

The role of the private sector in health

An iHEA pre-congress symposium

Date: July 11, 2009

Time: 8.30-16.00

Venue: Beijing International Convention Center

SUBMISSION

Submission of abstracts by

November 15 latest, to e-mail

Abstracts should fall under one of the three session themes and be submitted as an MS-word file attached to a mail without text. Subject should be "abstract submission".

BACKGROUND

Nearly 60 percent of total expenditure on health in low- and middle-income countries is private, rising above 80 percent in countries such as India, Pakistan, Guinea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Recognition of this, and of the scale and complexity of private health service provision, has been growing for the last decade. Historically the private sector has been neglected in policy making. As information grows regarding the importance of the private sector in developing countries, there is a broad recognition of the need to increase the research base in order to promote evidence-informed policies.

AIM

This one-day symposium is envisaged as a dialogue between researchers interested in the private sector, and between researchers and policymakers, with the overall aim of

- *mapping out what is already known, and where research priorities lie based on policy needs; and*
- *promoting greater research interest and knowledge generation in this area for the benefit of health systems development.*

Specifically the symposium will

- Review issues regarding the private sector where the evidence base is strong and where there is some (emerging) consensus about what is known;
- Identify the pressing policy issues regarding the private sector where further evidence is required;
- Present research on emerging trends and innovations that are in the process

of changing the character of the private sector and its relations with government; and

- Identify and develop strategies to address the main challenges in further developing the knowledge base in this area.

SESSION THEMES

- Understanding the nature of mixed health systems
- Working with the private sector
- Policy interventions

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Sara Bennett, *Alliance for Health Systems and Policy Research*

Ruth Berg, *PSP ONE, Abt Associates*

Peter Berman, *World Bank*

Birger Forsberg, *Karolinska Institutet*

Karen Eggleston, *Stanford University*

Gina Lagomarsino, *Results for Development*

Qingyue Meng, *Shandong University*

Dominic Montagu, *University of California, San Francisco*

Stefan Nachuk, *Rockefeller Foundation*

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The symposium is of interest to health economists, public health experts, policy makers and health care managers with engagement in improving health and health care in low- and middle-income countries.

REGISTRATION

The symposium is free of charge. A limited number of scholarships for participation will be made available by the meeting sponsors. Register for the symposium by sending an e-mail with your details to or online through the iHEA website: www.healthconomics.org once it is open for registration.

Symposium participation does not require congress participation.



The symposium is organized in association with:

Center for Health Management and Policy, Shandong University, Jinan

Global Health Group (GHG), UCSF, San Francisco

International Health (IHCAR), Karolinska institute, Stockholm

The International Health Systems Program, Harvard School of Public Health

PSP-ONE, Abt Associates Inc., Washington

Results for Development, Washington

Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University

The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, Geneva

The Rockefeller foundation, New York



CONTACT

Birger Carl Forsberg

Coordinator, Private Sector Programme in Health (PSP)

IHCAR, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm

E-Mail: birger.forsberg@ki.se

Dominic Montagu

UCSF Global Health Group (GHG), San Francisco

E-mail: montagud@globalhealth.ucsf.edu

Karen Eggleston

Director of the Comparative Health Policy Program (AHPP)

Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University

E-mail: karene@stanford.edu