

The Second AAAH Conference, Beijing, China (cont.)



The Conference started on 12th October with the opening ceremony of speeches from Dr. Longde Wang, Vice-Minister of Health, China; Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert, Chairman of the AAAH Steering Committee; Dr. Cris Tuñón, Representative of the WHO China Office and Dr. Lincoln Chen, President of the China Medical Board and Chair of the Global Health Workforce Alliance. In addition to the ceremony, the representative from MOH in China together with the representatives from WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific unveiled the plaque of WHO HRH Collaborating Center for HHRDC, the first HRH collaborating center of WHO in the Asia-Pacific Region. Going through the rest of agenda on the first day, the latest progresses and movements on HRH Action made by WHO regional offices, GHWA and World Bank were introduced and discussed. Presentations on the innova-



tions in HRH information systems and HRH planning and management activities delivered. As the special focus, the last session of the day emphasized on China's experience in rural health development and health workforce, the practice of rural health system and barefoot doctors in China followed by subsequent debates on the scope and functions of community health workforce in the region.

On its second day, the participants have firstly learnt from the Mongolian experience of health workforce policy development where the concern has gained significant recognition and support from high-level policy makers. The experiences and lessons learnt across the

member countries on the very important issues of community health workers, education policy and scaling-up, incentives and rural retention, and the roles and implications of health sector reform were also shared. Vigorous group discussions and active presenter-audience interactions further deepened the participants' understandings and facilitated their opinion exchanges in each sub-field.

On the last day of the Conference, the progress and achievements made by the alliance since the first AAAH Conference were discussed,

the AAAH Governance and its Workplan 2007-08 of AAAH were agreed basing on the suggestions and comments provided by the member countries and global partners. Also many networking and cooperation opportunities were provided throughout the three days. The demonstration of open-source software for HRH management & planning by the Capacity Project also creates strong interest to evaluate the software & implement in the near future.



As part of the AAAH 2nd Annual Conference, a number of participants had a chance to visit health facilities to learn from the Chinese experiences in primary health care development and human resource management as well as their challenges.

