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HEI Global Health Diplomacy Summer Program

From the 18th to the 22nd of June, the HEI was able to welcome a group of eighteen participants from ten countries with a professional background in both diplomacy and health sector to the first Summer Program on Global Health Diplomacy. During this intensive one week program, the participants were able to engage with a faculty of global health diplomats - under the leadership of Professor Ilona Kickbusch from the HEI - and share views and professional experiences from their own context of work.

The program addressed the key challenges and goals of global health diplomacy, the changing interface of foreign policy and health and the attempts to create policy coherence between development partners and across ministries. A special focus was put on understanding the negotiation process – in particular the interface between technical and political issues that arise in global health agreements. Practical exercises and role play addressed recent the negotiations with regard to the International Health Regulations, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Resolutions on Trade and Health and with regard to virus sharing. The ethical and human rights dimensions of Global health Diplomacy were also considered.

The course discussions benefited significantly from the diverse backgrounds of the participants ranging from ministries of foreign affairs and health, international organisations, diplomatic missions, development agencies, non governmental organisations and the private sector. They have created a Global Health Diplomacy discussion community on the WHO KM4PH Discussion portal to engage in continuous exchange.
<http://www.who.int/km4ph/en/>

The big response generated by the Global Health Diplomacy Summer Program illustrates the growing interest within the diplomatic and the health arena in such executive education. The HEI will therefore offer another such program in the summer of 2008. It will also engage with its partners in conducting similar executive programs in the USA and in Brazil. The first Summer Program on Global Health Diplomacy was co-organized with the WHO, Fiocruz foundation (Brazil), the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, the Centre for Global Health Sciences, University of California San Francisco and the Gulbenkian Foundation. Participants from developing

countries were supported by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development.