

The Summit Bulletin

*Presenting highlights of the Ministerial Summit on
Health Research, Mexico 2004*

Mexico Agenda on the way!

In an historic session the Summit participants discussed and then improved the Mexico Agenda on Health Research! The agenda attempts to capture the rationale for focusing on health research, emphasizes the great need to improve health systems, and then calls for action by different stakeholders. More than 60 comments were received prior to the session and incorporated into the document.

The 9th version of the agenda was presented and ministers and national delegations invited to make comments. Ministers called upon the organizers to make the Mexico Agenda a strong, independent document. This would be in addition to the agenda being submitted for consideration by the Executive Board of WHO as a potential resolution in May 2005 by the World Health Assembly.

For more coverage or to read the draft agenda please visit the official Summit website:
www.who.int/rpc/summit.

Tale of two Sheratons!

“Superbly planned and well orchestrated” said Lincoln Chen reflecting on the Summit. He described the intensive nature and rich content of the 4-day, 25 working sessions, 6 roundtables, 6 joint plenaries and networking lunches that focused on key themes such as the MDGs, health systems research and public access and trust.

***“We want to be everywhere,
so many interesting sessions;
but can’t go to everything” –
Minister of Health, Pakistan***

The Mexico Summit would be remembered by countries, organizations and individuals taking ownership and making a commitment to the Mexico Agenda. Key to this commitment would be the notion of partnerships between north/south, public/private, global/local - to use knowledge in order to improve global health.

Research into action!

The joint plenary on Friday included a discussion of 3 case studies exploring the ‘how’ for converting research into action. Informative presentations explored the issue in the context of maternal mortality in Latin America, health services in Nigeria and health facilities in Kenya.

Health financing and research?

A ministerial roundtable took up this critical issue, widely regarded as a major challenge by ministers of health from around the world. A lively debate ensued where the source, type and impact of various financing mechanisms were discussed. In addition, the need to protect health systems, especially in times of conflict, was proposed as an important issue for global consideration.

Quote of the day:

“We are doing all of this research for the people”

-Minister of Health, Senegal

A Reminder:

“Research is the search for truth by scientists and the public”

-L. Chen, USA

Until next time...

This is the 5th and final issue of the *Summit Bulletin* – the daily news source for participants. We hope that it has been an informative and fun source of facts, quotes and opinions from the Summit. All issues of the bulletin will be posted on the Summit website. We appreciate your patronage and would like to thank our Mexican hosts for their gracious hospitality and delightful cooperation!

Dinner and Show

A Summit and Global Forum joint Gala dinner was held last night at a beautiful location - the Colegio de San Igancio de Loyola. A graceful, colorful and musical evening greeted participants as they savored a delicious dinner. Local artists presented a beautiful, cultural dance and song performance, highly appreciated by all. The dinner was hosted by the gracious Minister of Health and Government of Mexico.

The Summit Bulletin is produced by the Summit Reporting Team and is a summary of the highlights of each day. It is not meant to serve as an official record of the meeting and is not considered an official meeting document of WHO or any member state. For more information contact Dr. Adnan A. Hyder (hydera@who.int).