



Overseas Development Institute News Release

ODI to co-host high-level international health policy analysis conference

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For immediate release

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) will be co-hosting, with the HLSP Institute, the University of Witwatersrand, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and King's College London, a meeting of leading international health policy analysts on 21-22 May 2007 in London.

The aim of the conference is to explore and extend the range of policy analysis approaches that can be used to improve understanding of the key influences on health reform policy processes.

Conference co-organiser, Dr Kent Buse, Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute, said:

'The literature is agreed that politics matter every bit as much as scientific evidence in policy making, in health as in other sectors. Regrettably, in international health, the politics are generally stacked against pro-poor reform. A central question, therefore, is **how policy analysis tools can be used to assist in getting pro-poor, evidence-informed reforms on national policy agendas and ensuring their sustained and effective implementation.** By bringing together an international group of researchers interested in the policy process, we are hoping to begin to answer that complex question.'

The meeting will focus on topics such as: the use of conceptual frameworks to understand the policy process; researching the political dimensions of health reforms; approaches for investigating policy making processes and policy implementation; and prospective analysis for policy change. Strategies for capacity development and networking to support this expanding field of research will also be discussed.

(ENDS)

Notes for Editors

1. Dr Kent Buse, ODI Research Fellow and co-organiser of the workshop is available for interview, comment or background briefing. Please contact Anna Tublin, ODI Media and Events Officer (tel: +44 (0)20 7922 0419; email: a.tublin@odi.org.uk) or Kirsty Cockburn, ODI Head of Communications (tel: +44 (0)20 7922 0423; email: k.cockburn@odi.org.uk). For further information about the content of the conference, please contact Kent Buse

directly (tel: +44 (0)7966 394071; email: k.buse@odi.org.uk).

2. This ground-breaking conference has received financial support from the British Academy and from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and will take place on 21 and 22 May at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in London.
3. The international participants will be sharing research approaches from health policy studies in Chile, Guatemala, India, Lebanon, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Timor-Leste and the UK, as well as studies of international global health initiatives.
4. As part of the workshop, attendees will also join a supper in celebration of the contribution of Dr Gill Walt, Professor of International Health Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to this field of study.
5. ODI is Britain's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues. Its mission is to inspire and inform policy and practice which lead to the reduction of poverty, the alleviation of suffering and the achievement of sustainable livelihoods in developing countries. Locking together high-quality applied research, practical policy advice and policy-focused dissemination and debate, ODI works with partners in the public and private sectors, in both developing and developed countries. Further details can be found on the ODI website (www.odi.org.uk).

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