

Conference Brochure

A high level meeting of Ministers from Developing Countries in (Africa, Asia, Middle East, South America)

The high level meeting of Ministers from Developing countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East, South America) on health research will convene in Accra, Ghana from 15 to 17 June 2006. This meeting is to enable African and other developing countries to assert a greater interest in the international Health research agenda as it applies to their development. It is expected that during this meeting the framework for partnership in the conduct and utilization of research to enhance control of diseases in developing countries is to be finalized.

This meeting comes at a time when the need to achieve health millennium development goals (MDGs) calls for countries' commitments and investments, and innovative research. To this end both the 2004 WHO Ministerial Summit on Health Research in Mexico and the 58th World Health Assembly endorsed a plan of action for health research.

The Accra meeting has been preceded by another HLM meeting on Health Research at Abuja, Nigeria in March 2006 to develop an African perspective on health research for achieving sustainable health MDG's in Africa. The outcomes of the Abuja meeting will be presented to this meeting as Africa's position on health research



The Abuja HLM Meeting

The three-day technical and ministerial meeting, was attended by 39 participants from 11 African countries, representatives from WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, NEPAD, COHRED, REPRONET-Africa.

Highlights of the Deliberations were:

- Africa is most affected by diseases of poverty and therefore should have greater interest in the international health research agenda, increase its stake in shaping and undertaking research.*
- Most African countries have weak health systems which are further undermined by poverty, lack of resources, conflicts and magnitude of disease burden*
- Importance of health research in identifying problems, developing effective interventions, policy formulation and implementation and empowering communities.*
- Challenges of health research systems especially with respect to qualified personnel, and the need for strengthening, priority setting, coordination, funding, networking, bridging research-policy divide, ethics and partnerships development*
- Governments should develop goodwill, provide leadership and commit resources to health research*
- A communiqué was issued by Ministers and Heads of Delegation indicating the key domains for health research in Africa, the type of research to address them, recognized the need for Africa to take advantage of existing research institutions and reaffirmed their commitment to achieving internationally agreed health targets especially health MDGs*

The Accra Meeting is expected to feed into the 29th Session of Joint Coordinating Board of TDR (being held back to back in Accra from 19th -21st June 2006) and the TDR Strategy and Vision for 2008 – 2015. The outcomes of the Accra meeting will be shared with the wider constituency at 56th WHO Regional Committee for Africa to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 August to 1 September 2006. The deliberations from the Accra meeting shall also form a basis for an African perspective on health research to be presented at the WHO Ministerial Summit on Health Research to be held in Africa in 2008.

Objectives of the Meeting

- Exchange experiences and strategies for control of diseases, perspectives on research, research impact on policy and the role of research and technology in development, including public private sector interactions.
- Highlight the significance and importance of health research and associated cooperation for developing countries as a means to achieving the health related millennium development goals and highlight the role of research within the health system
- Define key areas of research required: (i) internationally; (ii) regionally; (iii) nationally with an emphasis on diseases of poverty.

- Define research capacity building needs of developing countries and approaches to realising those capacities
- Define approaches for developing countries to individually and collectively contribute to, and influence, enhanced research for health and human development through coordinated action with international organisations and others.
- Definition of a process through which developing countries can better and more strongly engage in and contribute to international health research and scientific innovation, with a focus on neglected infectious diseases

Technical Preparation by Participating Countries

1. The technical meeting on June 15 will start with an update on the Abuja proceedings, including the consultants' draft discussion paper entitled "Health Research for the Control of Diseases and Development in Africa" and the communiqué. This will be done by A member of the LOC and on of the Consultants.
2. Country delegations to provide a short overview of their national health research system at the meeting. A powerpoint presentation (max 15 slides) covering the elements as described in the guidelines for case vignettes should be prepared.
3. Each Country should have 'A ministerial statement/vision for the future of health research in the country' to be delivered by each Hon Minister.
4. Those countries that already presented in Abuja should refine their presentations and also come with more elaborate data on their health research system.

Information on the Venue:

Location

Ghana is located on the West Coast of Africa, along the Gulf of Guinea, and bordered by Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Burkina Faso.

Geography and Climate

Accra is the capital of Ghana. Heavy rains fall from about April through late June. The weather is warm during the day and cold in the evenings of June with intermittent rains.

The temperature can rise as high as 31^{0c} and fall as low as 23^{0c} at night. Cotton dresses or shirts are recommended.

