



PRESS RELEASE

IAMP declares that Strengthening Health Research Capacity in Low and Middle Income countries is of vital interest to all

Statement to be released on the occasion of the 66th World Health Assembly

Despite a health revolution within the 20th Century which has added over thirty years of additional life expectancy on average across the globe, new global health challenges for the 21st Century face all countries, according to a statement from the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP), a global network of the world's medical academies. These shared challenges include emerging and drug resistant infections disseminated worldwide due to global transportation, trade and population migration; climate change and its human health effects; demographic and epidemiologic transition with increased aging of the population and incidence of non-communicable diseases and the rapid urbanization of the world's population.

To improve the health status of all people and contribute to social and economic development and innovation, countries must strengthen their research capacity by developing national systems that can identify the need for research, conduct research and communicate its results for implementation.

IAMP has developed a "A Call for Action to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Low and Middle Income Countries" , endorsed by over 40 national academies of medicine worldwide.

A copy of the full statement can be found at: (<http://tinyurl.com/owrlsgc>)

The statement exhorts IAMP member academies to use their unique position to draw attention to the need for a robust research capacity in their own countries, and join with other academies at the regional and global level to accelerate leadership for and sustainable investment in effective health research systems to promote the social and economic development and innovation so critical to national development strategies.

IAMP urges global political leaders around the world to take account of the health benefits of global intervention to strengthen health research capacity building at the 66th World Health Assembly and to work with Academies of Medicine and Science in their countries as partners in this effort.

Professor Looi Lai Meng, Akademi Sains Malaysia and Co-Chair of IAMP said, *"This call for action is timely and important if we are to seriously address the health disparities and challenges of the 21st Century, which are ever more pressing in the developing world where the disease burden is greatest and socio-economic changes the most rapid. National science and medical academies, endowed by the cream of their scientific leaders, have a responsibility towards sustainability of the health and stability of the community-research capacity strengthening that is fundamental in that agenda."*

Dr. J. Boufford, Foreign Secretary, Institutes of Medicine and chair of the working group that prepared the statement said, " *Medical and science academies are in a unique position to provide evidence based advice to policy makers and the public and to support the development and maintenance of a strong infrastructure in education and research in their countries. This statement reflects their readiness to play an active role in critical health issues at country, regional and global level*"

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About the IAMP

The InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) is a global network of national academies of medicine and academies of sciences or engineering with medical members committed to working together to improve health world-wide, especially in low-income countries. IAMP activities focus on institutional collaboration to strengthen the role of all academies in alleviating the health burdens of the world's poorest people; build national scientific capacity in research and higher education to improve health; and provide independent scientific advice on health and science policy to national governments and global organizations.

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