

PHA papers

Whilst all these activities are bustling in different parts of the world, a PHA working group has been busy preparing draft papers to be used in the PHA process. These papers are::

- The PHA Analytical Framework Paper
- Background Papers
- Issue Papers
- Outline of the People's Charter for Health

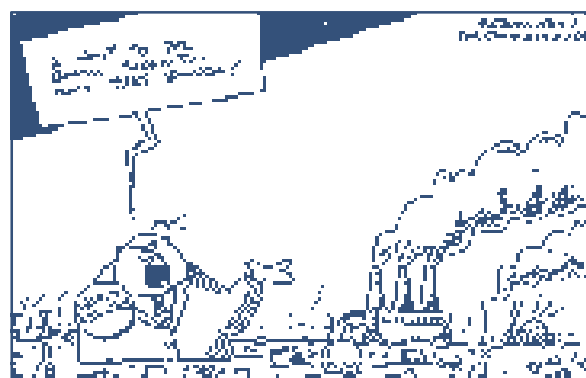
Please join in the endeavour to develop these papers further. Your participation can help sharpen the analysis of the global health situation and enrich it with experiences from a people's perspective. We encourage you to get hold of these papers and provide comments and suggestions for improvement. Your involvement will make PHA the broad-based and participatory process we all want it to be.

We also hope that these papers can be a useful starting point for discussion at the various PHA-related meetings taking place around the world. Please use the papers to initiate discussions at the local, national and regional levels.

The draft papers will be available from the PHA secretariat and may also be downloaded from our website www.pha2000.org. New, updated versions of the drafts will continuously be made available.

If you and your organisation have comments on the framework paper, inputs into the Outline of the PCH, wish to contribute issue papers to this process, please write to Nadine Gasman at gasmanna@netmex.com or Fuente de Emprador 28, Tecamachalco, Estado de Mexico CP 53950, Mexico; fax: 525-251 2518

You can also participate in the online dialogue discussions and make this a forum for lively debates, discussions, sharing of ideas. Subscribe to dialoguepha@egroups.com today!



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