Children’s Environmental Health International Initiatives

This is an international mailing list provided by WHO and UNEP dedicated to promoting healthy environments for children

September – October 2009

Third WHO International Conference on Children’s Health and the Environment
Busan, Republic of Korea 7-10 June 2009

The conference was a great success, attended by over 600 participants from 60 countries and more than 30 different organizations. There were nine plenary sessions, ten thematic sessions, six settings sessions and a special session on asbestos. There were also interactive community events that involved thousands of children, their parents and the Busan community in an eco-festival right outside the convention centre. Link to conference page

The Busan Pledge for Action proposed at the conference outlined the desire for a stronger international, collaborative effort and for the preparation of a global plan of action that will help reposition Children's Environmental Health in the public health arena. The Busan Pledge

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

Human Development Report 2009 “Overcoming Barriers: Human mobility and development”.

State of the world's vaccines and immunization, third edition – new publication focuses on the major developments in vaccines and immunization since 2000.

Protecting health in Europe from climate change – This book provides an overview of the scientific evidence on the health problems associated with this ubiquitous pollution and provides WHO guidelines to protect public health.

Children's environmental health indicators – This brochure summarizes the process, outcomes and key findings of the children's environmental health indicator projects.

CHILDREN’S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Press Releases

Tackling global health risks prevents premature deaths being underweight in childhood is one of the five important factors affecting health according to new report (27/10/09)

Childhood vaccines at all-time high, but access not yet equitable immunizations are at their highest levels but funding gap leaves millions of children still at risk (21/10/2009)

Reducing childhood deaths from diarrhoea more must be done to prevent the death of millions of children from this devastating illness (14/10/09)

UN speeds assistance to Filipino children hit by tropical storm as death count climbs rushed emergency relief effort to children and families in wake of tropical storms (28/09/09)

UN partners with African initiative to slash numbers of starving on the continent new partnership to fight against malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa (28/09/09)

UN endeavours to ensure that children have a say in climate change moves UN push to ensure children’s voices and needs are not ignored (22/11/09)

In the Media

Ailing planet seen as bad for human health (The Washington Post 27/10/2009)

Steep rise in Down's pregnancies (BBC 27/10/2009)

Call to act on maternal mortality (BBC 26/10/09)
REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

**Human Development Report 2009** “Overcoming Barriers: Human mobility and development”.

**State of the world's vaccines and immunization, third edition** – new publication focuses on the major developments in vaccines and immunization since 2000.

**Protecting health in Europe from climate change** – This publication addresses policymakers in the health and other sectors at all levels of government.

**WHO Indoor air quality guidelines for dampness and mould** – This book provides an overview of the scientific evidence on the health problems associated with this ubiquitous pollution and provides WHO guidelines to protect public health.

**Children's environmental health indicators** – This brochure summarizes the process, outcomes and key findings of the children's environmental health indicator projects.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Air Pollution**

*Association of Traffic-Related Air Pollution with Children's Neurobehavioral Functions in Quanzhou, China*

*Prenatal and Early, but Not Late, Postnatal Exposure of Mice to Sidestream Tobacco Smoke Increases Airway Hyperresponsiveness Later in Life*

*Biomass fuel use and indoor air pollution in homes in Malawi*

*Ambient particulate pollution and the world-wide prevalence of asthma, rhinoconjunctivitis and eczema in children: Phase One of the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC)*

**Chemicals**

*Exposure to Hydroxylated Polychlorinated Biphenyls (OH-PCBs) in the Prenatal Period and Subsequent Neurodevelopment in Eastern Slovakia*

*Postnatal Cadmium Exposure, Neurodevelopment, and Blood Pressure in Children at 2, 5, and 7 Years of Age*

*Maternal Blood Lead Levels and the Risk of Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension: The EDEN Cohort Study*

*Influence of Prenatal Lead Exposure on Genomic Methylation of Cord Blood DNA*

Serum Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) Levels Are Higher in Children (2–5 Years of Age) than in Infants and Adults

