

programme

8.45 - 9.30	Registration and coffee	
9.30 - 9.45	Opening	Martin Boeree (chair NVTG) Saskia de Bruin (chair TROIE)
9.45 - 10.10	Dutch perspective	Rik Peepkorn (Royal Netherlands Embassy Tanzania)
10.10 - 10.55	Dutch perspective	Development organisations
10.55 - 11.15	There is more to the HR crisis than migration	Nina Tellegen (Wemos)
11.15 - 11.30	Coffee	
11.30 - 12.00	Reflections from developing countries - Dutch perspective in context	Onyebuchi Arah (Nigeria, UvA)
12.00 - 12.30	Reflections from developing countries - Dutch perspective in context	Prof Otsyula (Kenya), Fons Mathot, Dr Tigit (Kenya)
12.30 - 13.15	DEBATE	
13.15 - 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 - 14.15	Lessons learned, looking back at 40 years 'Elective Programme for Medical Students in Developing countries'.	Monique Keuter (NUCI)
14.15 - 15.15	(re)Shaping the profile of Dutch Tropical Doctors	
15.15 - 16.45	DEBATE	
16.45	Closure and drinks	

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Parallel programme - Information on the Netherlands Course in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and Highlighting the campaign 'Kans op Gezondheid'.

costs

Members NVTG € 35
Non-members € 45
Students € 20

organising committee

Clara Blaauw (COTG) • Françoise Barten
(NUCI) • Saskia de Bruin (TROIE) • Ingrid
Gerhardt (NVTG) • Esther Jurgens (NVTG)
• Monique Keuter (NUCI-IH) • Rob Sijbers
(COTG) • Hans Wendte (NVTG)

registration

Before the 15th of September 2006 at the NVTG secretariat
Ingrid Gerhardt POBox 83 6700 AB Wageningen
telephone / fax 0317 - 428622 www.nvtg.org

University Auditorium and Conference Centre
Geert Grooteplein 15 Nijmegen
www.ru.nl/over_de/bereikbaarheid_0

route

SYMPOSIUM Dutch Medical Doctors in Developing Countries - a debate on present and future

organisation - NVTG/TROIE
location - University Auditorium and Conference
Centre, Nijmegen



04.10.2006

background

The shortage of health workers in developing countries is staggering. The statistics are clear: the average health workers density in Europe is 18.9 (per 1000 population), in comparison: this average in Africa is as low as 2.3.

WHO has identified a threshold in workforce density below which high coverage of essential interventions is highly unlikely. Based on these estimates there are currently 57 countries with critical shortages, equivalent to a global deficit of 2.4 million doctors, nurses and midwives. The majority of African countries fall below this threshold (WHR 2006). Migration of health workers (internal and international) has been identified as one of the root causes for this alarming situation.

The importance of the workforce for advancing health is increasingly being understood. Over the years, awareness has been raised on the impact of shortages and global imbalances in health workers densities. This year's World Health Report Working together appeals for action: immediate, to tackle the HR crisis in many developing countries, but in addition we need actions towards solutions to sustain a high performing workforce world-wide. The conference organisers, the Netherlands Society of Tropical Medicine and International Health (NVTG), in collaboration with Nijmegen University Centre for Infectious Diseases (NUCI-IH) – International Health of the Radboud University Nijmegen, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), bureau MUNDO of University Maastricht and Wemos, take up the challenge to analyse possible solutions.

The symposium 'Dutch Medical Doctors in Developing Countries: A debate on present and future' aims to discuss the role and profile of Dutch tropical doctors in a context of shortages in human resources for health.

objectives

main programme

- Introductions and debate on the state of the art of Dutch medical professionals in developing countries - from a dual perspective (Netherlands and developing countries).
- Information on the Netherlands Course in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene is provided.
- Highlights of the campaign 'Kans op Gezondheid', a joint initiative of NCDO and Dutch development organisations to promote universal access to health; presentation of the 'Survival Calculator' and the 'Health Battle'.

parallel programme

key questions

Throughout the world the health sector is dealing with an increasing shortage of health workers; this is a world-wide phenomenon, however the impact is most fiercely felt in the developing countries. Over the past decade(s) there has been a shift from recruiting (Dutch) medical doctors on a long-term contract, to short term contracting of 'doctors plus': medical doctors (with clinical experience), but with emphasis on technical or managerial skills. Despite policy changes, many medical doctors are working in emergency aid, or are filling vacant posts of migrating health workers.

- What is the Dutch policy vis-à-vis these developments?
- Can we come up with creative, innovative and sustainable solutions to face this crisis?
- What are the needs we are responding to?

The Netherlands Course in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (NTC) aims to prepare health professionals for work in health care in developing countries. The programme is part of a post-graduate training programme for Dutch physicians leading to a diploma in tropical medicine. The target group for this course are physicians and other health professionals who are planning to work in low and middle income countries, often assigned to work at a general district hospital at the first level of referral. Over the years the assignments gradually evolved from a predominantly clinical focus, to a more public health, technical advisory approach.

- What is the required profile of this 'new' doctor?
- Is the current curriculum still appropriate?
- What are the opportunities to locate a part of the training in developing countries?
- Which technical and educational background is needed?
- To what extent is this part of a sustainable solution?

- Netherlands Society of Tropical Medicine and International Health (NVTG)
- Tropical Doctors in Training (TROIE)
- Nijmegen University Centre for Infectious Diseases (NUCI-IH) – International Health of the Radboud University Nijmegen
- Bureau MUNDO of the University Maastricht
- Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)
- Wemos

collaborating partners

participants

Members NVTG, policy makers, students and other professionals active in the field of tropical medicine and international health.