

Alumni Summer school on Neglected Tropical Diseases

Official opening of the summer school and reception:

The alumni summer school on „Neglected Tropical Diseases“ (NTD) took place from August 26 to September 4th 2015. In the afternoon of 26th of August, on Wednesday at 18:00 a warm reception to the alumni participants was organised and the event was officially opened at the conference room of the Town Hall of Bammental. The Honourable Mayor of Bammental, Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI) Officials, all interested alumni, current course participants and coordinators of the MScIH Programme, including the former and current head of teaching of the Institute of Public Health were invited and took part in this special event. During the intervals between welcome speeches, some heart touching melodies were played with different musical instruments. All together it became a very cordial atmosphere.

The official programme of this alumni summer school has been attached as an annex to this report.



Photo 1: Speakers of the welcome session



Photo 2: HAI representative, Ms. Christine Domnik



Photo 3: Playing of melodies



Photo 4: Group picture of MScIH Alumni

Main sessions on Neglected Tropical Diseases:

Most of the sessions/activities of this summer school have taken place in the conference hall of the Town Hall, Bammental, but on 31st of August the course participants attended the thesis presentations of current MScIHcourse participants, which took place at the Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg. The main sessions of the summer school consisted of presentations and discussions on different topics relevant to NTDs.

Group work on projects:

Four projects were selected by expert consensus procedures for group work for the continuation of the alumni summer school, and according to individual interests, course participants were distributed in those four groups. In each group a complete project proposal was written based on a real situation on NTD. At the end, those projects were presented to the whole class, discussed and given feedback.

Discussion on Public Health Alumni Heidelberg:

On the afternoon of 3rd September a discussion session on Public Health Alumni Heidelberg was performed in order to introduce this new professional alumni network to the course participants, to share the background information on its formulation, update on the targets set during last year's alumni seminar, how to register to this alumni portal and its features. In addition to that group discussion was conducted to collect ideas on general alumni activities and on alumni platform namely how this platform can be improved and how to get more members registered on the platform. The teaching unit supports these activities with some funding for the moderation of the platform, delivered by an MScIH alumni. However, all course participants agreed that the platform can only be successful if more alumni register and if the platform serves as an interactive information platform.

Ideas for increasing the number of alumni registered on the network:

- A crucial element is the active search for alumni, currently not registered on the network platform
- This active search should be supported by the existing board of alumni representatives and the focal points for each year of the MScIH, as agreed in 2014 during the last alumni meeting in Heidelberg
- Furthermore, all participants of the summer school agreed to register on the network and stimulate further - with the focal points - to identify and contact missing alumni for registering

The process would be helped,

- if considering only alumni group members for any future alumni event
- Making the report and pictures of any alumni event available only on alumni portal
- Rotating the moderator duties

Ideas for alumni activities

- In a more general statement it has been agreed that the activities depend largely on the active participation of the network
- Particularly the idea of posting local alumni events has been seen positive, as the organisation of side events at important conferences
- This could include developing some sort of monthly or quarterly calendar with activities that can be shared with alumni (webinars, a regional skype meeting or regional meetings/events).
- Possibility of a bigger alumni meeting in future (funds permitting)
- Creating and sharing an annual newsletter with latest events and upcoming meetings etc:
 - With pictures of other alumni, professors, visitors, the city, etc.
 - Information of courses to be held at the institute.
 - The newsletters might be divided in two parts. One that can be fully read within the email and other than can be read only when using the platform.

Closing Ceremony of the summer school:

On 4th September, Friday at 19:00 a closing ceremony was organised in the Multifunction Hall of Bammental. The inhabitants of the village of Bammental, all course participants and colleagues of the Institute of Public Health, friends were invited on this occasion. The Honourable Mayor of Bammental, Mr. Holger Karl welcomed the guests. Founder and former head of the IPH, Professor Hans-Jochen Diesfeld was the guest of honour and one of the speakers. Four participants from four different countries of three different continents namely Myanmar, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Uganda presented about their work in development politics and health projects to the audience. Afterwards the guests were invited to have further discussion with public health experts present there from many more countries.

Furthermore, the projects developed during the alumni summer school are now being operationalised, with the attempt to attract funding and generating further publicity for the worthwhile fight against these health problems of the poorest populations of this planet.

Acknowledgements:

We thank Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) for financial support. Also special thanks to the municipality of Bammental for offering the venue for this summer school.

Annexes:

Annex 1: List of Participants and contact information

Nr.	Name	Current job position, Country
1	Angela Horvath	Cortez, Colorado, USA
2	Bazarragchaa Tsogt	National Centre of Infectious Diseases, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
3	Felipe Mejia Medina	Panamerican Health Organisation, Bogota, Colombia
4	Christine Ochwaldt	Hann. Münden, Germany
5	George Ochenge	Quintiles Transnational Inc, Nairobi, Kenya
6	Hermann Sorgho	Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina-Faso
7	Jamila Nabieva	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
8	John Kingsley Krugu	Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana, Bolgatanga, Ghana
9	Juan, Philippines	GIZ – Fit for School Program, Makati City, Philippines
10	Juliet Kiguli, Uganda	Makerere University School of Public Health, Kampala, Uganda
11	Karen Pesse Sorensen	Escuela de Salud Pública, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile
12	Kyaw Khaing	International Organization for Migration, Yangon, Myanmar
13	Matomora Matomora	KIUMMA, Matamenga, Tanzania
14	Natasha Murray	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific Region, Manila, Philippines
15	Reda M. R. Ramzy	National Nutrition Institute, Cairo, Egypt
16	Simon Gabritchidze	University of Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia
17	Than Bil Luai	Wesley Hospital, Kalay town, Myanmar
18	Theresa Madubuko	Center for Clinical Care and Clinical Research, Enugu, Nigeria
19	Zelalem Adugna	John Snow, Inc, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
20	Yan Ding	Shanghai, China
21	Nazmun Nahar Nuri	Doctoral student HD / Bangladesh
22	Margarida Melo Mendes Jorge	Doctoral student HD / Portugal
23	Carlos Alberto Montenegro	Doctoral student HD / Guatemala
24	Moody Samuel	Master student HD / Egypt
25	Mike Salazar	Master student HD / Philippines
26	Bernard Ziem	Master student HD / Ghana

