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Editorial

Dear Friends,

The debate on how to best provide for public health echoes in a variety of ways in a diversity of nations. Challenges range from providing basic services in the poorest of countries, to, well, providing basic services in the richest nation on earth. The United States, which is in the throes of a major debate on health care reform is a country whose health system consumes massive amounts of resources, pollutes the water air and soil, and fails to keep its population as healthy as countries that spend half as much as it does on health care.

Whatever the country, and whatever the context, issues of environmental health are nearly always present in public health debates. This is true in many African nations where immunization campaigns have created serious health care waste management problems that threaten the health of some of the very populations the immunizations are meant to serve. It is true in struggles for access to basic nutrition and clean water around the world. It is also true in countries that consume large amounts of fossil fuel-based energy—the burning of these fossil fuels often creates serious air pollution that causes a wide range of public health problems, while also contributing to the climate change—perhaps the largest environmental health threat that humanity has ever faced.

Health Care Without Harm is all about devising and implementing solutions to these environmental health challenges. Whether it be by developing and promoting sustainable health care waste management solutions, creating guidelines for building greener and healthier hospitals, reducing the health sector's climate footprint or continuing to move the world away from mercury-based medical devices, we are working in dozens of countries to reform health care systems so that they move from the role of polluter to become leading promoters of environmental health. This issue features a diversity of examples of how this change is taking place.

Enjoy the newsletter!

Asia

Philippines

One Year into Mercury Phase-out



Health Care Without Harm, the World Health Organization and the Philippines Department of Health are organizing a month-long series of activities to highlight Administrative Order 21 (AO21) that mandates all Philippine Health Care Facilities and Institutions to phase-out mercury containing devices such as mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers.



It has been a year since the Department of Health issued Administrative Order 21 mandating the two-year phase-out of all mercury-containing devices in all Philippine hospitals by September 2010. For a list of activities click below.

[Download List of Activities >>](#)

Featured News

Mexico City

The Health Secretariat of Mexico City—which oversees a health care system of more than 28 major hospitals and hundreds of health centers—has joined the HCWH-WHO Global Initiative to substitute mercury-based medical devices with safer, economically viable alternatives.

Mexico is the third mega-city, after Buenos Aires and New Delhi commit to mercury-free health care.

US & Europe

US

HCWH Partners with Clinton Climate Initiative

HCWH has entered into an agreement with the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), a project of the William J. Clinton Foundation, to develop programs to help hospitals and healthcare facilities reduce their environmental impact, particularly in the area of carbon reduction.

HCWH will work with CCI to develop building energy efficiency retrofit projects and other carbon reduction strategies in healthcare facilities.

Latin America

Argentina & Chile

Discussions on Green Building in Health Care Underway in South America



HCWH Boston Regional Director Bill Ravanese visited Buenos Aires and Santiago to open discussion about the importance of green building in terms of its impact on the healthcare sector and on the environment.

His lecture "Sustainable Healthcare Architecture,

the healthcare sector and on the environment. His lecture "Sustainable Healthcare Architecture, Creating Healing Environments: Climate Change & Healthcare" was not only well received but generated a public debate inside the community of healthcare professionals and architects.

[Read La Nacion's coverage \(in Spanish\) >>](#)

New video on Pirolisis and Gasification available



HCWH Latin America is proud to announce that the video "Pirolisis, Gasification and Plasma" is now available with subtitles in Spanish.

With the explanations of Dr. Jorge Emmanuel - Chemicals engineer and environmental consultant - the video describes the characteristics of these disguised incinerators. The video also covers the environmental, technical and health issues and consequences caused by the use of this technology.

To view the video, please visit http://www.noharm.org/salud_sin_danio/temas/residuos/qasificacion.php

If you'd like to receive a high definition version of the video, please send an email to the following email: info@saludsindanio.org

strategies in healthcare facilities.

Europe



HCWH Europe launches Health & Environment, a newsletter about environmental health issues and their meaning for healthcare. Click on

News & Events

HCWH launches new website!

HCWH is proud to announce that the new upgraded site of the coalition has been launched. The site not only includes a new dynamic design but also updated information and useful resources on the coalition's work. Visit our [new site!](#)

Mercury Free Healthcare website: now in Spanish!

HCWH launched Mercury Free Health Care website in Spanish. Now you can browse through all the information in both: english and spanish.

Click on the image to visit the site:



1º State Seminar on Healthy Hospitals to take in Sao Pablo, Brazil

Dates: 13 and 14, October, Sirio Libanés Hospital

Sponsor: Health Surveillance Center of the Ministry of Health of the State of Sao Paulo.

Organizers: Federal University of San Pablo - UNIFESP, Health Care Without Harm and Health Surveillance Center - CVS/CCD/SES SP.

Support: Various technical organizations, scientific and health professionals, universities, unions and health services, among others.

Africa



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

South Africa

Elimination of Mercury in Kwa Zulu Natal Healthcare Moving Forward

HCWH partner groundWork is collaborating with the KwaZulu Natal Province Ministry of Health to implement its directive to substitute mercury-based medical devices with alternatives.

[Read more \(p.18\)>>](#)

India



Toxics Link
for a toxics-free world

India

Toxics Link and HCWH are engaged in a bio medical waste management in Hubli, Karnataka.

The Hubli-Dharwad Sustainable Healthcare Waste Management Project, supported by the Deshpande Foundation, is training medical staff, waste workers, hospital managers and government officials in best practice for medical waste handling.

[Read more >>](#)

Health Care Without Harm is an international coalition of 473 organizations in more than 50 countries, working to transform the healthcare sector so it is no longer a source of harm to people and the environment.

You can visit us in www.noharm.org to find out more about our campaigns

If you no longer wish to receive updates on our work to transform health care sector worldwide, you may send an email with "unsubscribe" in the subject to globalsouth@hchw.org