HEALTH ACTION INTERNATIONAL
GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2002-2006

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Narrative report – Part Two

On behalf of the four regional coordinating offices:

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PROJECT THEMATIC AREA:
RATIONAL USE OF MEDICINES

AFRICA

Project Title: Information, Analysis and Advocacy on Topical Issues
Project Locus: Regional
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building
Project Time frame: Ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Africa
Project Partners: EPN, MEDS, INRUD, and MSH
Project Coordinator: P. Mubangizi
Project Means: Global programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To provide information and interpretation on timely, topical issues, providing civil society and specialised groups within the health profession with tools that provide information on how policy and practice issues affect access to medicines.

ACTIVITIES
As part of this project, HAI Africa partnered with stakeholders to revive the Practical Pharmacy newsletter, including revision of past issues. Two issues have now been produced and most of the back issues have been reviewed and revised. This newsletter is targeted at people who operate drug outlets but who lack any background in pharmacy. The editorial team includes various individuals and civil society organisations in Africa including the Ecumenical Pharmaceuticals Network (EPN), MEDS, INRUD and MSH. In addition, HAI Africa is working with partners to revive the Namani newsletter which is meant to keep rural health workers up to date on managing HIV/AIDS patients. HAI Africa handles the newsletter's editorial work and distribution.

RESULTS
The Practical Pharmacy newsletter is now circulated to more than 100 individuals and organisations. More than 30 new subscribers came on board after the publication was promoted on the HIFA (Health Information For All) and E-drug listservs.

HAI Africa took over the editorial and circulation duties of the NANANSI newsletter which has a monthly circulation of more than 500 copies, going mostly to health workers in grassroots communities and health facilities in eastern Africa. Through this publication, health workers in Eastern Africa can stay informed about current topics in the care and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The network's work on both publications has helped enable civil society and targeted segments of the health profession to receive balanced information on news that affects access to medicines and their rational use.
Aims
To develop expertise and knowledge about essential medicines within the membership of HAI Africa and to enable them to learn about tools that can help them advocate for more rational use of medicines in Africa.

Activities
HAI Africa supported one of its civil society organisation partners from Uganda to participate in the technical briefing seminar held in Geneva during September. HEPS Uganda, the partner organisation, used this event to interact with other representatives at the briefing and to promote both the work of HEPS and HAI Africa. HEPS and its WHO counterpart within the WHO/HAI Africa collaboration project made a joint presentation during the meeting about the project’s work and goals.

Results
The seminar’s presentations and discussions have broadened the knowledge of the HAI Africa member who attended. That participant can now share this information, deepening the expertise available to the regional group. In addition, the networking opportunity afforded by the meeting has strengthened HAI Africa’s ties with like-minded organisations in many countries and could provide links for future collaborative efforts and information exchange. Discussions on medicines issues with participants from other international organisations have enhanced HAI partners’ advocacy work on access issues, especially in Uganda.
ASIA PACIFIC

Project Thematic Area: Rational Use of Medicines

Project Title: Impact of Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Patient Education on Quality of Asthma Management

Project Locus: India (Delhi)

Project Type: Research, information-sharing


Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific

Project Partners: Anita Kotwani, Reader, Department of Pharmacology, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi

Project Coordinator: Prasadini Perera

Project Means: US$ 1,650 (disbursed in Dec 2005)

INTRODUCTION
Various studies have identified very low adherence to standard treatment guidelines (STGs) in the treatment of asthma. As a result, many asthma patients receive low quality management of their illness. A main reason for this has been a lack of thempy with corticosteroids (inhalers) as prescribers are afraid to give them for mild to moderate chronic bronchial asthma. Patients also have insufficient knowledge about their own treatment and inhalers are often unavailable in public facilities (where they would be free to patients).

AIMS
This study aims to determine the impact of standard treatment (according to current guidelines) on the quality of asthma management and to study the effect of an additional intervention (a formal education programme) on the quality of asthma management.

ACTIVITIES
Patients have been enroled in the study and are now being followed. Two questionnaires were administered to patients at the time of enrolment: the quality of treatment questionnaire which assesses how well the doctor has informed the patient about the disease and another questionnaire that tests the patient's knowledge of the disease. A Pulmonary Function Test (PFT) was also done to confirm the diagnosis of asthma and its severity, and at each follow-up visit, a PFT is performed to assess the severity of the asthma. A patient education programme is currently being conducted, including a control group that does not receive education. At the end of the follow-up period, the two mentioned questionnaires and PFT will be administered again to determine the success of the interventions.

RESULTS
The patients will continue to be followed until April 2007 and the project's report is expected in June 2007. The intervention is expected to obtain evidence that rational treatment and management of bronchial asthma and patient education lead to a better quality of life for asthmatic patients.
Project Thematic Area: Rational Use of Medicines

Project Title: Assessment of Antimicrobial Use and Management in Cuddalore District Hospital (Tamil Nadu)

Project Locus: India (Tamil Nadu)
Project Type: Research, Information-sharing
Project Time Frame: Feb 2006 – April 2007
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: Dr. Guru Prasad Mohanta, Professor of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacy, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu
Project Coordinator: Prasadini Perera
Project Means: US$ 1,300

INTRODUCTION
Today government hospitals in this Indian region receive medicines from a centralised procurement and distribution agency (Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporations Limited – TNMSCL), through the management of a state essential drugs list. Yet there is little assessment done to examine how these medicines are used in individual health facilities.

AIMS
To determine antimicrobial prescribing practices using the guidelines set out in How to investigate antimicrobial drug use in hospitals: Selected indicators of Management Sciences for Health and WHO’s How to investigate drug use in health facilities. Based on the baseline data, the project plans to use a simple, educational intervention study to improve prescribing practices. It also aims to study dosage knowledge among patients. It plans an intervention study as well to improve compliance among outpatients through improved dispensing.

ACTIVITIES
Data collection has already been completed and the data are currently being analysed.

RESULTS
The project’s report is expected in mid-2007. Conducted in association with the hospital authority, the study is expected to create a positive impact on hospital clinicians and pharmacists that will ultimately benefit the patients.
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<th>Rational Use of Medicines</th>
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<td>Project Title:</td>
<td>Adverse Effects of Drugs Used in Integrated Childhood Illness (IMCI): A seven-month prospective study in Kabul City and some districts of Kabul Province</td>
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<td>Management of study</td>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
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<td>Project Type:</td>
<td>Research, advocacy and information-sharing</td>
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<td>Dec 2006 – Aug 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Partners:</td>
<td>Ahmadiuddin Maani, Professor of Pediatrics and Lecturer at Kabul Medical College and Head of the Children Centre Social and Health Development Program (SHDP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Coordinator:</td>
<td>Prasadini Perera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Means:</td>
<td>US$ 2,000</td>
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INTRODUCTION
With one of the world’s highest rates of mortality and morbidity among infants and young children, Afghanistan has introduced the IMCI programme to give health workers access to a limited number of drugs that can be used for multiple purposes. However, research has shown that many health workers do not trust the effectiveness of IMCI drugs and are concerned about possible adverse effects.

AIMS
To gather local data that can be used to allay health workers’ fears and build confidence in the IMCI programme. To understand the adverse effects of drugs used in the programme, including their magnitude, frequency, how they are handled, the referral procedure, and parents’ perceptions on adverse drug reactions. To determine how effective this kind of intervention is. To help lead to a longer-term aim of expanding this programme within Afghanistan.

ACTIVITIES
Seed grant money to start the study was transferred at the end of 2006. The study is now underway and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2007.

