

Tuesday Conference Talks

Tuesday, **10 August 2010** from **4.15** pm



MARCEL TANNER obtained a PhD on medical biology from the University of Basel and a MPH from the University of London. He is Director of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute and Professor of Epidemiology and Medical Parasitology at the University of Basel and at the Federal Institute of Technology. Since 1977, his research ranges from basic research on the cell biology and immunology on malaria, schistosomiasis, trypanosomiasis and filariasis to epidemiological and public health research on risk assessment, vulnerability, health impact and district health planning. His research, teaching and health planning expertise are based on substantial long term experience from working in rural and urban areas in Africa (mainly Tanzania, Chad,

Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire) and Asia (China, Thailand, Laos). Besides research the capacity building and North-South partnership was another main interest. He also acts as advisor in many national and international agencies/bodies and in boards/committees.

Public and international health challenges in a globalized world

Increasing globalization and interrelated mobility of the population as well as the great advances of communication technologies present formidable challenges to our health and social systems. Public and international health policies and strategies can no longer build on technical solutions or vertical actions. The challenge lies in defining the integrated intervention packages tailored to a given social, cultural and economic setting which implies a new system thinking by focusing on the dynamics and interrelations between the various building blocks that define health and social systems. Consequently, health information and management systems will have to change accordingly and roles and responsibilities of health cadres will change. The conference will not only list and discuss the challenges for health systems in the decade ahead of us, but also provide an outlook for the policy and operational levels.

Tuesday, **17 August 2010** from **4.15** pm



Meng-Kin LIM is Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management at the National University of Singapore's School of Medicine and concurrently Academic Director of the Master of Business Administration (Healthcare Specialisation) Program at the NUS Business School. He is also Adjunct Professor at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, and Public Health Director of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities' World Institute. He was previously Chief Executive Officer of the Health Corporation of Singapore (Singapore's largest group of hospitals and specialist medical centers) and served on eight hospital boards and numerous national health committees. Internationally, he has represented Singapore on the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Advisory Committee on Health Research and the International Network on Health Policy Reform. He has consulted extensively for the World Bank, World Health Organization and Asian Development Bank in China, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Iran, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Egypt, and West Bank and Gaza and authored

more than 100 scientific articles - including in *New England Journal of Medicine*, *British Medical Journal*, *Health Affairs*, *Emerging Infectious Disease*, *Health Policy*, and *Health Policy Systems and Research*. He is editorial board member of *Health Services Research*, *Health Policy Systems and Research*, and the *Asian Journal of Health and Information Sciences*. Among his numerous awards are the Public Service Star, the Public Administration (Silver) Medal, and the National University of Singapore's Special Commendation Award for Teaching Excellence.

Healthcare reforms – can Europe learn from Asia?

For centuries a sleeping giant, Asia has recently awakened to find itself not only enjoying unprecedented economic growth, but actually looked upon to lead the world in its recovery from the latest global financial crisis. But Asia still lags behind the west in many respects. Income inequality is widening, the most vulnerable populations have health indicators comparable to the poorest in the world, and its outmoded health systems are in urgent need of modernisation and reform. Can European enlightenment show the way? Alas, many a once-admired European healthcare model appears now to be floundering. In the face of skyrocketing costs and shrinking resources, the sustainability of egalitarian approaches to universal coverage is increasingly being questioned, even within the bastion welfare states. The emerging "dragon" economies of China, Vietnam, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore have nevertheless been busy studying, copying, and adapting these ideas - and innovating with varying degrees of success - in the implementation of their own healthcare reforms. Are there lessons that Europe can in turn learn from these Asian experimentations which owe their inspiration to Europe in the first place?