

International Health SIG ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

Convenors – Peter Vanderwal and Miyuki Harui

Support to International Health Activities - People's Health Assembly support .

This year the International Health SIG donated \$1000 to assist an individual attend the People's Health Assembly and also supported Yakkum Bali with a donation of \$1200.

Population Health Congress Input - Congress papers and posters

In Feb 2008, Convenors specially called SIGIH members for IH papers for Setting up International Health Sessions on the PHAA congress. The congress committee received over 35 papers. As a result, International Health paper presentations earned three blocks that carried on one each afternoons during the Congress. The SIGIH greatly appreciated SIGIH members' contributions. A strong International Health focus was apparent at the Congress.

A Congress submission review was prepared with a great effort from Jane Thomason, Anna Whelan and Maxine Whitaker for the paper reviews. AusAID has supported 10 candidates from 6 countries in Asia Pacific region (budget ca \$ 35,000.) The IH delegates contributed significantly on the IH session held on 7 July 2008. There were 120 people in the audience in the session room and actively participated in floor discussion after the presentations

New Initiative - Regional Public Health Association

A breakfast meeting held with IH delegates and SIGIH committees for making network and strengthening the public health associations in IH delegates' countries on 8 July (funded by JTA) and there were Public Health Associations found in PNG, Fiji, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Following this there useful discussion were held on having a regional public health network connection. Agreement was reached for keeping communication with the key persons of the association, and supporting them for such things as literature reviews and accreditation.

Policy update - Policy review

The IHSIG has been considering the international policies. Asylum Seekers-Mandatory Detention, Destruction of the Smallpox Virus, and Landmines are due for revision and there are currently discussions about a freshly policy- Energy saving for neighbours. Although 'Landmines' and 'Destruction of the Smallpox Virus' needs to remain active policy, the contents must be revised.