

# Informing the Health Links Network

e-bulletin No 21 - July 2009

Dear Friend

Welcome to THET's e-bulletin which includes news and information relevant to Health Links and THET activities. The e-bulletin will be circulated every month.

If you have any materials or news which you would like to publicise, please send the information to the editor of this e-bulletin, Amy Cudmore, [amy@thet.org](mailto:amy@thet.org). Conference and workshop reviews are also welcome. Note that we are unable to distribute attachments so please ensure that your item can be pasted into an e-mail message.

Feel free to forward this e-bulletin to anyone who might be interested.

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## NEWS

**Free access to the Global Health Database** - The Global Health Database, which contains over 1.2 million scientific records relating to public health research and practice, is being made freely available until August owing to the swine flu epidemic. This is well worth looking at to augment the evidence base for public health in developing countries. To request a free trial complete the form on the following webpage:

<http://www.cabi.org/AccessControl/InstitutionalTrial.asp?SubjectArea=&Subject=&PID=328>

**The impact of the economic crisis on women and children – Action for Global Health welcomes new UNICEF report** - In a new publication, UNICEF claims that 400 million more people are going hungry in South Asia, which is an increase of 100 million people in two years. This increase of 100 million people represents the highest levels of chronic hunger recorded in forty years. To read the article click on the following link:

[http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/the\\_impact\\_of\\_the\\_economic\\_crisis\\_on\\_women\\_and\\_children\\_action\\_for\\_global\\_health\\_welcomes\\_new\\_unicef\\_report](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/the_impact_of_the_economic_crisis_on_women_and_children_action_for_global_health_welcomes_new_unicef_report)

**SLDN Health Meeting for Medical Professionals in the Diaspora: SUMMARY REPORT** - On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, the Sierra Leone Diaspora Network (SLDN) hosted a meeting for UK based Sierra Leonean health professionals. The main goal of this meeting was to bring together professionals from various disciplines within the health sector, in order to chart the best way forward in supporting the development of the sector in Sierra Leone. The meeting was a great success and served not only to highlight the challenges, but also the wealth of Sierra Leonean experts in the UK and on mainland Europe. It also showcased a range of existing and successful Diaspora-led projects in Sierra Leone. For a Summary Report and all presentations, please click on the following link:

[http://www.sliip.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&gid=75&limit=5&limitstart=0&order=name&dir=ASC](http://www.sliip.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=75&limit=5&limitstart=0&order=name&dir=ASC)

**Community health information in Sierra Leone** - The Phi-supported partnership between the universities of Cardiff and Sierra Leone, which began in 1999, has since received two funding grants from DfID and the British Council. The current three year grant, funded through the Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DeIPHE) scheme, has supported a project entitled '*Community health information for poverty alleviation in Sierra Leone*'. This project has promoted community health pro-actively including developing and evaluating resource centers for community health throughout

rural areas of Sierra Leone. To date the project has supported the development of seven resource centers and has trained health promoters to work within the local communities, including schools, youth groups and markets. Sierra Leone partners are visiting the UK in July 2009 to discuss, share and celebrate the achievements of the project. During their visit they will present the impacts and findings of the project at the Wales for Africa Health Links Conference in Cardiff. Details of the project are on page 12 of the British Council's current annual DelPHE report 2007/8:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/delphe-07-08-annual-report.pdf>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Alexander Baillie in concert with Max Baillie** - Come and join us on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 for a very special evening of classical and improvised music at St Marys-at-Hill Church, Eastcheap, London EC3R 8EE. Alexander Baillie is internationally recognised as one of the finest cellists of his generation and this is a rare opportunity to hear Alexander Baillie play in concert with his son, the accomplished violinist Max Baillie. New ticket price of £20 (£10 students). For more information visit our website:

<http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php?/page/index/fundraising.html>

**Nurses for Links: a joint RCN/THET Conference** – The conference will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July at the RCN and will be about the particular role and challenges of the nursing profession as part of the Links movement. Hear more about how nurses can learn how to measure the effectiveness of Link activities, network & share experiences with members of other Links, receive helpful hints about how to boost the effectiveness of your Link and prepare your Link for challenges and opportunities ahead. For more information on how to book visit our website:

<http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php?/page/index/Conferences.html>