Venue of the Meeting

The Meeting will be held in the conference room of the **La Palm Royal Beach Hotel**, La Palm Hotel is about 10 minutes from the Accra Airport. Telephone/ fax numbers, email address and website of La Palm are as follows:-

Telephone: 233 – 21 – 771700, 7010348

Fax: 233 – 21 – 771717,7010354

Email: lapalm@gbhghana.com

Website: www.la-palm.com

Hotel Accommodation

A block booking has been made at La Palm Beach Hotel and Golden Tulip Hotel for all participants for the duration of the meeting. **A special daily rate of USD110.00** (bed and buffet breakfast) has been negotiated for participants. Dinner will cost about USD19.00.

THE CONFERENCE PACKAGE NEGOTIATED WITH THE HOTEL INCLUDES LUNCH; THAT IS, ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE FREE LUNCH DURING THE MEETING DAYS ONLY.

For the WHO sponsored participants, the UN (WHO) per diem rate for La Palm Hotel and Golden Tulip Hotel are USD201.00. Participants will be responsible for their telephone bills, drinks, taxi fares and other incidental expenses.

Airport Reception

All participants should send their expected arrival times to the Secretariat of the Local Organising Committee as soon as possible by email or fax to facilitate airport meet.

Contact numbers are as follows:-

- Telephone : 233 – 21 – 665323,
233-21 - 763919
- Fax: 233 – 21 – 663810
233-21 - 769220
- Email: secretariat@hlmresearchdev.org

Participants will be met at the airport by La Palm Hotel shuttle bus and protocol officers of the LOC.

Visa:

Participants from ECOWAS countries do not require entry visas to enter Ghana. Other nationals are to obtain entry visas before travelling to Ghana. Visas will be issued on arrival ONLY to participants coming from countries where Ghana has no missions provided their passport details are sent by email to secretariat@hlmresearchdev.org two weeks before their arrival (this include UN Laissez-Passer holders).

Currency

The currency of Ghana is the “Cedi” which is in the following denominations:

Notes – 20,000 10,000 5,000, 2,000 and 1,000

Coins – 500, 200, 100, 50 and 20.

The UN exchange rate for February 2006 is US\$1.00 is Cedis 9020 and is subject to change in June 2006. Travellers cheques can be easily cashed at the Banks.

Vaccinations

Participants arriving from Yellow Fever infected areas should have valid vaccination certificates. For participants coming from non-endemic countries, prescribed dosages of Malaria prophylactics should be taken two weeks before travel, during your stay in Ghana and continued for 2 weeks after your departure. Should you require medical assistance, Accra has qualified doctors, and La Palm Royal Beach Hotel or Golden Tulip can contact one for you.

Electricity

The electricity in Ghana is 220-240 volts, 50 cycle AC. Recommended plugs are 2-pin round or 3-pin square.

Public Transport

For travelling within Accra we have taxis and car hire. There are three types of taxis in Accra. The line taxis, dropping taxis and charter taxis. The line taxis are shared and obviously cheaper. A dropping taxi is a taxi to yourself and rates are negotiable, depending on distance and numbers travelling. A charter taxi can be hired for a number of hours.

For safety reasons, the hotel car rentals are recommended particularly at night.

Several major car rental agencies are located in Accra including Hertz, Avis and Europcar. Charges are according to size and type of vehicle from which there is a wide range to choose from.

1. Abuja Communiqué:

And the Communiqué.....

A communiqué was issued by Ministers and Heads of Delegation. In it, the following key domains for health research in Africa and the type of research to address these issues were identified:

Domain of health research

- Infectious diseases, including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, AIDS, emerging infections and neglected tropical diseases e.g. that require improved prevention, diagnosis, treatment, control and surveillance;
- Reproductive and sexual health;
- Child Health;
- Non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, sickle cell disease, injuries etc. ;
- Malnutrition;
- Mental health including drug and substance abuse.

Types of research

- Health systems research, including operational and implementation research;
- Social sciences research including health economics, health policy research, medical anthropology and sociology and health communications research;
- Biomedical and bioscience research for innovation and product development;
- Epidemiological research.

In it also the Ministers of Health and Heads of Delegations, reaffirmed their commitment and recognized the need for Africa to take advantage of existing research institutions and the greater international commitment in achieving internationally agreed health targets especially health MDGs and agreed to the following:

- To accelerate efforts to develop and implement appropriate and relevant health research policies at national and regional levels;
 - To foster collaboration and leadership to promote essential national health research in Africa;
 - To strive to ensure the allocation of at least 2% of the national health budget and to further mobilize other resources from national and international sources for health research; and
 - To finalize the draft position paper on health research in the African region in consultation with other colleagues through further discussions and actions leading to the WHO Ministerial Conference for Health Research to be held in Africa in 2008.
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Other Essential Information