RESULTS
Once the study is done, its findings will be presented to all stakeholders. A full report will be delivered to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan with the aim of expanding the IMCI programme in the country.
Project Thematic Area: Rational Use of Medicines

Project Title: Setting up a Community-based Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting and Monitoring System (Pharmacovigilance) in Western Nepal

Project Locus: Nepal
Project Type: Research, information-sharing
Project Time Frame: Dec 2006 – October 2007
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: Dr. Pranaya Mishra, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology and In Charge Drug Information and Pharmacovigilance Centre, Manipal Teaching Hospital/Manipal

Project Coordinator: Prasaddini Perera
Project Means: US$ 2,500

INTRODUCTION
Because Nepal’s current adverse drug reaction (ADR) system only includes reporting of ADRs that occur in hospitals, the project aims to create a system for ADR reporting for over-the-counter medications and in ambulatory patient settings.

AIMS
To study the impact of a community-based adverse drug reaction reporting programme in Western Nepal.

ACTIVITIES
After awarding a seed grant to carry out the initial study in December 2006, the project leaders organised an awareness programme for community pharmacists to enable them to report ADRs. (The impact of the awareness programme will be evaluated by measuring the improvement of knowledge among involved community pharmacists regarding ADRs and ADR reporting procedures.) Community pharmacists are now reporting ADRs to the pharmacovigilance cell of the Drug Information Center, Manipal Teaching Hospital. Here, an analysis of ADRs is conducted by the pharmacovigilance cell. Drug safety information is disseminated through an ADR bulletin to the target population and community pharmacists. Collected information is also reported to the DDA (District Drug Authority) Kathmandu and the Uppsala Monitoring Center through ‘Vigiflow’, the online ADR reporting programme.

RESULTS
The study is currently underway and its results are due in the second half of 2007. HAI expects to be able to carry out a successful pilot study that can then be used to implement similar community-based pharmacovigilance programmes in additional parts of Nepal and other developing countries.
Project Thematic Area: Rational Use of Medicines

Project Title: Multi-Country Survey on Banned/Restricted Pharmaceuticals

Project Locus: Regional – Asia Pacific (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam)

Project Type: Research, information-sharing, action campaign


Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific

Project Partners: Dr. Ahmaddudin Maarij (Afghanistan), Gonoshasthaya Kendra (India), Prof. Sri Suryawati (Indonesia), The Network for Consumer Protection (Pakistan), Assoc. Prof. Mohamed Izham Mohamed (Thailand), Ibrahim (Malaysia), Health Action Information Network (The Philippines), Department of Community and Family Medicine, University of Kelaniya (Sri Lanka), Drug Study Group

Project Coordinator: Phan Vu Diem Hang (Vietnam)

Project Means: Prasadini Perera

Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To carry out a survey in member countries to determine whether or not a selected number of priority harmful drugs are still available in the countries in the region.

ACTIVITIES
Numerous consultations were carried out among the survey partners to develop a methodology to prioritise a selected list of medicines. The UN publication The UN consolidated list of products whose consumption and/or sale have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or not approved by governments (Eighth edition, Pharmaceuticals) was used for this purpose. In addition, the project partners discussed how to collect data in their respective countries as the methodology had to be adapted for each country to gather the information needed on the selected medicines.

RESULTS
The criteria for prioritising the drugs to be included in the survey have been finalised. More specific details regarding additional data to be gathered are now under discussion among a core group of project partners. Once this is agreed upon by all of the project partners, the surveys will be conducted in 2007. The findings of the surveys will be widely disseminated and an appropriate action campaign to lobby for the banning of these drugs will be developed based on the survey’s results.
Project Thematic Area: Rational Use of Medicines

Project Title: Sub-regional Workshop on Consumers, Medicines and Media (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam)
Project Locus: Regional – Asia Pacific
Project Type: Education and capacity-building
Project Time Frame: 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: HAI members in the region
Project Coordinator: Prasadini Perera
Project Means: US$ 20,000 (not yet fully disbursed)

AIMS
To set up core groups of HAI Asia-Pacific members, medical and pharmacy educators, health ministry officials and media at national level to work together to increase consumer awareness of essential drugs, their rational use and basic health services.

ACTIVITIES
Will be discussed at the HAI-AP Review and Planning Meeting scheduled to be held on the 13th April, 2006.

EXPECTED RESULTS
Sri Lankan government restrictions on use of foreign bank transactions has meant that this meeting has had to be delayed. Policy planning continues however as much as possible through other means.
Project Thematic Area: Rational Use of Medicines

Project Title: Publication entitled *Where There is No Pharmacist*
Project Locus: Global
Project Type: Education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time Frame: Dec 2006 – Dec 2009
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: Beverley Snell, Centre for International Health, Burnett Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Australia and Ken Harvey, La Trobe University, Australia

Project Coordinator: K Balasubramaniam
Project Means: US$ 56,000 (not yet disbursed and no costs incurred in 2006)

AIMS
To produce the publication *Where there is no pharmacist* in order to assist people who take on the role of pharmacist but who have only limited or no training in this area. These people might include drug store owners, pharmacy assistants, nurses, health auxiliaries, health administrators and other people who find themselves responsible for ordering, storing, selling, dispensing and giving advice about medicinal drugs.

ACTIVITIES
In January 2006, Beverley Snell, Michelle Sweidan and Ken Harvey met at the Burnet Institute in Australia to discuss this project. They were joined by Julie Cliff, who was working with the Hesperian Foundation, translating the publication *Where there is no Doctor* into Portuguese. Further discussions about the project took place among the HAI Asia-Pacific membership in April 2006 and a follow-up meeting was held among the two members based in Australia who have volunteered to lead this project in the second half of 2006.

RESULTS
These discussions concluded that the Hesperian Foundation publication *Where there is no Doctor* includes important information about common medicinal drugs. However, it contains only a small amount of information on buying, storing and dispensing medicines. The group is considering the possibility of cross-referencing the two mentioned publications (*Where there is no Doctor* and *Where there is no Pharmacist*) to avoid repetition especially since advice on which drug to use, dose, route and treatment duration for particular conditions (therapeutic guideline information) and possible related problems and/or drug side effects might occur with particular medicines. Formulary information will be covered by the updated *Where there is no Doctor*. Unfortunately, the updated version of *Where there is no Doctor* does not yet have an English translation. The group has recommended that an English translation be made of both books at the same time. Due to the Sri Lankan government's freezing of foreign bank transactions however, for this work to happen, additional funding must be secured for the translation of *Where there is no Doctor*. HAI's involved group is now liaising with the book's publisher, the Hesperian Foundation, to move the project forward.
EUROPE

Project Thematic Area: Rational Use of Medicines

<table>
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<th>Project title:</th>
<th>Resolution on Rational Use of Medicines</th>
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<td>Project locus:</td>
<td>Global</td>
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<td>Project type:</td>
<td>Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project time frame:</td>
<td>59th World Health Assembly, May 22-27, 2006</td>
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<td>Coordinating Office:</td>
<td>HAI Europe</td>
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<td>Project partners:</td>
<td>HAI Africa, HAI Asia-Pacific, HAI Latin America, EPN</td>
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<td>Project Coordinator:</td>
<td>Andreas Wulf for HAI Europe</td>
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<td>Project means:</td>
<td>Global Programme</td>
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AIMS: To contribute to the WHO Report on Rational Use of Medicines. To lobby delegates to support the proposal of a resolution on Rational Use of Medicines in order to support the continuation of WHO work in this area, and to seek a mandate to increase technical and financial capacity to the area of rational use of medicines within the WHO secretariat.

ACTIVITIES: Collecting and editing responses from the HAI network on the WHO draft report and resolution. Coordinating lobby activities aimed at WHO Executive Board Members, for the 118th EB Meeting, seeking support to the draft resolution. The HAI lobbying team, composed of three representatives, approached delegates on-site and highlighted the importance of the resolution.

