

NEWSLETTER # 34 – February 2006

PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES COMITE INTERNATIONAL

The illicit market of medicines, counterfeit medicines, fake medicines, inappropriate donations of medicines, all these problems that threaten the health of millions of people—mainly in poor countries and countries in emergency situations—will be discussed on Direct 8's 'Nord Sud, l'émission de la coopération internationale'. (Direct 8 is a new DTT channel).

Carinne Bruneton of ReMeD and Yacine Louz of PSF-CI are guests on this television programme where segments of the film "Tiim" (on the issue of street medicines) will be shown, as well as sequences of a documentary film made in Indonesia that describes the problems caused by the shipping of tonnes of inappropriate medicines after the tsunami of 26 December. "The Second Tsunami" is the name given by the Indonesians to the chaos generated by these donations. It is also the title of the documentary film.

The film, with French and English subtitles, will be widely broadcast around the world to make governments and organisations aware of the urgent need to adopt international regulations so that the **Guidelines for Drug Donations have the force of law**.

An initial pres conference will be held on 21 March 2006, at 11:00 am in Clermont-Ferrand (France) with a screening of the 26-minute documentary.

EVENTS

7th International Pharmaceutical Forum – 1-3 June 2006 in Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo)

The central theme of this forum is "The pharmacist and emerging / re-emerging diseases" and **the deadline for submitting proposals is 25 March 2006**.

The forum is a meeting of those involved in the health and drug sectors in Africa under the aegis of the Inter-Ordre des Pharmaciens d'Afrique' (IOPA), the Inter-Syndicale des Pharmaciens d'Afrique (ISPHARMA) and the Association Africaine des Centrales d'Achat de Médicaments Essentiels (ACAME) with the participation of directors of Pharmacy and Drug. Since 2000, the forum has been held in Benin, Senegal, Cameroon, Guinea Burkina Faso and Mali.

<http://www.forumpharmcongo.org> – contact@forumpharmcongo.org

6th Annual Fair Trade Weeks in France, from 29 April to 14 May 2006. For information on fair trade: www.maxhavelaar.ch/en/maxhavelaar/fairer_handel.php

The 2006 edition of Transparency International's global corruption report, published on 1 February, focuses on **corruption in the health care sector** and its negative and often murderous consequences for millions of people. <http://www.transparency.org/>

The ministers of health of Argentina and Brazil agree to build an AIDS drugs factory, possibly to be located in Venezuela. The aim is to be able to provide more and better care to those who need it and to conduct joint research on the development of new treatments. About 1.8 million Latino-Americans are HIV-positive.

Toxic waste

The unwanted toxic warship Clémenceau is turned back to France. What about inappropriate drug donations that thousands of organisations send to developing countries or countries in humanitarian crisis? Couldn't they be considered as toxic waste too and returned to the shipper at the shipper's expense?

World Health Day – 7 April

The WHO has devoted the World Health Day to the health workforce crisis—a crisis to which no country is entirely immune, but which mainly affects poor countries, which have suffered from a chronic global shortage of health workers for many years.

The Global Fund

The online discussions leading up to the Second Partnership Forum of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to be held on 2-3 July 2006 are now open.

To read the E-forum guidelines: <http://forum.theglobalfund.org/en/guidelines.php>

To register and participate:

<http://forum.theglobalfund.org/en/profile.php?mode=register&agreed=true&coppa=true>

Pharmagora –on 1-3 April in Paris (Paris-Expo, Porte de Versailles) www.pharmagora.com

We will be happy to meet you there. Come and see us at our stand and take a copy of our Activity Report 2005!

MISSIONS

Burkina-Faso:

The epidemic of cerebrospinal meningitis was on the agenda of the first meeting of the Ministry of Health's National Epidemic Management Committee held on 15 February. 1,295 suspect cases were reported between week one and week six of this year with 184 deaths. This year, Neisseria Meningitidis A is predominating. Burkina Faso is located in Africa's meningitis belt and suffered epidemics of meningitis in 1996, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2005.

The response plan to a possible meningitis epidemic in 2006 includes the following components: "epidemiological surveillance", "laboratories", "case management", "vaccination", "social awareness and mobilisation", "research" and "management". The chronogramme of activities assigns responsibility for the implementation of each activity and provides estimated costs associated with each activity. Development partners may be solicited if the epidemic spreads.

The PSFCI team in the field is prepared for emergency intervention.

Haiti

PSFCI is seeking a pharmacist to take up the post of medical coordinator in a programme to increase awareness and availability of subsidised, quality medicines and treatments in Haiti.

See details on our website at www.psfci.org, under the Opportunities section. You can email your CV and a covering letter to: recrut@psf-ci.org



In compliance with the French data protection act in the law of 6 January 1978 (CNIL), you have the right to access and correct information about yourself. You can exercise this right by writing to PSF-CI Service informatique 4 Voie Militaire des Gravanches 63100- Clermont-Ferrand (France)