

SMDP News

Sustainable Management Development Program

Better management, stronger programs, healthier people

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

SMDP Co-Hosts 2nd Biennial Conference



From left, Professor Nguyen Viet Co, Director Emeritus, NHTRD; Dr. Mary Kamb, Country Director, CDC/Global AIDS Program, Vietnam; and Professor Tran Thi Dung, NHTRD.

SMDP's second biennial conference on "Strengthening Global Public Health Management Training Capacity" was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 8-13, 2004. Co-sponsors included the Hanoi School of Public Health and Vietnam's National Hospital for TB and Respiratory Diseases (NHTRD). The conference attracted 150 participants from 23 countries and featured 26 presentations on public health management capacity-building programs in 16 countries.

SMDP Director Dr. Michael Malison explained the choice of Vietnam as a venue—"This conference provides a great opportunity for the rest of the world to see the fine work Vietnam is doing in the important area of sustainable management development." He praised the conference presenters, noting that they had taken the standard of presentations to a new level and demonstrated a maturity and depth in public health capacity-building.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Tran Thi Chung Chien, Vice Minister, Vietnam Ministry of Health, welcomed the participants. Keynote speaker Dr. Hiroshi Takahashi, Senior Advisor for Public Health Medicine, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), called for international information-sharing to combat global health problems, like the 2003 SARS epidemic. "In modern public health,



Nemia Ha-chac, Philippines (above with microphone), and Hernie Baraquia receive an Applied Learning Excellence Award from Mike Malison. Nemia and Hernie were program managers for the blood screening project in Sultan Kudarat Province.

skills, knowledge, and information should be developed and shared internationally. Not only are technical skills, like epidemiology and laboratory science, essential for public health, management skills are also an integral part of every country's disease prevention and control capacity."

Nineteen of the conference presenters were graduates of SMDP's annual Management for International Public Health (MIPH) course, and six were Vietnamese graduates of courses taught by MIPH alumni who work for the two institutional conference co-sponsors.



Welcome to the
SMDP NEWS

SMDP News, the newsletter for CDC's Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) will:

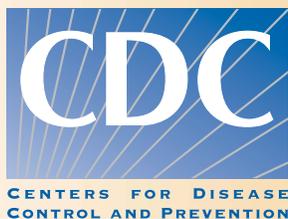
- Inform members of the international health community about SMDP activities.
- Support graduates of SMDP's annual Management for International Public Health (MIPH) course.
- Facilitate country-to-country exchanges of information and experience in public health management development.

SMDP NEWS is published quarterly, and distributed to all MIPH graduates. Graduates are encouraged send articles, photos and updates on their activities, as well as corrections to mail and email addresses and phone numbers for the directory.

Current and past editions of the SMDP NEWS can be viewed at our website: www.cdc.gov/phppo/smdp

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Sonja Grozic-Zivolic ('02) and Selma Sogoric ('01) explain Croatia's Healthy Counties Program. Brian Robie moderates.



Above, Madiha Ahmed (Egypt, '98). At right, Harold Rugama (Nicaragua, '01) makes a point during a "lessons learned" roundtable discussion.



Above, traditional Vietnamese musicians perform during the conference welcome reception. At right, MIPH 1997 graduates Ehud Miron (Israel) and Do Mai Hoa (Vietnam), discuss a presentation.



MIPH 2001 graduates (from left) Ronald Molosiwa (Botswana), Syed Israr (Pakistan), Hariadi Wibisono (Indonesia), Keerti Pradhan (India), and Ruth Tembwe (Zambia)



At left, Rhoda Banda (Malawi, '02), and Silvia Artasanchez-Franco (Mexico, '93), chat with CDC's Michael Iademarco. Conference participants spent Saturday morning on a cruise of Ha Long Bay relaxing and networking.

Presentations focused on management training programs and applied learning projects carried out in those programs from countries around the world.