Misery and Illness Persist in Philippine Typhoons' Wake
(NY Times 25/10/09)

Study links urogenital birth defects with DDT
(The Medical News 24/10/09)

Tallying the real environmental cost of biofuels
(Time Magazine 23/10/09)

H1N1: Swine Flu’s Collateral Health Benefits in Bolivia
(Time 22/10/2009)

Oil - Soil Tests Expose High Toxic Levels
(All Africa 21/10/2009)

A system under threat: The shrinking of Lake Chad
(FAO 16/10/2009)

The Spread of New Diseases and the Climate Connection
(Yale enviro360 15/10/09)

Four Perspectives on the H1N1 Virus and Vaccine
(Healthy Child 14/10/09)

Farm Workers and Allies Ask Gov't to Protect Kids From Toxic Pesticide Drift
(Organic Consumers Association 14/10/09)

Nearly 1,000 children poisoned with lead in China
(AFP 13/10/2009)

Mother can pass on cancer in womb
(BBC 12/10/2009)

Bitter lives of Bolivia's child workers
(BBC 11/10/2009)

Tropics face fish famine due to climate change, report warns
(Guardian 8/10/09)

After Storms, Stagnant Floodwaters Bring Disease in Philippines
(NY Times 7/10/09)

Air quality improvements over the last decade may be a factor in fewer ear infections
(Eureka Alert 7/10/09)

Autism Is on the Rise (Or Is it?)
(Newsweek 6/10/2009)

Flu virus behind infant pneumonia in poor countries
(Nature News 5/10/09)
Mass Lead Intoxication from Informal Used Lead-Acid Battery Recycling in Dakar, Senegal

Water And Sanitation
Prenatal exposure to tetrachloroethylene-contaminated drinking water and the risk of congenital anomalies: a retrospective cohort study

Cholera Outbreak in Kenyan Refugee Camp: Risk Factors for Illness and Importance of Sanitation

Drinking-Water Herbicide Exposure in Indiana and Prevalence of Small-for-Gestational-Age and Preterm Delivery

The value of hygiene promotion: cost-effectiveness analysis of interventions in developing countries

Global Change
Climate change and urban children: impacts and implications for adaptation in low- and middle-income countries

Urban poverty and vulnerability to climate change in Latin America

The implications of population growth and urbanization for climate change

Reproductive Health
Environmental Factors in Birth Defects: What We Need to Know

Urinary Phthalate Metabolites in Relation to Preterm Birth in Mexico City

Do Human Milk Concentrations of Persistent Organic Chemicals Really Decline During Lactation? Chemical Concentrations During Lactation and Milk/Serum Partitioning

General
Editorial: Are We Really Addressing the Core of Children's Environmental Health?

Using National and Local Extant Data to Characterize Environmental Exposures in the National Children's Study: Queens County, New York

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st International Seminar on Sustainable Infrastructure and Built Environment in Developing Countries.
2 – 3 November 2009 Ivindra Pane, Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering ITB, Jalan Ganesa Bandung, Indonesia.

International Conference on Environmental Pollution and Toxicology in Africa
2 – 5 November 2009. Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
2 – 6 November 2009. Resumed ninth session of the AWG-KP and resumed seventh session of the AWG-LCA. Barcelona, Spain.

40th Union World Conference on Lung Disease and Health: Poverty and Lung Health

United Nations Climate Change Conference
7 - 18 December 2009 Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark.

First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety

The Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health (PBC) 13th International Conference
20 - 22 November 2009. Institute of Child Health Research, Perth, Australia. Contact: info@pacificbasin.org

Role of Environmental Stressors in the Development of Origins of Disease.
7 – 10 December 2009. Thu Miami Beach, Florida, USA.

5th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment
1 – 3 February 2010. Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

4th International Conference on the History of Occupational and Environmental Health.

Links to past issues and how to subscribe

Have news for us?
If you would like to submit information to future HECANET issues, email us at heca@who.int with the subject line INFORMATION FOR HECANET".

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