

## Executive Training Course on Global Health Diplomacy: Current and Emerging Issues for ASEAN Countries

5 – 9 December 2011  
Jakarta, Indonesia



*Opening Ceremony*

Global Health Programme brings together health professionals and diplomats from ASEAN countries for an executive course in Jakarta, Indonesia.

From 5 to 9 December 2011, the Global Health Programme (GHP) held its second executive course on Global Health Diplomacy: Current and Emerging Issues for countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The course was organised in partnership with the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) and with the support of the Indonesian Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health). Twenty-four participants from seven ASEAN countries, mostly government officials from health and foreign affairs ministries, but also representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and academia took part in this five-day course held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The course was supported by a generous grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Ambassador Gaudenz Silberschmidt, Chairperson of the GHP's Advisory Board and Head of International Affairs Division, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health directed the programme, which introduced participants to key concepts in global health, including the increasingly important link between global health and foreign policy.



*Course Director: Ambassador Gaudenz Silberschmidt*

The course explored the field of global health diplomacy by presenting in a sequential manner, the evolution and priorities in global health, the emergence of a myriad of actors and the resulting effect these developments have had on the way that health is negotiated in the 21st century. It combined theory and analysis with practical case studies of actual health negotiations, and shared the expertise of numerous health professionals and negotiators. The focus then shifted to cooperation for global health at regional and national level – in particular, regional cooperation for health within ASEAN and national global health strategies.



*Working Groups on global health negotiations.*

During the week, participants gained a better understanding of the increasing interdependence between health and foreign policy issues. The session on global health strategies and regional cooperation has been of particular interest for them. In this context, they reflected and agreed on the need for a stronger cooperation at the national and regional levels allowing them to create the basis for better coherence. An entire session was dedicated to the development of an action plan enabling

them to discuss concrete initiatives such as organising regular meetings and staff exchanges between ministries. Through learning from key past and ongoing negotiations, participants also improved their skills to negotiate global regimes and international agreements. As a result, participants were able to consolidate their knowledge and skills in global health diplomacy with a view to further strengthen their government's capacity to constructively engage in global health negotiations as well as build national and regional health strategies.

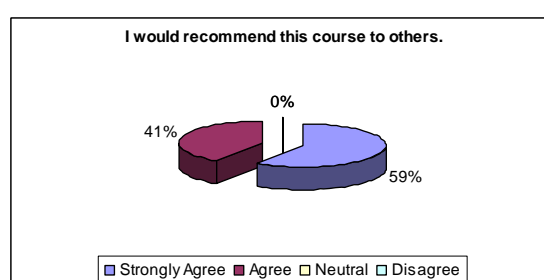
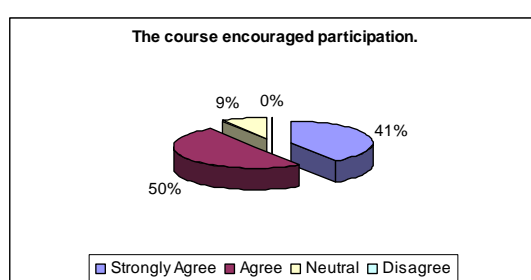
Speakers during the week included, among others: Ambassador Makarim Wisibono, Director of ASEAN Foundation, Ms Jan Bennett, Principal Adviser, Department of Health and Ageing, Australia, and senior officials from the Department of International Cooperation, MoH and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



*Left to right:  
Ambassador  
Makarim  
Wisibono, Dr  
Niniek Naryatie,  
Dr Sunu  
Soemarmo,  
Participant from  
Malaysia: Mr  
Unny S. Ravi  
Sankar*

Participants' contributions were crucial throughout the course and were reinforced through interactive and participatory training methodologies. For many of the participants, this was the first time they were able to meet and get to know colleagues in similar positions from neighbouring countries, both in the areas of health and foreign affairs.

Overall the participants were satisfied with the training content. Course's highlights, according to them, include the presentations on global health negotiations and the working groups on national global health strategies. Logistical aspects of the course were positively rated, including the facilities, reading materials and training methodologies. Participants also acknowledged the high level of interaction during the whole week. In addition, they encourage a closer look at the regional coordination mechanism especially among ASEAN countries as well as the development of advanced courses on global health diplomacy. Participants' testimonials include: "I believe that the most important thing in this training is to build the understanding among foreign and health ministries' officials how important the coordination and coherence is in face of GHD." or "The course is a great platform to share information on countries' national, regional and global health policy."



The course was very well received by all partners and its importance for the region was acknowledged. As a result, there have been requests for such a course to be held annually in the region in order to develop a stronger, more comprehensive and cohesive approach to global health. The Global Health Programme is currently exploring the possibility to conduct further courses in partnership with the Government of Indonesia, NAM CSSTC and the ASEAN Foundation this year.

Executive courses in global health diplomacy have been pioneered by the Global Health Programme ever since it held its first course in Geneva in 2007. These courses were developed in response to the increasing interdependence between health and foreign policy issues and the need for training in this field. The courses aim to increase participants' understanding of the dynamics of global health governance and to improve their negotiation skills. New skills are needed by health and foreign affairs professionals to negotiate global regimes and international agreements and treaties, and to maintain relations with a wide range of stakeholders due to the recent emergence of new actors in this area.

For more information, visit <http://graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth/home/ghd.html>