RESULTS: Since there was no consensus on the wording of the draft resolution, the paper was forwarded for discussion to the 120th EB Meeting. The final paper included a considerable amount of bracketed text, which was considered contentious by certain countries. Many of the proposed additions were based on HAI’s reviews and comments, which had been fed to specific delegates.
LATIN AMERICA

Project Thematic Area: Rational Use of Medicines

Project Title: Participation in the Drug Utilisation Research Group of Latin America (DURG-LA)

Project Locus: Regional – Latin America
Project Type: Education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time Frame: October 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Latin America
Project Partners: N/A
Project Coordinator: Roberto López-Linares
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIM
To exchange information and share expertise with other Latin American researchers in the area of medicine utilisation.

ACTIVITIES
HAI remains involved in the DURG LA network, where healthcare professionals involved in teaching, healthcare systems, and civil society in most Latin American and Caribbean countries can share their experiences in the field of medicines. DURG-LA held its 12th meeting in Argentina in October 2006, where the following topics were discussed: sources of information on medicines, essential medicines policies, pharmaceutical promotion, ethical concerns on medicines, the basis for rational use of medicines and more. HAI Latin America’s involvement in the discussions centred on intellectual property, drug policies, and the HIV/AIDS situation in Peru.

RESULTS
This project enables members of the Latin American network to share information and expertise with researchers in the field of rational drug use as well as specific knowledge about intellectual property issues and the HIV/AIDS situation in Peru, benefiting both groups.
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<th><strong>Project Thematic Area:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Title:</strong></td>
<td>Promotion of Rational Use of Medicines at the Community Level</td>
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<td><strong>Project Locus:</strong></td>
<td>Regional – Latin America and Caribbean</td>
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<td><strong>Project Type:</strong></td>
<td>Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information-sharing</td>
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<td>HAI Latin America</td>
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<td><strong>Project Partners:</strong></td>
<td>South American Infectious Disease Initiative (SAIDI)</td>
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<td><strong>Project Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Roberto López-Linares</td>
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<td><strong>Project Means</strong></td>
<td>Global Programme (part thereof)</td>
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**AIMS**
To undertake efforts to promote the rational use of medicines in the region.

**ACTIVITIES**
HAI Latin America has contributed technical assistance for studies on “Factors involved in conditional, irrational use of medicines in the community of Callao (Peru)”. It also took part in meetings where participants collaborated on the examination of intervention strategies according to problems identified in the diagnostic phase of this strategy. As a result of this work, the team has managed to put into place interventions for the upcoming year focusing on communicating with the population and health professionals about the appropriate use of antimicrobials.

HAI Latin America worked with the city of metropolitan Lima, to strengthen efforts on educating its citizens about appropriate use of medicines. The axis for this work is what is known as “street theatre” and the project partner organisation has been staging productions for the past two years. HAI Latin America provided input to improve the scripts and supported the presentation of the dramas at 69 locations in Lima.

In order to disseminate this type of intervention and its contents, HAI Latin America supported, with funds and technical advice, the production of a DVD that included the staged plays. Its creation was made possible through an agreement between the city of Lima and the theatre group.

**RESULTS**
A DVD containing three plays entitled: “Generics look after your health and your wallet”, “Don’t play with prescription drugs” and “Medicines are a serious thing” is now available.
PROJECT THEMATIC AREA:
TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICS IN MEDICINE POLICY

ASIA PACIFIC

Project Title: Empowerment of Pharmacy Undergraduate Students to Promote the Implementation of Pharmaceutical Care in Indonesia

Project Locus: Indonesia
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information-sharing and research
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: Indonesian Consumers Organisation/Yayasan Lembaga Konsumen Indonesia (YLIK)
Project Coordinator: Prasadini Perera
Project Means: US$ 2,200

INTRODUCTION
Consumers of medicines in Indonesia are known to be exploited by high medicine prices, and to suffer from widespread availability of irrational, substandard and counterfeit drugs; there is a general inability of registered drugstores to provide proper pharmaceutical care, and a lack of generic medicine promotion—even in the public sector, a lack of information and awareness about rational drug use. The limited resources and capacity to process information among consumers leads to a lack of awareness about pharmaceutical products among consumers and misleading advertisements. In addition, consumers in this country have low purchasing power and are powerless against market forces. The government has been unable to solve these problems.

AIMS
To empower pharmacy undergraduate students and through them, consumers. To determine the problems consumers face concerning pharmaceutical care practices at the retail level that hinder the rational use of drugs. To document this information and present it at a forum of stakeholders in order to promote the implementation of rational pharmaceutical care policies that could help empower Indonesian consumers.

ACTIVITIES
Training was given to pharmacy undergraduates on issues such as consumer advocacy on pharmaceutical care, providing drug information to consumers (specific and non-specific) and drug quality assurance. A field study was conducted in Jakarta and its results were analysed. Focus groups discussions with stakeholders, including government officials, academicians and consumer organisations were carried out as well.
RESULTS
The field study revealed that consumers need to actively request drug information if they want to receive it. Sometimes, it found, information was not given despite a consumer’s request (and the fact that they have a right to this information.) Research found that some pharmacy caretakers (left in charge when the qualified pharmacist is absent) lacked adequate knowledge about diseases associated with the DOWA List (a list of medicines that can be purchased without a prescription). The medicines included on the list are for diseases that require ongoing medication. It is compulsory for pharmacies to provide proper counselling when dispensing these medicines to patients. The study also found that some pharmacy caretakers lacked a formal background in pharmacy. Some did not suggest generic substitution, even when cost was a crucial issue. Half of the pharmacies visited did not have a qualified pharmacist present during working hours. In the rest, pharmacists were only present at certain times. Large scale and/or chain pharmacies tended to provide better service to consumers in terms of the presence of a qualified pharmacist and the provision of information.

Focus group discussions held as part of the project revealed that pharmaceutical care is a new paradigm introduced in early 2000. Particularly senior pharmacists felt that pharmaceutical care demanded too much from pharmacists. Pharmaceutical care includes a pharmacist being present in the pharmacy and available to supply information (whether or not it is requested by the consumer.) The groups felt the pharmacist should also be responsible for equipping staff with sufficient knowledge to provide better customer service. A lack of competence among pharmacists was said to be a serious problem. Participants thought control and monitoring activities should therefore be carried out. Many pharmacists seemed to lack awareness of the DOWA List. Even qualified pharmacists were not aware of its function, advantages and challenges. Finally, the groups said a government officer working in the area of pharmaceuticals should not be permitted to take care of a pharmacy, due to the possible conflict of interest.

The study’s main findings emphasised that the services delivered by pharmacies in Jakarta remain poor, mainly due to the absence of a qualified pharmacist. The study recommended the implementation of a regulation, strengthened with sanctions, mandating the presence of a qualified pharmacist in the pharmacy at all times.
EUROPE

Project Thematic Area: Transparency and Ethics in Medicines Policy

Project title: Increasing transparency in European Medicines Policy
Project Locus: Regional – HAI Europe
Project Type: Advocacy, Information Sharing
Coordinating Office: HAI Europe
Project Partners: BEUC, AIM, Prescrire
Project Coordinator: Andreas Wulf
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIM: To improve transparency and accountability in policy making involving patients and consumers, through targeted interaction with key fora.