In a ceremony on the final day of the conference, the Philippines Field Management Training Program received the award for "SMDP Management Training Program Excellence." Applied Learning Project Awards were presented to Sonja Grozic-Zivolic (MIPH '02), project manager for the Istria County Health Plan in Croatia, and program managers Nemia Ha-chac and Hernie Baraquia for "Improving Blood Screening Services in Sultan Kudarat Province, Philippines."



completed in the time allotted—usually 3-4 months.

Dr. Madiha Fathy Ahmed ('98), Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt, explained, "Management is not a decoration or an additional activity. Management helps programs to run effectively and helps us save money and allocate funds more effectively."

During the final morning session, Dr. Wade Hanna of CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office (PHPPO), described the relationship between CDC and the World Health Organization. In addition to outlining this relationship, he noted, "My experience in both developing and developed countries has taught me the importance of careful management of resources. As an anesthesiologist, I know that when the system fails in anesthesiology, one person is at risk. When systems

fail in public health, entire populations are at risk. Political will and commitment are the keys to ensuring the success of any public health system."

Dr. Suzanne Smith, PHPPO Acting Director, said in her closing remarks, "Harold (Rugama) has told you that customer service is your best marketing strategy. And you heard this message here in three languages (English, Spanish, and Vietnamese)."

At the end of each conference day, participants gathered to discuss lessons learned from that day's presentations. These ideas were summarized at the end of the conference in a "Best Practices" document, downloadable from the homepage of [SMDP's website](#). The next SMDP global conference will be held in 2006.

Andrew Dimba (MIPH '03) has been named Regional (Zonal) TB Officer, Preventive Services, at the Community Health Sciences Unit in Lilongwe, Malawi, an entity within the Ministry of Health and Population. His new responsibilities include coordinating TB control activities and conducting in-service training for TB officers and health workers in the region. Previously he had been clinical superintendent at Ntcheu District Hospital.

Keerti Bhusan Pradhan ('01), LAICO/Aravind, organized, planned, and taught the third international course of management training for eye care program managers February 2-13, 2004. Participants came from 12 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, and the USA. The 24 participants formed an alumni listserv to continue collaborating,

networking, and sharing field experiences. Including this cohort, the listserv includes 75 participants. For information on the course, email Keerti at this address: keerti@aravind.org.

Truong Thi Ngoc Dieu ('02) (pictured at right) was married in October 2003 to Hoang Nguyen in a traditional Vietnamese wedding ceremony held in Georgia. She and her husband now reside in Lawrenceville, Georgia, USA. Dieu can be reached at tngocdiu@yahoo.com.

Jojo Merilles ('02) has been named Program Coordinator for the HIV/AIDS Component of the Global Fund Project, Tropical Disease Foundation, Inc. Jojo remains connected with the Philippine



Field Management Training Program as Supervising Health Program Officer.

Ehud Miron ('97) is now the Director of the Health Office at Safed Sub-district, Ministry of Health, Israel. He is responsible for regional maternal and child health care services, health services in schools, business licensing, health promotion activities, water quality supervision, disease reporting and surveillance in the north of Israel.

Othilia Phumaphi ('02) has taken a position as project coordinator with the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnership, an NGO in Botswana funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She will develop training materials on behavior change communication, and carry out training of trainers.

“Healthy Communities” launched in Macedonia

Mome Spasovski ('03) and Fimka Tozija ('03), of the Institute for Social Medicine in Skopje, have developed a community-level public health management training program that will begin in 2004. The program, called “Healthy Communities,” is a joint project of the medical school and the Macedonian Ministry of Health. It is supported by the [Soros Open Society Institute \(OSI\)](#) in collaboration with the Stampar School of Public Health in Croatia.

To strengthen the management capacity of Macedonia's public health workforce, Fimka and Mome designed a training program that combines classroom instruction and applied fieldwork during a six-month curriculum that includes modules on assessment, priority setting, policy development, and quality assurance. The desired outcomes are improved management skills at the local level. Participants are also required to develop a community health plan for their local communities.



Fimka Tozija and Mome Spasovski present their country plan during MIPH 2003.

