

# IANPHI WORLD

UPDATE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES

JUNE 2011, NO 13

## CONTENTS

**Comprehensive NPHI Moves Forward in Morocco**

**Register in June for 2011 Annual Meeting**

**Member Fees Due July 1**

**Cote d'Ivoire INSP Destroyed, But Determined to Rebuild**

**IANPHI to Help China CDC Plan for the Future**

**Vietnam and Cambodia Institutes Building Capacity**

**Member Update**

**Guidelines Issued for Biosafety Lab Competency**



*Scientist for Environmental Health Mena Sadeq from Morocco's National Institute of Hygiene recently visited a community health center during a site visit by the IANPHI Secretariat to review the local surveillance and disease reporting system at district and sub district levels. This and other sites are important to Morocco's new web-based surveillance system to be implemented by the new NPHI.*

## Comprehensive NPHI Moves Forward in Morocco

For almost 25 years public health leaders in Morocco have advocated for the development of a comprehensive national public health institute (NPHI) to integrate the country's fragmented disease surveillance and control activities into a robust and well-coordinated Morocco National Institute of Public Health.

That dream—led by IANPHI members Dr. Mohammed Hassar (Institute Pasteur) and Dr. Rajae El Aouad (National Institute of Hygiene) came one step closer to reality in May with IANPHI Executive Board approval of a \$200,000 grant to the Moroccan Ministry of Health. IANPHI funds will support a transformative effort, coordinated by Dr. El Aouad, to bring together Morocco's major public health agencies, including Institute Pasteur, the National Institute of Hygiene and the National Poison Control Center, into a new National Institute of Public Health. The Ministry of Health has dedicated \$3 million USD toward a new facility to house the institute.



*Dr. Rajae El Aouad*

With IANPHI's help, the new NPHI will develop long-term strategic plans for organizational design, training, human resources, and infrastructure. A web-based pilot project will enhance disease surveillance in selected districts and build upon an existing system for TB and influenza surveillance. [Read more.](#)

## Registration Opens in June for IANPHI Annual Meeting: Toward Strong and Connected Public Health Institutes

NCDs, tobacco control, and maternal and child health are among the topics to be addressed this fall when public health leaders from around the world gather in Helsinki, Finland for IANPHI's 2011 Annual Meeting. Set for September 25–28, 2011 at the Hilton Helsinki

Kalastajatorppa, this sixth annual meeting will be hosted by Finland's National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). Expected to attend are national public health institute directors from more than 70 countries plus representatives from the World Health Organization and other IANPHI partners.

**2011 IANPHI ANNUAL MEETING  
Hosted by Finland's THL  
September 25–28, 2011  
Hilton Helsinki Kalastajatorppa  
Helsinki, Finland**

Invitations with registration instructions will be sent in early June to IANPHI members and guests. In mid-June, members also can go to the IANPHI [web-site \(www.ianphi.org\)](http://www.ianphi.org) to see a preliminary agenda, links for members to the registration form, hotel information, and other meeting details. The registration deadline is August 15, 2011. For more information, see the [website](#) or contact Secretary General [Teija Kulmala](#) or the [Secretariat \(ianphi@thl.fi\)](mailto:ianphi@thl.fi) at THL.

## Dues will help sustain IANPHI and help cover the cost of the annual meeting.

### Member Fees Due July 1

For the first time in IANPHI's history, member institutes will receive invoices this summer for dues, payable by July 1. IANPHI members approved the new three-tiered dues structure at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The dues are expected to help sustain the association in future years, as funding expires from IANPHI's Gates Foundation grant. The fees will partially cover the cost of the annual meeting beginning in 2012, including scholarships to members from low-resource countries for attendance. In addition, [several countries](#) have stepped forward with donations to help guarantee the five-year-old organization's future and the participation of countries all over the world, whatever their resources.