ACTIVITIES
HAI Europe participated in various fora to give input into the debate regarding information to patients, the composition of patient group representation on policy level, as well as attending sessions on training and lobby strategy.
The main international fora that HAI Europe participated in are:

European Medicines Evaluation Agency EMEA
- Preparation of and participation in meetings of the Working Group of Patients and Consumer Organisations on 15.02.06, 24.03.06, 02.06.06 and 08.12.06
- Contribution to the accreditation process of HAI Europe at EMEA, successfully achieved by the end of February 2006
- Preparation and realization of a three-hour seminar on Patient Information and Risk Communication in conjunction with the EMEA/CHMP Working Group with Patients and Consumers Organisations meeting on 31 May 2006 at UK Consumers’ Association (Which?). Speakers included Andrew Herxheimer (HAI Europe), Margrethe Nielsen (Danish Consumer Council), and Hildrun Sundseth (European Cancer Patients Coalition)
- Reply to EMEA Consultations on draft documents
  - Principles to be applied for the deletion of commercially confidential information for the disclosure of EMEA documents
  - Guideline on the readability of the label and package leaflet of medicinal products for human use
  - Questions and Answers documents on Generics and Biosimilars
  - Draft proposal: publication of paediatric trial details, including results
  - Appointment of Coordinator & Experts for the review of Patient Information Leaflets and EPAR Summaries.
- Participation in Meetings
  - Patients’ and Consumers’ Organisations Working Party – EPHA alternate.
  - EMEA Training Session on Review of EMEA documents
- Dissemination of Press Release: EMEA implementation of transparency regulations called into question

**Pharmaceutical Forum**
- Contact with members of the Forum (Association Internationale de la Mutualité and the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union) to gain insight on the debates taking place within the working groups on Information for Patients and on Pricing and Reimbursement.
- Correspondence with DG Enterprise and DG Health raising concerns about: the exclusion of Consumer Interest and Public Health Groups from the high-level group; the selection of EPF (European Patients’ Forum) as the single patient representatives and the lack of coordination of the Pharmaceutical Forum as to the EMEA Working Group on Information to Patients (01.03.06)
- Contact with European AIDS Treatment Group, who are raising concerns about the EPF representative within the Information to Patients Working Group, as it is a questionable Patient organization with a clear agenda for “unrestricted patient information, including by pharmaceutical industry”.

**ALTER EU Transparency Initiative**
- Establishing contact with the Corporate Europe Observatory, participation in press conference in Brussels on the lobbying regulation and a strategy meeting for upcoming plans (27.01.06).
- HAI Europe contributed by following closely the developments of the Pharmaceutical Forum, a “High Level Group” deliberately set up by the EU Commission to analyze medicines’ policy in the EU region, under the remit of increased competitiveness.

**(European) Health Policy Forum**
- Participation in meetings: 5 April 2006, 22 November 2006
- Contribution to a draft paper of the working group on Transparency

**CIVICUS World Assembly, 21-26 June 06**
- Attendance of a seminar on Patients’ Participation in Health Policy, organized by Forschungsgruppe Management im Gesundheitswesen, WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Systems Research and Management, Berlin (Annette Riesberg), other participants includ ILO Social Security Department, and the International Association of Patients Organisations.

**RESULTS**
Increased visibility of HAI as a key player in promoting transparency in European Medicines’ Policy; increased capacity of its members to give expert input into the debate and command a higher level of participation in technical policy matters.
PROJECT THEMATIC AREA: BETTER CONTROLS ON MEDICINES PROMOTION

ASIA PACIFIC

Project Title: Teaching Material on CD Targeted to Pacific Island Health Workers
Project Locus: Regional – Asia Pacific
Project Type: Education and capacity-building
Project Time frame: 2006-9
Coordinating Office: HAI AP
Project Partners: WHO-Pacific
Project Coordinator: Prasadini Perera
Project Means: WHO

AIMS
To produce a low cost, interactive, CD-Rom, suitable for educating health workers in the Pacific Island nations about the management of medicines.

ACTIVITIES
A HAI AP member collaborated with WHO Pacific Open Learning Health Network to produce the CD

RESULTS
Teaching material has been produced and is being distributed through WHO.
Project Thematic Area: Better Control on Medicines Promotion

Project Title: Comparison of National Legislation on Drug Promotion with the WHO's Ethical Criteria on Medicinal Drug Promotion

Project Locus: Regional
Project Type: Education and capacity-building
Project Time frame: 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: HAI members in the region
Project Coordinator: Prasadini Perera
Project Means: US$ 1,500

AIMS
To compare national legislation on drug promotion with the WHO Ethical Criteria on Medicinal Drug Promotion in order to identify the mechanisms available in countries to curb unethical drug promotion. Publishing (print and electronic) and subsequent distribution of report to members and other interested parties. Use of report as a basis for future advocacy

ACTIVITIES
The project was discussed at the 2005 HAI Asia-Pacific Review and Planning Meeting where it was also decided to look at the effectiveness of national legislation. Members have been contacted to obtain legislation not available to the secretariat and collating of the materials has now started.

RESULTS
Compilation of a comparative report has taken place but further completion of this project has been delayed due to funding restrictions imposed on the special foreign currency account by the Sir Lankan government.
EUROPE

Project Thematic Area: Better Control on Medicines Promotion

Project Title: HAI/WHO Project on Drug Promotion
Project Locus: Global
Project Type: Research, education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Coordinating Office: HAI Europe
Project Partners: WHO
Project Coordinator: Barbara Mintzes and Marg Ewen
Project Means: Global Programme (part therof) and WHO

INTRODUCTION
Increasing attention is being paid to the relationship between health professionals and the pharmaceutical industry, and the role of drug promotion in prescribing, dispensing and drug use decisions. The education of medical and pharmacy students has a crucial role to play in preparing future practitioners to respond appropriately to drug promotion and to ensure that their own interactions with the pharmaceutical industry meet a high ethical standard and are consistent with regulatory norms. A review of promotional material in the WHO/HAI Drug Promotion Database showed that little had been published on education initiatives to students and no international survey had been conducted to examine the extent to which medical and pharmacy students are being educated about drug promotion.

AIMS
To ascertain the aims and extent to which medical and pharmacy students are being educated about drug promotion. To publish a practical guide for these students to help them understand and respond to pharmaceutical promotion. To pilot test the use of the guide as an educational tool.

ACTIVITIES
Publication
In the first part of this project (2004-2005), a global survey of pharmacy and medical faculties was carried out. HAI Europe received 228 responses from educators from 64 countries who were actively involved in education about drug promotion. The results of this survey were published as a report in 2006. An article has been submitted for publication based on the survey report, which is currently being revised for resubmission.

Network development
One of the key survey findings was that in many cases only one to two hours are allocated to education on drug promotion throughout a student’s training period. When little time was allocated, respondents were less likely to consider the educational initiatives to be successful. In outlining educational priorities and barriers, the survey results contributed to ongoing project activities, specifically to the development and pilot-testing of new educational
materials. Additionally, the survey has allowed for identification of a global network of educators who are working in this field.

**Collation of a collection of existing educational materials**
As a follow-up to the survey, respondents who mentioned having developed educational materials that could be shared were contacted in September to December 2006 and asked for copies of the materials. Michelle Putzeist, an intern from the University of Utrecht working on the project, carried out this work as well as the development of a CD-Rom in 2006-7, with additional educational material gathered from survey respondents.

**Practical guide on understanding and responding to pharmaceutical promotion**
**Writing and editing**
Draft chapters of this guide have been written by drug promotion experts from Africa, Latin America, Russia, Australia, the US and Canada. In 2006, the chapters were sent out for a first round of review, edited by the authors and resubmitted, and a second round of editing is underway to consolidate the chapters of the guide into a set of curriculum materials.

In October 2006, the core project team (Marg Ewen, Richard Laing, Barbara Mintzes and Michelle Putzeist) met to discuss the guide, including some changes to the contents and organisation, and first plans for field testing of individual chapters and more formal pilot testing of the entire curriculum.

Meetings were also held in December 2006 with the University of Groningen medical faculty which is using the *WHO Guide to Good Prescribing* as a text, to discuss practical aspects of curriculum development and pilot-testing of the guide on understanding and responding to pharmaceutical promotion.

**Regulatory code analysis**
The October 2006 meeting also led to plans for research to be carried out by a pharmacy student intern from the University of Utrecht, Michelle Putzeist, in late 2006 and early 2007. This will be a comparative analysis of the content of national and international industry self-regulatory codes. The aim is to produce a stand-alone report on this topic.