Annex 2: Programme for Alumni Summer School

Curriculum “Short Course Neglected Tropical Diseases”

Venues: B'tal: Town hall Bammental, conference room
Heidelberg: Seminar room of Master Course, INF365

Teachers (alphabetic)

AR Andreas Ruppel: retired from Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg
FR Francesco Rio: Team Leader, NTD, WHO, Geneva
OH Olaf Horstick: Director of Teaching, Institute of Public Health
NB Norbert Becker, Director, Mosquito control agency, Upper Rhine Valley.
RR Reda Ramzy: National Nutrition Institute, Cairo, Egypt
SR Silvia Runge-Ranzinger: Consultant in Public Health, Master in Public Health
TR Thomas Romig: Parasitology, University, Hohenheim

Wednesday 26 August B'tal	Arrival, 18.00 Welcome evening Holger Karl, Mayor of Bammental Course introduction and house keeping 20:00 Dinner	Facilitators, speakers OH, AR
Thursday 27 August B'tal	09.00 Proposed topics of participants for group work 11: 00 The art of making the right decisions 13:30 Introduction to and overview of NTDs 15:30 Continued	AR OH FR FR
Friday 28 August B'tal	9:00 NTDs: overview, continued 11:00 NTDs: overview, continued 13:30 Introduction to TDR manuals for NTDs 15:00 Mosquito control: biology, products, strategies	FR FR AR/FR NB
Saturday 29 August B'tal	09:00 Populations and subgroups at risk, prevalence, treatment 11:00 Control/elimination of lymphatic filariasis and schistosomiasis in Egypt 13:30 Echinococcus control beyond Europe 15:00 Dengue, case management	AR RR TR SR
Sunday 30 August B'tal	09:00 Case studies: success and problems with NTDs: successful and problematic projects 11:00: Planning and starting Group work. Group work continues throughout the next days according to the arrangements by each group	Participants, AR, RR

	participants <i>Afternoon-evening:</i> open house and garden at Andreas' home	All+friends
Monday 31 August Heidelberg	Our course attends the Thesis presentations of the current cohort "MSc International health" Dinner: Café Burkhardt, meet your friends	
Tuesday 1 September B'tal	9:00 Group work cont'd, 13:30 Group work: finances, interview guides	AR, RR, OH AR, RR
Wednesday 2 September B'tal	9:00 Group work cont'd (B'tal) 14:30 Interim report on group work/projects, Discussion with participation of current master students, staff and doctoral students of institute	OH, AR
Thursday 3 September B'tal	09:00 Finalization of projects 13:30 Coaching and individual consultations 15.00-19.00 Alumni business	AR AR, RR OH, Nuri, Pauline
Friday 4 September B't	09:00 presentation of projects with discussion, 13:30 course evaluation 19:00 Public event in Town Hall of Bammental "Explain your work from the world to the village of Bammental, and get to know our people"	AR AR Mayor, Diesfeld, 4 Participants
D 11 Sa	Departure or self-organized weekend	Andreas' open house

Annex 3: Invitation for the closing ceremony

EINE Welt - Abend der Begegnungen

Freitag, 4.9.15, 19:00 Uhr, Multifunktionshalle Bammental

Eintritt frei - überwiegend in englischer Sprache

„Gesundheit und Prävention von Krankheiten

in sog. Entwicklungs-Ländern“

Referate und Gespräche mit Experten aus 20 Nationen

Begrüßung: Holger Karl, Bürgermeister von Bammental

Einführung und Kontakt: Dr. Andreas Ruppel, Universität Heidelberg

Kurzreferate zur Entwicklungspolitik und zu Gesundheitsprojekten aus 3 Kontinenten und anschließend **Einladung zu individuellen Gesprächen** mit Experten aus

Ägypten Äthiopien Bangladesh Burkina-Faso

Chile China Deutschland Georgien

Ghana Guatemala Kenia Kolumbien

Mongolei Myanmar Neuseeland Nigeria

Philippinen Portugal Tadschikistan Tansania Uganda USA

Die Experten berichten über ihre beruflichen Erfahrungen mit eigenen Projekten in ihren Heimatländern und beantworten gern Ihre Fragen.

Dieser Abend ist der Abschluß des **Kurses “Neglected Tropical Diseases”** (vernachlässigte Tropenkrankheiten) in Bammental. Der Kurs wird veranstaltet vom Institut für Public Health der *Universität Heidelberg* und der *Gemeinde Bammental* und wird finanziell durch den *Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienst* ermöglicht.



Photo 5: Presentations in classroom



Photo 6: Lunch together



Photo 7: Voluntary service in kitchen



Photo 8: Andreas' open house event