Fees are based on several criteria: the country's economic status (World Bank classification), the institute's status as a full member or associate member, and whether there are other institutes in the country. Membership will cost \$500, \$1,500, or \$3,000 per year for low-, middle-, and high-income countries, respectively. Associate members will pay half the fee of an institutional member. If the country has more than one member institute, the fee will be reduced by a third.

In special circumstances, the Executive Board can reduce or waive the fee or allow it to be paid through an in-kind contribution. Members can request a reduction or waiver of the fee, or an in-kind contribution by writing to the [Secretary General](#). [Read more.](#)



*INSP's Malaria Research and Control Center suffered a major setback during the fighting in Cote d'Ivoire.*

### Cote d'Ivoire INSP Destroyed But Determined to Rebuild

IANPHI sends its concern and condolences to our colleagues and their families in Cote d'Ivoire where the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) was decimated during the recent civil unrest surrounding the presidential elections. Everything was either destroyed or taken— from computers and phones to window panels and toilet bowls. The institute staff is currently working from their homes to restore the essentials. The new president has issued a decree for administrative offices to reopen in the next few months. INSP Director General, Kouassi Dinard will be providing future updates on the situation and needs in Cote d'Ivoire, which will be published on the [IANPHI website](#).



*IANPHI President Jeffrey Koplan and China CDC Director Wang Yu discuss IANPHI's role in helping China CDC meet future health threats.*

### IANPHI to Help China CDC Plan for the Future

China CDC Director Wang Yu has enlisted IANPHI's help in a comprehensive review of his institute's progress, challenges, and strategic direction for the future. A six-person team led by IANPHI President Jeffrey Koplan will be working with China CDC, which celebrates its 10-year anniversary in January 2012, to assess current capacity, organizational design, and function and to draft recommendations on future strategies to strengthen disease control and prevention efforts.

“China CDC has rapidly evolved over the past 10 years into a major resource for public health in China,” says Koplan. “It continues to add breadth and depth in its expertise over a wide range of priority health areas.”

China CDC is one of the world's largest NPHIs. Its 19 centers oversee the country's major public health functions including research, control and prevention plans for infectious and chronic diseases, leadership on national

programs for food safety, occupational health, product safety, radiation and environmental health, and maternal and child health. China CDC conducts applied scientific research and provides technical guidance and training and quality control assistance throughout the country. It is a key component of national working groups for disease prevention, emergency relief, and public health information systems.

### Vietnam and Cambodia Building Capacity to Counter Health Threats

Noncommunicable diseases have sharply risen in Vietnam and Cambodia, where strategies are under consideration to monitor and prevent growing threats such as tobacco- and food-related illnesses, diabetes, and hypertension. During site visits in May, IANPHI Executive Board members learned more about those strategies and other progress at Vietnam's National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) in Hanoi and at Cambodia's National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) in Phnom Penh.

Vietnam: Disease control and prevention measures have stabilized Vietnam's infectious disease burden, but the country is still a geographical hot spot for emerging pathogens. In addition, the number of HIV/AIDS cases is increasing, prompting NIHE to implement family interventions. Prof. Nguyen Tran Hien, NIHE's director, noted that in addition to infectious disease threats, the institute is increasing its efforts to combat noncommunicable diseases: morbidity and mortality from chronic diseases have risen over the past 20 years, and WHO estimates that more than 500,000 people are affected annually by noncommunicable diseases in Vietnam. NIHE intends to counter the country's growing NCD burden through a comprehensive approach, including using the institute's existing system of infectious disease surveillance. NIHE personnel recently participated in IANPHI Summer School training and NCD seminars at THL in Helsinki. [Read more about Vietnam's NIHE.](#)

Cambodia: NIPH Director Ung Sam An and Deputy Director Saphonn Vonthanak, who heads the School of Public Health, noted that since 2007 the School of Public Health has enrolled more than 100 students to rebuild the country's public health work force, particularly in the rural areas of Cambodia. Infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, gastric and respiratory illnesses are the main health problems in Cambodia, and non-communicable diseases are on the rise. The NIHE has instituted a voucher program to encourage prenatal care and counter high child and maternal mortality, particularly in the provincial regions where access to health services is limited. [Read more about Cambodia's NIPH.](#)