**RESULTS**
**Survey follow-up**
A copy of the survey report was mailed to all survey respondents and to HAI network participants in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America in early 2006. The report has also been posted on the WHO and HAI websites, where it is freely accessible for downloading. The report was cited in a related article on education about drug promotion published in *PLoS Medicine*, a public library of science open access journal.

**CD-Rom with additional educational materials**
Follow-up letters were sent to more than 80 initial survey respondents, all of those who had mentioned educational materials in their response to the questionnaire and had not sent copies of these materials to the HAI office. Just over a quarter sent in materials, including power point presentations of lectures, classroom exercises, course descriptions, advertising examples, reference lists and relevant articles. These were organised by the chapter content.
for the guide, for development of a CD-Rom of educational materials in 2007. The CD-Rom will be published by HAI to accompany the educational guide, and provides a practical tool with background materials that educators can circulate to students or adapt for their own courses.

**Editing and production of the *Practical Guide on Understanding and Responding to Pharmaceutical Promotion***

The Practical Guide is being developed as a model curriculum for an eight-session course on understanding and responding to drug promotion. It is being developed in a flexible format that also allows for fewer teaching sessions. The model guide will include chapters on:

1. Global overview on drug promotion
2. Techniques to influence use of medicines
3. Critical analysis of advertisements
4. Dealing with pharmaceutical representatives
5. Responding to patient requests for advertised medicines
6. Ethical conflicts
7. Codes, guidelines and regulations
8. Medicines information: avoiding bias

**Regulatory code analysis**

A protocol for the regulatory code analysis was developed by Michelle Putzeist and circulated to the key project team and her research supervisors at the University of Utrecht. She began work on the code analysis in December 2006, with the majority of the analysis and reporting projected for the first half of 2007.

This was a comparison of the content of national codes, and of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers’ Association (IFPMA)’s international marketing code and the WHO Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion. The IFPMA published a new code in January 2007 and this has allowed for a comparison of new with previous standards.

The aim of the code analysis was to compare content and approaches to enforcement in the different codes, and identify gaps and improvements that could enhance quality. The areas to be addressed are code provisions concerning content and quality of promotional information, interactions between health professionals and the industry, and enforcement procedures. The full report will be published by the WHO in 2007.

Initial planning of the protocol for the pilot test occurred in late 2006, with more detailed protocol and instrument development scheduled for 2007. Initial potential sites for the pilot test are Russia, South Africa, New Zealand, Ecuador and the Netherlands. Additional plans for fundraising were also discussed in late 2006.
Project Thematic Area: Better Control on Medicines Promotion

Project Title: DTCA/Patient Information
Project Locus: Regional
Project Type: Advocacy, Action Campaigns, information sharing
Project Time Frame: 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Europe
Project Partners: ISDB, BEUC, AIM, MiEF
Project Coordinator: Andreas Wulf & Teresa Alves
Project Means: € 1500

AIMS
To campaign against direct-to-consumer advertising and other forms of misleading medicines’ promotion in Europe

ACTIVITIES
• Planning and holding a strategy meeting on 04 April 06, gathering relevant actors from the former Anti-DTCA Coalition (HAI, AIM, ESIP, BEUC, Medicines in Europe Forum); coordinating activities to counter recent moves promoting DTCA in the guise of Patient Information
• Coordinating the development of a draft declaration on Patient Information
• Launch and dissemination of the joint declaration on the provision of relevant information to citizens (03.10.2007).
• Participation in the Health and Consumer Intergroup meeting at the European Parliament (03.10.2007)
• Follow up on new Industry strategies on Information and Promotion of Medicines
• Dissemination of Press Release: Direct-to-consumer advertising revisited by European Commission, “Déjà-vu all over again”?
• Workshop

RESULTS
• Reinvigoration of the Anti DTCA Coalition, with HAI Europe acting as key coordinator
• Circulation (print and electronic) of position documents on DTCA
• Media coverage: articles in press
Better Control on Medicines Promotion

Production of Fact Sheet: Bending the Rules

Regional - HAI Europe
Advocacy, information-sharing

2006

HAI Europe

N/A

Jeremy Smith

€ 1,888

AIMS
To raise awareness about the way information is distorted in the promotion of medicines. To make HAI’s work in this area more visible to key stakeholders, and to support decision-making in this field at the institutional level.

ACTIVITIES
In March 2006, HAI Europe produced a short briefing paper entitled “Bending the rules: Medicines’ promotion and the distortion of information” and circulated it at the European Health Policy Forum. (A more substantial paper, specifically focused on responding to the proposed public-private partnership for information had been drafted for publication at the Health Policy Forum in December 2005.)

RESULTS
Most of HAI Europe’s comments on the final draft were included in the final version. In total, 44 of the approximately 50 members of EHPF endorsed the report and hence, rejected direct-to-consumer advertising.
LATIN AMERICA

Project Thematic Area: Better Control on Medicines Promotion

Project Title: Monitoring of Drug Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean
Project Locus: Regional – Latin America
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time frame: Ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Latin America
Project Partners: HAI Latin America members in Brazil
Project Coordinator: Roberto López-Linares
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To monitor pharmaceutical industry promotion of medicines to health professionals and the public. To use evidence to advocate against direct to consumer promotion of medicines, and other practices that can cause people to use drugs in an irrational way.

ACTIVITIES
Exploration of the regulation of drug promotion in the Latin American region, (including anti-generic promotion), primarily focusing on a case study carried out in Brazil. Currently, Brazil is reviewing its regulations on drug promotion and it is expected that they will become stricter. Case study performed

RESULTS
Case study published. Advocacy strategy developed, based on findings.
Project Thematic Area: Better Control on Medicines Promotion

Project Title: Drug Promotion During the Training of Health Professionals at Universities

Project Locus: Regional – Latin America
Project Type: Research, information-sharing
Project Time Frame: Ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Latin America
Project Partners: WHO, HAI Latin America members in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru and Brazil

Project Coordinator: Roberto López-Linares
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To explore the practice of drug promotion involving health professionals during their training. To use the findings to advocate for rational medicines policy and raise awareness of this situation among students.

ACTIVITIES
Facilitation of the operation of working group on the commitments related to the project. (Ecuador, Nicaragua, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Brasil)
Contribution to the manual (HAI-WHO) with the participation of AIS LAC groups in testing it.
Participation of AIS LAC groups in the validation of AIS NICARAGUA module, led by AIS member Prof. Jose Teran of the University of Quito.

RESULTS
Reports of validations will be collated and results analysed for future use in lobby work.
PROJECT THEMATIC AREA:
NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

AFRICA

Project Title: Health and Civil Society Network of Eastern and Southern Africa
Project Locus: Regional - Africa (Central, Southern and West Africa)
Project Type: Education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Coordinating Office: HAI Africa
Project Partners: EQUINET (Secretariat at TARSC and SEATNNI), People’s Health Movement (PHM), Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), the Community Working Group on Health of Zimbabwe (CWGH) and the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council (SATUCC)
Project Coordinator: Patrick Mubangizi, Betty Amailuk
Project Means: Global programme (part thereof)

INTRODUCTION
During 2002/3, EQUINET, the Peoples Health Movement (PHM), International People’s Health Council (IPHC) and Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) identified a need for closer dialogue and networking between health and related civil society in east and southern Africa to achieve common health goals. A meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 26 November 2003 involving 14 networks of health civil society (many of these with numerous individual health civil society members) agreed to consolidate and strengthen civil society influence through building shared analysis and positions on health issues and strengthening of dialogue and networking; and to identify strategic issues for joint action and across health civil society. This was taken forward through health civil society participation in the June 2004 EQUINET regional conference and by a planning committee made up of EQUINET (Secretariat at TARSC and SEATNNI), PHM, Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and CWGH. The planning committee was also joined by the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council (SATUCC) and Health Action International (HAI) Africa.

