

IUNS summary report to the International Nutrition Community for 2008 activities

Interactions with the private sector foundations and industry. During recent times IUNS officers and the Council have discussed the need to engage the private sector in order to address the main challenges posed by the strategic development plan. A key point in this plan is to develop rules of engagement to promote public goods based on clearly defined shared objectives and common interests. A first example of this has been the special efforts to raise funds for capacity building in form of short term fellowships (congresses, workshops) done by IUNS in partnership with INF (International Nutrition Foundation) based on the existing memorandum of understanding signed 2006. We have jointly supported leadership training activities in Africa (Morocco, Egypt, South Africa) and in Asia (India and Korea), and in 2009 will contribute to the support of the Latin American NLP program. These efforts have clear objectives and are part of the strategic plan, favouring the training of the next generation of nutrition leaders. In addition they serve to increase the visibility of IUNS at all levels. For more details and a sample format of the model for private-public-partnerships (PPPs) being explored by IUNS see <http://www.iuns.org/features.htm>. It is likely that during 2009 additional will be established; with the purpose of:

- Disseminating sound scientific information about food and nutrition amongst professionals and the general public in actionable ways in order to promote and advance nutritional improvement focusing on the quality of diets.
- Collaborating in the translation of nutritional recommendations into food guidelines – taking food composition, dietary patterns, claims, marketability, and technical feasibility into account – with the food industry as a partner;
- Promoting optimal nutrition for children around the world based on exclusive breast feeding up to 6 months; coupled to appropriate complementary feeding after that age.
- Establishing mechanisms to enhance and align Nutrition Leadership Programs around the globe generating a core curriculum that will serve as a base for implementation and for evaluation of local/regional and international programs.

Scientific Integrity, ethics and conflict of interests: The special IUNS committee set up to review of publishing Ethics released their report and provided recommendations for authors, reviewers and editors of scientific journals. This effort lead by Barrie Margetts and included the editors of major nutrition journals D'Ann Finley, Carlos Monteiro, Ruth Oniang'o and Prakash Shetty. Their report prepared in response to cases of scientific fraud that came to light over the previous years, and a concern that the nutrition community was not prepared to prevent similar occurrences in the future. It contains valuable guidance to editors, reviewers and authors. For details see http://www.iuns.org/features/IUNS_working_group_on_publishing_ethics-0608.pdf. It is up to all of us to uphold and promote these values; that are the essence of what we do as scientists and concerned global citizens.

Completion of Capacity Strengthening Project in Iran under the Leadership of the IUNS Secretary General 2004-2008 : A Global Alliance between IUNS and three Iranian Universities and major Nutrition Academic Centers in Europe, USA, and Asia served to enhance nutrition capacity building by initiating graduate level training in nutrition. The

present alliance developed successfully seven new graduate programs, housed in three separate Iranian universities coordinated and integrated their activities so that together they produce nutrition expertise, nutrition evidence-based know how, and in the long run will serve as a critical factor in improving public health and socio economic development of Iran. The seven developed programs were 1) MSc and PhD programs in Molecular/Cellular Nutrition, to be housed in the Iran University of Medical Sciences and Health Services; and 2) MSc and PhD programs in Nutritional Epidemiology, to be housed in the Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Health Services School of Public Health 3) MSc and PhD programs in Food Policy and Nutrition Intervention, and an MSc-level program in Community Nutrition to be housed in Shaheed Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Health Services. These programs were prepared with the participation of the many academic centers that collaborated with IUNS and especially with the contribution of the University Philippines at Los Baños in collaboration with the three Iranian Universities. The seven newly developed training programs were designed to ensure sustainability, provide an opportunity for a rapid and substantial strengthening of human resource and capacity building in the field of nutrition in Iran. The strategy of the new Nutrition Training Program ensured integration between the three Iranian Universities and the foreign institutions within an overall plan and nutrition policy of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in Iran. The development of these programs was made possible through a loan from the World Bank under the Second Primary Health and Nutrition Project in the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) Government of Iran.

Global Nutrition Leadership Programs. (NLPs). As a result of the initiative of Prof. Joseph Hautvast, at the time Secretary General of the IUNS and the support of Private Foundations, International and Bilateral Agencies and the Industrial Sector the first NLP was launched in Europe in the early 90s. Since then NLPs have been launched in virtually every geographic region. Considering the need to harmonize these various initiatives that are part of the global capacity strengthening needed to enhance nutrition actions at all levels the IUNS formed a working group lead by Professor Hee Young Paik that includes representation from all regions of the world and input from NLP graduates to prepare a report to be discussed in the pre-ICN Capacity Building Workshop Oct 3-4th 2009. This report will guide efforts to establish the elements for much need coordination of these efforts, a possible common core curriculum for NLPs and also define elements that might be different based on local/regional conditions.

Pre-ICN IUNS-UNU Capacity Building Workshop Oct 3-4th 2009. The need to strengthen existing capacity (research, training, and dissemination) for effective international and national action in nutrition is well recognized as highlighted by the recent Lancet nutrition series (2008). This report found minimal progress in the type of training being delivered as well as in the mode of teaching since the 1996 IUNS/UNU Manila meeting. Shortage of skilled professionals and other human resources and gaps in leadership skills are major constraints for effective policy and program implementation. Over recent decades the IUNS in partnership with the UNU-Tufts, INF and others have developed fund raising efforts to strengthen capacity of developing countries institutions to address nutrition problems. During 2008-09 special efforts to attract donors to support this need have been undertaken. A special meeting was held at the Clinton Global Initiative in

New York Sept 08 that lead to the need to organize a special Pre ICN workshop to discuss this topic and define a global sustainable program to address this pressing need, a reunion with potential donors will be held in April 09 in New Orleans at the time of Experimental Biology meeting organized by the IUNS in conjunction with the INF and UNU-Tufts University to explore potential funding. The actual pre-ICN workshop is scheduled for Oct 3-4 2009 in Bangkok.

ICN 2017 site selection. The experience generated over recent years relative to IUNS ICN congress site selection suggested the need to revise the guidelines for this process. The IUNS working closely with the Spanish Nutrition Society (winners of the bid for the 2013 ICN) has updated these guidelines in order to advance the IUNS objectives and secure that the ICN selection process secures a strong bid from the outset. These guidelines are available from the secretariat and will be used in the 09 selection process for the ICN 2017.

Upcoming 2009 ICN with a special focus on Asia. The ICN (<http://www.icn2009.com>) website provides detailed information on the scientific and social program; instructions for sponsorships, free communications and registration are also included. The IUNS officers and council have worked closely with the ICN organizers to assure both an excellent scientific program and the widest possible representation from Asia and other regions. The expectation is that the Bangkok October 4-9, 2009 Congress will be a great success (over 2500 abstracts have been received); it will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on the present meaning of Food and Nutrition Security in a world in economic turmoil, where inequalities in access to safe and nutritious foods still represents a problem for virtually half of humanity. We hope that the global nutrition scientific community will be present in this, major global nutrition event, that will address “Nutrition Security for All”. In a world that has both the knowledge and the resources to combat hunger, the 19th International Congress of Nutrition will provide innovative solutions to the present and future challenges of securing the need for safe and adequate food supply, delivery of basic nutrition and health services, thereby improving the quality of life of peoples and communities around the world. .

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