*NIHE Director Nguyen Tran Hien says NCD deaths in Vietnam increased from 44.7% in 1976 to 61.6% in 2006. Cardiovascular disease and diabetes are the most prevalent NCDs. Cancer and obesity are on the rise.*



*NIPH Director Ung Sam An welcomed IANPHI Vice President Pekka Puska and Executive Board members to the Cambodian institute which provides public health and laboratory services, training, and research.*



*Paulo Buss*

### Member Update

For **Paulo Buss**, director of Brazil's Center for Global Health at the [Oswaldo Cruz Foundation \(FIOCRUZ\)](#), medicine and politics have never been far apart, according to a profile in the May 21 edition of *Lancet*. Buss has been at the center of Brazil's political commitment to health for decades. Today, Brazil's Family Health project covers 120 million inhabitants in 5,000 municipalities, and maternal and infant mortality rates have declined. The former president of FIOCRUZ, founding board member of IANPHI, and host of IANPHI's 2006 Annual Meeting was recognized in *Lancet* for his efforts to bring better health not only to the people of Brazil, but also to the world. [Read the article.](#)



Amha Kebede



Tsehaynesh Messele

**Amha Kebede**, deputy director of Research and Technology Transfer for the [Ethiopia Health and Nutrition Research Institute](#), is now also serving as acting director general following the resignation of **Dr. Tsehaynesh Messele**, a former member of the IANPHI Executive Board. A biomedical researcher, Kebede has spent 22 years at EHNRI where he has led research activities, ensuring that they generate evidence-based knowledge to further Ministry of Health efforts to improve the health of Ethiopians. In addition he is principal investigator for the Ethiopian National TB Prevalence Survey, which will screen 47,000 adults and is the first of its kind in Africa, according to Kebede.



Shabir Madhi



Barry Schoub

The new executive director of [South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases](#) is **Prof. Shabir Madhi**, whose research career has focused upon reducing morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases through vaccination. Of critical importance to South African children have been his studies on newly developed vaccines to prevent the two leading causes of death in children, namely pneumonia and diarrheal diseases. Prof. Madhi succeeds **Prof. Barry Schoub**, who retired in February after 35 years of service, including nine years as executive director of NICD. During that time, NICD grew to become one of the most respected health care institutes in South Africa. He also served on the IANPHI Executive Board and hosted IANPHI's 2009 Annual Meeting in Johannesburg.



### **Guidelines Issued for Biosafety Laboratory Competency**

In April, the US CDC and the Association of Public Health Laboratories issued guidelines for biosafety laboratory competency, outlining the essential skills, knowledge, and abilities required for working with biologic agents at the three highest biosafety levels (BSL Levels 2, 3, and 4). These guidelines are intended for laboratorians working with hazardous biologic agents, obtained from either samples or specimens that are maintained and manipulated in clinical, environmental, public health, academic, and research laboratories. [Read more about the guidelines in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#).

### **Upcoming**

#### **Bellagio Core Functions Meeting**

With the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, IANPHI and the World Health Organization will convene leading global public health experts August 22–26, 2011, in Bellagio, Italy, to develop a monograph outlining the essential or “core” public health functions needed to ensure public health. The core functions proposed will provide a new policy framework for discussing public health functions as well as a roadmap for countries looking to strengthen public health systems through national public health institutes. IANPHI participants in the meeting include Dr. Elias Sory (director, Ghana Health Service), Dr. Pathom Sawanpanyalert (director, Thailand National Institute of Health), Amabelia Rodrigues (president, Guinea-Bissau National Institute of Public Health–INASA), Rajae El Aouad (director, Morocco National Institute of Hygiene).