AIMS
To collaborate with like-minded civil society organisations to promote equity and social justice in health and to realize the right to health, to bring power to the people and to strengthen people’s voice in decision-making through organising, uniting people and building public consciousness, to act as a people’s watchdog and monitor the performance of government and private sector against their commitments and the public interests, systems and values promoted by the collaboration.

ACTIVITIES
In 2006, HAI Africa and CWGH were asked to coordinate the HCS Network. This work helps to raise the organisation’s profile and will enable it to partner with well-respected
RESULTS
The World Health Organization’s Commission on Social Determinants of Health approached the HCSN to facilitate the Commission’s work with civil society in Africa during the period 2005-2008. HAI Africa has taken a leading role in this work and its main work is to draw attention to the effect of social conditions on health. A national CSO meeting was held in Nairobi where a strategy document was developed to advance the work of Civil Society within the context of WHO. National meetings to help form national agendas on CSO involvement in promotion of health and access issues were also held in Zimbabwe and Malawi.
Project Thematic Area: Network development

Project Title: Providing Information to Members and Contacts
Project Locus: Africa
Project Type: Network development, information-sharing
Project Time frame: 2006 and ongoing
Coordinating office: HAI Africa
Project partners: N/A
Project means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To inform members and regional contacts about HAI Africa’s work and to encourage further dissemination of the material to contacts interested in HAI’s area of work.

ACTIVITIES
To help increase its network membership and be able to provide useful, current, relevant and needed information, HAI Africa continued to develop and circulate its quarterly newsletter. The HAI Africa website had also been updated on a regular basis and work done by HAI Africa is posted on the website as a portal for wider circulation.

RESULTS
As a result of this information exchange and network promotion efforts, five contacts have expressed interest in joining the regional network.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: HAI Africa Participation in HAI Asia-Pacific’s 25th Anniversary Celebration

Project Locus: Asia-Pacific

Project Type: Network development, information sharing

Project Time frame: 10-12 April 2006

Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific

Project partners: N/A

Project means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To support the work of other HAI regions and to promote HAI Africa at relevant forums.

ACTIVITIES
HAI Africa’s coordinator participated in the HAI Asia Pacific celebrations to commemorate its 25 years of existence and made a presentation on the progress achieved by the African regional network during the past three years.

RESULTS
HAI Africa took part in its fellow section’s celebratory event and the occasion offered the opportunity to disseminate information about its own work and seek new contacts for future information-exchange and possible collaboration.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: HAI Africa participation at HAI Europe's 25th Anniversary Celebration
Project Locus: Global
Project Type: Networking, education and capacity-building
Project Time frame: October 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Europe
Project partners: N/A
Project coordinator: Patrick Mubangizi
Project means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To support the work of other HAI regions and to promote HAI Africa at relevant forums.

ACTIVITIES
HAI Africa participated in the HAI Europe 25 year Jubilee Conference held in Amsterdam in late October 2006. Two staff members and a board member represented the regional network there.

RESULTS
Through a formal presentation during a plenary session and numerous information discussions and a poster booth, the experience and achievements of HAI Africa were shared with the participants.
ASIA PACIFIC

Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: Advisory Services and Resource Persons
Project Locus: Regional and Sri Lanka
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time Frame: Dec 2002 and ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: National and regional NGOs, Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka, UN organisations such as WHO and UNDP
Project Coordinator: K Balasubramanium
Project Means: Global Programme (Part thereof)

AIMS
To advocate HAI Asia-Pacific’s position, goals and objectives in different forums.

ACTIVITIES
HAI Asia-Pacific’s Advisor and Coordinator acted as a resource person and advisor at the following events:
- A civil society workshop on “The social determinants of health”, 3-4 January, 2006, in Nagarodaya, Sri Lanka
- Meeting on “The need for a National Drug Policy or essential medicines for all”, 6 January 2006, organised by the Centre for Society and Religion (CSR) and the People’s Movement for the Rights of Patients (PMRP), Sri Lanka
- People’s Planning Commission Meetings (ongoing series of meetings) discussing issues affecting tsunami-affected communities
- “The need for a National Drug Policy”, a seminar on health education and consumer empowerment, organised by Sathyoda and supported by the Peoples’ Movement for the Rights of Patients (PMRP) and the Centre for Society and Religion (CSR), 16 March 2006, Sathyoda, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- “Informal consultation on ethics in rational use of medicine”, WHO/SEARO, 23-24 March 2006, New Delhi, India (provided technical input as a temporary advisor)
- Keynote address at “The regional seminar on the future of health services: Who will live and who will die?”, 10-12 April 2006, Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Civil society workshop on “The social determinants of health”, 21 April 2006, Sathyoda, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- “WTO/GATS and public health: Consumer concerns”, Regional workshop on methodological approaches to assess the impact of trade in services, organised by WHO/SEARO and the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM), Sri Lanka 26-28 April 2006, Global Towers, Sri Lanka
- Successful advocacy campaigns: HAI Asia-Pacific’s experiences, evidence, policy and advocacy workshop on medicine prices”, organised by the World Health Organization
(WHO) and Health Action International (HAI) Europe, 14-15th June 2006, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- “Campaigning for a patient’s charter of rights”, presentation for the Organization of Professional Associations (OPA), 9 July 2006, Sri Lanka
- “Access to antiretroviral treatment in developing countries in Asia Pacific”, organised by the regional HIV/AIDS Development Programme, UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo, 8-10 November, Colombo, Sri Lanka
(Many of the papers presented are available on the HAI Asia-Pacific website on http://www.haiap.org)

RESULTS
After speaking at these meetings, HAI Asia-Pacific received numerous invitations to participate at follow-up meetings and brainstorming sessions, especially on issues related to the implementation process of the National Medicinal Drug Policy and a Charter of Patient’s Rights in Sri Lanka. The regional office has also received invitations to provide input at meetings organised by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, and currently Dr. K Balasubramaniam, Advisor and Coordinator of HAI Asia-Pacific, is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Impact of TRIPS, GATS, Globalization on Trade and Health. HAI Asia-Pacific also advises the People’s Movement for the Rights of Patients (PMRP) and has assisted in capacity-building of the organisation. As a result, PMRP has successfully expanded its advocacy efforts at different forums such as the Organization of Professional Associations (OPA) and the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: Consumer Awareness and Education
Project Locus: Sri Lanka
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time frame: 2002 and ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: People's Movement for the Rights of Patients (PMRP), Sri Lanka
Project Coordinator: K Balasubramaniam
Project Means: Global Programme (Part thereof)

AIMS
To build consumer awareness on health issues that impact consumers' well-being.