## GOOD PRACTICE

**Links Manual (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Links Manual, full of practical advice and guidance for both UK and overseas Links partners is available to buy or download. For more information how to get your copy, click on the following link <http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php?/page/index/downloadablepublications.html>

**Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)** - Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC) is currently giving away the Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine (6th edition) for free. This book is advertised as an 'indispensable pocket guide to internal medicine and surgery' providing 'access to evidence based clinical information and rounded advice on being a good doctor'. To receive a free copy, follow this link:

<http://www.talcuk.org/books/oxford-handbook-of-clinical-medicine-6th-edition.htm>

**Health Systems Strengthening in Fragile Contexts: A Report on Good Practices & New Approaches** - This report is a compilation of submissions prepared by Health and Fragile States Network members and many other individuals and organisations working in fragile states. It consists of a wide variety of submissions, ranging from extensively evaluated and long-term projects to new ideas and approaches which have not yet been implemented. The report is a document that can be used by donors, policy makers, and field workers alike to provide them ideas and practices that could help them develop their own strategies and approaches to health systems strengthening, based on the experiences of others working in comparable contexts. To read the report click on the following link:

[http://www.healthandfragilestates.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&gid=13&&Itemid=38](http://www.healthandfragilestates.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=13&&Itemid=38)

**Midwifery Education Modules** – WHO have re-released their education materials for teachers of midwifery which have now been updated in line with recent evidence and the WHO clinical guidelines. There are 6 modules available which

aim to help skilled practitioners think critically and make effective decisions on the basis of solid knowledge and understanding of these complications. To download your copy, view the following link:

[http://www.who.int/making\\_pregnancy\\_safer/documents/9241546662/en/](http://www.who.int/making_pregnancy_safer/documents/9241546662/en/)

## CHANGES AT THET

This month we would like to welcome to the THET team **Henrietta Blackmore** who has joined the programmes' team as Programme Development Manager. We are also delighted to announce that THET has appointed a new Chief Executive. **Pia MacRae** started her new role on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 and has joined us with a varied background including working with the BBC World Service, a programme officer for VSO and most recently a decade working with BP primarily focused on their External Affairs work in Asia and Africa. To read more about Pia MacRae please click on the following link:

<http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php?/page/news/101.html>

## VACANCIES / WORKING OVERSEAS

**Ethiopia/Zambia Programme Coordinator** – THET is looking for an Ethiopia/Zambia Programme Coordinator to further develop and support the implementation of high quality programmes designed to help strengthen health care systems in developing countries. To see details of full job description click on the following link:

<http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php?/page/index/workwithus.html>

**Hospital Financial Management Consultant – Somaliland** – THET seeks a consultant experienced in of hospital financial management relating to health in fragile states / post conflict environments. This is a rewarding position which offers a unique opportunity to instrumental in the development of institutional capacity, crucial for the rebuilding of the health system in Somaliland. Please see below for more details and visit our website [www.thet.org](http://www.thet.org) for the full terms and conditions.

**THET Trustees** - THET is looking for new Trustees to join its Board later this year. In addition to general duties, it requires some Trustees with a special interest in one or more of the following areas: the world of international development, diplomacy and international agencies; Links and international health and/ or health systems of developing countries; NHS Senior Management or the medical professions; the Diaspora in the UK of health professionals from sub-Saharan Africa or other less developed countries; fundraising, media/ public relations and marketing; education, training and research. For more information, visit <http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php?/page/index/workwithus.html> or email [alan@thet.org](mailto:alan@thet.org).

**Vodafone Foundation “World of Difference” Programme** - This year, the Vodafone Foundation's “World of Difference” programme will give eight UK residents the chance to work for a charity of their choice overseas for a whole year, earning a salary of up to £25,000, plus £20,000 in related expenses. Applications must be received by 30th July. For more information, please visit:

[www.vodafone.com/world\\_of\\_difference.html](http://www.vodafone.com/world_of_difference.html)

**Tropical Doctor in Sierra Leone** - The Swiss-Sierra Leone Development Foundation (SSLDF) has a vacancy for a Tropical Doctor in Sierra Leone. For more information, please contact Karin Pfeiffer on email: [karin.pfeiffer@ssldf.com](mailto:karin.pfeiffer@ssldf.com) or by mail Karin Pfeiffer, 18 chemin de la Chavanne, 1196 Gland, Switzerland.