Mome and Fimka presented the “Healthy Communities” Project at the Hanoi conference, and on national and local television broadcasts in Macedonia.

In addition, they organized two 2-day faculty development workshops in April 2004 within the newly established

masters degree program in public health at St. Cyril and Methodius University. Dr. Wade Hanna (CDC/PHPPPO) taught the second workshop on Health System Management, focusing on organizational theory, technology assessment, performance measurement, and capacity building. Following this workshop, participants created a plan to implement a multiple choice and essay examination to better evaluate students' knowledge of each module.

This project has resulted in a strong foundation between the Dean of the Medical School, the Coordinator of the Center for Public Health, the Health Insurance Fund Director, the Director of the Republic Institute for Health Protection, the head of the WHO office in Skopje, and the OSI Public Health Coordinator.

Participants in Guam Graduate from Management Training Program

On April 16, 2004, 33 participants from [Guam Memorial Hospital](#) graduated from a 5-month management training program. Lori Duenas (MIPH '00) and Maria Pangelinan ('02) of the [University of Guam](#) (UoG), planned and co-taught the course. This training was carried out under the UoG Project entitled *Health Leaders Achieving Today, Tomorrow's Excellence* (HLATTE), which is supported by a grant from SMDP through a cooperative agreement with the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine. The grant is designed to help the university strengthen public health management training capacity to meet local and regional needs in the Pacific.



Support was also provided by the World Health Organization. Participants received CEUs from the UoG, and all completed applied learning projects designed to reinforce classroom training and demonstrate tangible impacts on real management problems.

Applied learning project themes included

- Improving glucose point-of-care testing
- Adhering to Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization ([JCAHO](#)) requirements for patient care regarding food and drug interactions
- Increasing the accuracy of newborn hearing screening

- Addressing low employee morale through the TQM Wellness Program
- Capturing all chargeable items by servicing departments
- Complying with JCAHO standard on patient care—especially hand-washing

- Eliminating waiting time for outpatient services at patient registration
- Increasing the percentage of breastfeeding mothers to 78%
- Updating and standardizing the hospital safety manual
- Addressing medication errors by developing and adopting a list of acronyms to be avoided in prescribing medication

Mr. Bill McMillan, CEO of Guam Memorial Hospital, committed to fund another cohort of GMH supervisors after attending the final project presentations and graduation. The support and enthusiasm for the training is evident as projects continue to be featured throughout the hospital and emphasized by the GMH Board of Trustees as they work toward JCAHO accreditation.

A fourth cohort from the Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services began the program in February 2004 with 18 participants. [Healthy Plan-it™](#) training is scheduled to begin in June, and the course will end with project presentations and graduation in July 2004.

Tim Etherington Joins SMDP as a Senior Public Health Advisor

Timothy Etherington joined SMDP in March 2004 as a Senior Public Health Advisor. He will oversee SMDP's budget and coordinate activities with all donor partners. Tim brings ten years of CDC experience as a program and contracts specialist to SMDP. He has previously served as a program manager for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, and as Acting Deputy Director for Operations for CDC's Global AIDS Program in Botswana. Most recently, he was a Senior Resource Analyst for PHPPPO where he managed contracts, budgets, grants, and awards.



Tim holds a bachelors degree in business administration from Georgia State University in Atlanta and is currently enrolled in a career MPH program at the

Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

His interest in public health is long-standing, inspired by years of volunteer work for a number of organizations, including the CDC Diversity Steering Committee, US/Mexican Border Workgroup, the Dia de la Mujer Latina

Foundation, Project Open Hands, and the Red Cross.

Tim said, "I traveled halfway around the world and back (to Botswana) only to discover the importance of what we already have in our own backyard: the solid partnerships and stakeholder collaborations carefully created and nurtured over the years are the key to SMDP's success. I hope to contribute to SMDP's dynamic 'Better management, stronger programs, healthier people' strategies in this new career move, and to continue pursuing my personal interest in global public health disparities through educational, volunteer, and community advocacy opportunities."