ACTIVITIES
Dr K Balasubramaniam provided a continuing supply of articles (including his own original work and relevant articles written by others) to the media on important issues that impact people's lives, especially related to pharmaceuticals, health and social justice. The following media coverage has been given to these article topics:
- 6 January 2006 Daily Mirror, "How the rich world continues slavery" (article on G8, globalisation and poverty)
- 13 January 2006 Daily Mirror "Impact of socio-economic conditions on people's health" (article on socio-economic determinants of health)
- 10 February 2006 Daily Mirror "Retail prices of commonly used drugs in Sri Lanka and the National Medicinal Drug Policy"
- 21 April 2006 Daily Mirror, "Towards equity and social justice in health"
- 30 June 2006 Daily Mirror, "Retail drug prices, the law of the jungle"
- 7 July 2006 Daily Mirror, "A shocking, monstrous world" (article on globalisation, liberalisation and poverty)
- 14 July 2006 Daily Mirror, "Better health for all people: Campaigning for charter of patient's rights"
- 1 September 2006 Daily Mirror, "Health care: A policy will determine who lives and who dies" (article on working towards an equitable health care system)
- 8 September 2006 Daily Mirror, "Out-of-pocket payments turn patients into paupers"
- 24 November 2006 Daily Mirror, "Poverty is the deadliest disease and hunger is the commonest cause of death" (article on socio-economic inequalities in health)
- 8 December 2006 Daily Mirror, "Physicians, you are attorneys of the poor”
-Challenging health inequities from ethics to action (excerpts from the Kottegoda oration)

RESULTS
In addition to the above media coverage, some of the critical analysis provided by Dr K Balasubramaniam in these articles has received extensive publicity, especially through a national television programme "Muli Pituwa" which discusses important news issues appearing in Sri Lankan newspapers.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: Meeting People's Basic Minimum Needs in order to Eradicate Poverty and Increase the Quality of Life including a More Healthy Life

Project Locus: Iran
Project Type: Advocacy
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partner: Dr. Ali Barzegar
Project Coordinator: Prasadini Perera
Project Means: US$ 1,500 (disbursed in Nov 2005)

AIMS
Using the Basic Minimum Needs concept (an integrated, bottom-up, socio-economic development programme based on full community involvement and self-reliance), the project aimed to develop advocacy materials on poverty, health and development.

ACTIVITIES
For this project, two translations were carried out. The translation into Farsi and subsequent publication of 2,000 copies of the book Poverty, health and development by Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (co-financing from other sources was also received for this process). In addition, the book Empowerment and Poverty Reduction, a World Bank publication was also translated and released.

RESULTS
Both of these publications have been widely used to support advocacy work within the Basic Minimum Needs project currently underway in Iran. In this country, the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security is taking these Basic Minimum Needs into 16 provinces. The Ministry of Health also plans to use it as a relevant methodology for the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: The HAI Asia-Pacific Website
Project Locus: Global
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time Frame: Ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: HAI Africa, Europe, Latin America
Project Coordinator: Passanna Gunasekara
Project Means: US$ 500

AIMS
To provide a forum through which HAI Asia-Pacific can present the vision, mission, advocacy and research work of HAI, with an emphasis on the work conducted in the Asia Pacific region.

ACTIVITIES
The HAI Asia-Pacific website (www.haiap.org) provides information on HAI's latest publications, including the global newsletter, HAI Asia-Pacific activities and events, relevant news and coverage on health, pharmaceuticals and development issues of interest to members and partners. The website includes the history of HAI in the region, contact information, links to the other regional offices and a feedback page.

RESULTS
In 2006, the website received approximately 6,800 hits a month.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: HAI Asia-Pacific Resource Book: Fast, Furious and Flexible

Project Locus: Regional
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information-sharing

Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: HAI Asia-Pacific membership and other HAI contacts
Project Coordinator: Passanna Gunasekera
Project Means: US$ 7,450

INTRODUCTION
To commemorate the 25th anniversary of HAI’s creation (1981 – 2006), the regional members requested the regional office to produce a resource book.

AIMS
To document the history of the global network, include reminiscences from founding members of HAI and HAI Asia-Pacific, the history of HAI in the region, some of the writings of Dr K Balasubramaniam and other important HAI documents. To promote HAI’s work, methods of operation and achievements among new and potential HAI members and donors.

ACTIVITIES
HAI members and contacts from around the world were invited to contribute to the publication. Radha Holla Bhar of India was asked to act as the publication’s editor. A draft of the publication was distributed among HAI Asia-Pacific members for comment before publication.

RESULTS
Fast, Furious and Flexible: The Story of Health Action International (HAI) 1981 – 2006 with Special Focus on Health Action International Asia-Pacific (HAI AP) (ISBN 955-1127-01-3) was published in September 2006 and widely distributed within the region as well as outside through the HAI network. The publication was also later distributed to all participants attending the HAI Europe 25th Jubilee celebration held in Amsterdam in late October 2006. The publication will also be downloadable from the HAI Asia-Pacific website http://www.haiap.org
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: Production and Dissemination of HAI News – the Global Newsletter of the HAI Network

Project Locus: Global
Project Type: Education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time frame: Ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: HAI Africa, Europe, Latin America
Project Coordinator: Passanna Gunasekara
Project Means: US$ 1,500

AIMS
To provide a forum for the exchange of information and experiences among HAI network members.

ACTIVITIES
HAI Asia-Pacific publishes this quarterly newsletter on behalf of the global network. The editors present a lead article which analyses a particular issue of interest to HAI members drawn from current affairs within the fields of health and pharmaceuticals. The newsletter includes a network news section which includes contributions from HAI members and partners, campaigns, events and activities. Another section, journal scan, reports on developments regarding international campaigns for rational health and pharmaceutical policies. The resources section reviews selected publications of interest in the areas of health and development.

A reader survey was conducted in 2006. Overall, the reader survey contained very positive feedback on the newsletter's usefulness and the selection of topics for publication.

RESULTS
In 2006, HAI News was published twice (double issues 136/137 and 138/139). The newsletter was circulated to 500 subscribers in 100 countries. HAI News is also published electronically and is accessible at http://www.haiweb.org/publications.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: HAI Asia-Pacific List-serv (HAI APAlerts)
Project Locus: Regional
Project Type: Education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time frame: August 2006-ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project Partners: HAI Asia-Pacific members
Project Coordinator: Prasadini Perera
Project Means: US$ 2,000

AIMS
To improve members’ capacity for networking, communication and information-sharing with other members of the network.

ACTIVITIES
At the request of the HAI Asia-Pacific membership, the regional office investigated the best way of setting up a list-serv for its members (consultations with IT providers, costing quotes, members’ survey of needs). This process has now been completed and the list-serv is functioning.

RESULTS
The list-serv has been set up for the membership and will enable them to share information on topics related to HAI’s regional work.
**Project Thematic Area:** Network Development

**Project Title:** HAI Asia-Pacific Internship and Placement Programme

**Project Locus:** Regional – Asia Pacific

**Project Type:** Education and capacity-building

**Project Time Frame:** Since 2003, ongoing

**Coordinating Office:** HAI Asia-Pacific

**Project Partners:** Various academic institutions and students from the region

**Project Coordinator:** Prasadini Perera

**Project Means:** Global Programme (part thereof)

**INTRODUCTION**

Since 2003, HAI has accepted students for short-term internships and work placements. HAI offers students the opportunity to undertake challenging, meaningful and stimulating work. Interns are given an opportunity to gain experience at HAI Asia-Pacific member organisations, where the internship programme requires them to undertake work in an area outside the parameters of their own usual work.

**AIMS**

To enable students interested in the fields of health and medicine to gain practical experience relevant to their career goals. These internships also aim to give aspiring health professionals early exposure to HAI's work.

**ACTIVITIES**

HAI matched successful applicants with ongoing work projects. Working in collaboration with the students and their academic advisors, HAI Asia-Pacific developed a work plan consistent with the student's targeted learning objectives. When possible, HAI Asia-Pacific provided documentation at the end of the internship to facilitate the award of academic credit for the placement work.

**RESULTS**

In 2005, two interns were accepted into the internship programme. The interns worked on projects which continued into 2006. Their topics are: “Drug registration and recall of substandard drugs,” a survey and situation analysis of the Asia Pacific region and “National Health Policy,” a comparative compilation of country policies in the Asia Pacific region.
Project Thematic Area:  Network Development

Project Title:  HAI Asia-Pacific Resource Centre: Networking and Information Dissemination

Project Locus:  Regional – Asia Pacific

Project Type:  Education and capacity building

Project Time Frame:  Since 2003, ongoing

Coordinating Office:  HAI Asia-Pacific

Project Partners:  N/A

Project Coordinator:  Passanna Gunasekara

Project Means:  US$ 500

AIMS
The HAI Asia-Pacific resource centre aims to allow interested parties access to documents, including journals and periodicals related to health, pharmaceuticals, development and international relations.