Country Presentation Guides

Technical Meeting

a) Minimum Country Requirements for Technical Meeting

1. A ten page Country summary (in Word) and power point presentation of not more than 15 slides outlining the following
 - a. **Title page**
 - b. **Introduction (max 1 page)**
 - c. **Existing health research system (max 3 pages)**
 - d. **Human resources and resource flows for health research (max 2.5 page)**
 - e. **Agenda setting for health research (max 2.5 pages)**
 - f. **Conclusion and outlook for roles of health research in control of diseases in your country (1 page)**
 - g. **Brief discussion of major advances in research in disease control**
 - h. **Way forward to solving research problems**
 - i. **What has been done since Mexico etc**
2. Poster Presentations (Standard Poster Sizes)
 - a. One Poster Presentation of each Country's State of Health Research Systems
 - b. Up to 2 Poster Presentation of Country Show case on Health Research – Achievements

b) Ministerial Intervention Statement

- A one page summary of country specific health research issues and progress since Mexico (2004) and 58th World Health Assembly Declarations to be delivered by the Ministers at the Ministerial

c) Development of Country Profile

Countries are to use the Country assessment tool to produce country profiles supported by the Consultants later in the year

Format for country presentations

1. Title page

Title: Health Related Research in country X: A Country Profile

Country Focal Points: Full names, titles, institutional affiliation and contact address (telephone and e-mail)

2. Introduction (max 1 page)

On the basis of the most pressing public health problems in the country, describe briefly the current need for, and challenge of, health research in the country. Provide some contextual information on the history and context of health research in the country, citing some published literature.

Good web-portals for country information is

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide3.html>

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/allcountries.asp?view=region>

Country specific information on health status etc can be found on WHO's website and is listed in the appended table.

Explain current country-specific plans and achievements in reaching the Millennium Development Goals and the actual (or potential) role of health research in reaching MDGs in the country.

Two websites that provide basic information are:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp>

http://www.who.int/mdg/measuring_progress/en/index.html

<http://www.hlfhealthmdgs.org/documents.asp>

3. Existing health research system (max 3 pages)

Describe, on the basis of WHO's Health Research Systems Analysis framework http://www.who.int/rpc/health_research/en/, the most pertinent components of the country's health research system, including, institutions, agenda setting mechanisms, coordinating bodies and management issues.

For WHP's HRSA initiative please see

<http://www.who.int/rpc/meetings/en/HRSA%20overview%20for%20Ci%3%aancia%20%20Sa%3%bade%20Collective.pdf>

4. Human resources and resource flows for health research (max 2.5 page)

Describe the current situation, including numbers (if available) of health researchers in the country and their working situation. Estimate the resource flows for health related research (both national and international) in the country, if possible. Provide an estimate of how much support you think will be ideal to facilitate successful integration of health research in your country.

5. Agenda setting for health research (max 2.5 pages)

Describe the mechanisms (or lack of) for national agenda setting in health research. List current priorities and propose a viable list of priorities for the next 10-15 years for facilitating or improving contributions of health research to control of diseases in your country.

6. Conclusion and outlook for roles of health research in control of diseases in your country (1 page)

Summarize the points made before. Present general and specific ideas for the future, including peculiar issues to be addressed and how current constraints could be overcome. Describe support needs for national health related research (both national and international including technical as well as others).

7. Brief discussion of major advances in research in disease control

8. Way forward to solving research problems

What has been done since Mexico

Country	1. Basic Health Information Hub (WHO)	2. MDG Information Hub	3. Health research profiles
Algeria	http://www.who.int/countries/dza/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >>
Angola	http://www.who.int/countries/ago/en/index.html	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Burkina Faso	http://www.who.int/countries/bfa/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Cameroon	http://www.who.int/countries/cmr/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Egypt	http://www.who.int/countries/egy/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Ethiopia	http://www.who.int/countries/eth/en/		http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Gambia	http://www.who.int/countries/gmb/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and

			resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Ghana	http://www.who.int/countries/gha/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Kenya	http://www.who.int/countries/ken/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Malawi	http://www.who.int/countries/mwi/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Mali	http://www.who.int/countries/mli/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Mozambique	http://www.who.int/countries/moz/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Nigeria	http://www.who.int/countries/nga/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Senegal	http://www.who.int/countries/sen/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under

			">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
South Africa	http://www.who.int/countries/zaf/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Sudan	http://www.who.int/countries/sdn/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Tunisia	http://www.who.int/countries/tun/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"
Uganda	http://www.who.int/countries/uga/en/	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi.asp	http://cohred.org/cohred/Home.action under ">> Publications and resources >> By region/country >> Africa"

Useful search websites include;

<http://www.who.int/topics/research/en/>

<http://scholar.google.com>

www.pubmed.gov

<http://www.afronets.org/links.php>