ACTIVITIES
The resource centre houses over 650 publications, 50 journals, 100 briefing papers and 25 data files covering various issues in health, pharmaceuticals, development and international relations. The centre is open to the public during the working hours of the HAI AP office, (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and offers information, reference materials, and self-help resources to all. The staff answers information requests generated through the contents of the HAI Asia-Pacific website, HAI News and other sources.

RESULTS
The centre is in regular use by HAI staff. In addition, in 2006, it received several visits and requests for information from members, as well as some external visitors. HAI Asia-Pacific receives requests for information and support on a daily basis.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: HAIAP participation at the HAI 25th Anniversary, Amsterdam
Project Locus: Global
Project Type: Education and capacity building, Information sharing
Project Time Frame: October 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific-Pacific and HAI Europe
Project Partners: N/A
Project Coordinator: Dr K Balasubramaniam
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS

ACTIVITIES
- Dr K Balasubramaniam, Advisor and Coordinator of HAIAP was the chairperson for the session on Rational Medicine Use on the 27th of October.
- HAI Asia-Pacific-Pacific activities stall displaying HAIAP activities and work over the years.
- Dr K Balasubramaniam participated in a meeting of the HAI regional coordinators meeting

RESULTS
HAI Asia-Pacific-Pacific was represented by Dr K Balasubramaniam, Advisor and Coordinator, Prasadini Perera, Project Officer, Dr Edelina de la Paz of the Philippines and Zafullah Chowdhury of Bangladesh both members of HAI Asia-Pacific-Pacific governing council, Beverley Snell from Australia and Ayyaz Kiani of Pakistan both members of HAI Asia-Pacific-Pacific.
The meeting was covered in the HAI News 138/139 issue as the lead article titled 'HAI Celebrates 25 Years – Promoting People Centred Medicines Policy'.
Building contacts with other HAI partners.
EUROPE

Project Title: Consolidation of HAI Europe Programme of Work
Project Locus: Regional – Europe
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building
Project Time frame: Ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Europe
Project Partners: HAI Europe members
Project Coordinator: Tim Reed
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To ensure the viability, sustainability and relevance of HAI Europe through the development and refinement of project and financial management systems. To undertake expansion of HAI Europe into all countries of the EU.

ACTIVITIES
During 2006, HAI Europe’s director recruited needed staff and organised line management of all the regional office staff and volunteers to meet strategic objectives. In addition, the team monitored policy debates at the EU, member states and multilateral levels and facilitated the development of shared positions when appropriate. The office staff worked diligently to maintain and develop dialogue with relevant bodies within the European Union (EU), the relevant departments of member governments, and other intergovernmental bodies (such as the WHO and WTO) in order to obtain timely information on policy initiatives and to influence such initiatives (in conjunction with HAI Europe members as appropriate).

HAI Europe was represented at external meetings and conferences as necessary including the European Health Forum and the Commission’s public consultation on assessing the Community System of Pharmacovigilance. The office staff and regional members also represented the views and policies of HAI Europe to members, other agencies, the media and the public as appropriate. Whenever possible, the regional office initiated or facilitated collective action by HAI members on agreed policy priorities. It also encouraged complemental or collaborative approaches between members’ individual advocacy work and campaigns. In the first part of the year, the director prepared a major fundraising proposal (Global Programme) with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS). Further negotiations were carried out with major governmental donors including the Danish, Finnish, Swedish, and Norwegian governments. At the same time, new sources of support were explored and staff were encouraged to pursue independent fundraising avenues. Finally, the team worked to identify and initiate new projects and responses to current issues in consultation with the Foundation Board and HAI Europe members. The director also undertook forecasting and planning for long-term sustainability of the network, particularly in relation to the Global Programme.
RESULTS
During 2006, HAI Europe secured funding for the next Global Programme 2007-2010. It also worked to increase the diversity of its funding sources. The network received publicity in various regional and international media. In the course of the year, the regional office staff was often consulted by key stakeholders in areas related to HAI's priority issues, and was represented in key forums.
As a result of consultations with one of the major funders, HAI Europe undertook in 2006 to initiate the formation of a Global office to ensure autonomous work programmes; this has entailed the establishment of a HAI Global Board to replace the HAI Foundation Board. Suitable members for the Global Board are currently being nominated and the Global Board is expected to be fully functional by early 2007. Staff for the HAI Global office will be recruited in 2007 to fulfil the requirements of an extended programme in a new cycle of work.
AIMS
To coordinate lobby work at the WHA to ensure that the participants from all of HAI's regional offices are aware of protocol, are empowered with the most up to date working documents, liaison strategy, and are kept abreast of developments during the WHA;
To increase participation and capacity building of partners in global health debates.
To introduce new lobby techniques and improve advocacy skills in new members.

ACTIVITIES
Production, publication and dissemination of briefing papers; pre-WHA strategy planning meetings in Geneva, Amsterdam and through teleconferences with global members; in situ training sessions.

RESULTS
New members from the HAI network were taught how to successfully advocate for desired outcomes and carry out campaign work at both a local and an international level. The HAI Network was strengthened and new alliances created.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: Participation in HAI Asia-Pacific's 25th Anniversary Celebration

Project Locus: Asia-Pacific
Project Type: Network development, information sharing
Project Time frame: 10-12 April 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Asia-Pacific
Project partners: N/A
Project means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To support the work of other HAI regions and to promote HAI Europe at relevant forums.

ACTIVITIES
HAI Europe sent a HAI Europe member to participate in the HAI Asia-Pacific celebrations to commemorate its 25 years of existence.

RESULTS
HAI Europe gave public recognition to the great input that HAI Asia-Pacific has to the total global work of the HAI network; information on the work of HAI Europe was also highlighted; new contacts were established for information-exchange and possible collaboration in future campaigns.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: HAI Europe Information centre
Project Locus: Regional
Project Type: Education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time Frame: Ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Europe
Project Partners: N/A
Project Coordinator: HAI Europe project staff
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To allow interested parties access to documents, including journals and periodicals related to health, pharmaceuticals, development and international relations; to act as liaison to other members; to inform their work on topics of concern to HAI; to build HAI members capacity in accessing resource material.
To run a website specifically for HAI Europe topics, but with Global reach, linking the HAI network so each region is kept informed on ongoing work and website visitors gain a comprehensive impression of the high standard of expertise of HAI and its wide knowledge on pharmaceutical issues.

ACTIVITIES
The HAI Europe library contains over 200 publications, a wide range of European and Global journals, an extensive archive of briefing papers and data files covering various issues in health, pharmaceuticals, development and international relations. The office is open to the public during normal working hours, with many articles being available online through the website. The staff answer written and phoned information requests generated by the contents of the HAI Europe website (this has a special contact form for placing queries), or in response to HAI’s list-servs and press articles as well as other sources.

RESULTS
The centre is in regular use by HAI staff and members as well as some external visitors. HAI Europe project staff receive requests for information and support on a daily basis.
**Project Thematic Area:** Network Development

**Project Title:** HAI Europe Internship and Placement Programme
**Project Locus:** Regional
**Project Type:** Education and capacity-building
**Project Time Frame:** Since 2006, ongoing
**Coordinating Office:** HAI Europe
**Project Partners:** Various academic institutions and students from the region
**Project Coordinator:** Tim Reed & Marg Ewen
**Project Means:** Global Programme (part thereof)

**INTRODUCTION**

Since 2006, HAI Europe has accepted students for short-term internships and work placements. HAI offers students the opportunity to undertake challenging, meaningful and stimulating work and to gain experience of NGO ethos.

**AIMS**

To enable students interested in the fields of health and medicine to gain practical experience relevant to their career goals. These internships also aim to give aspiring health professionals early exposure to HAI’s work.

**ACTIVITIES**

HAI successfully guided two students through collaboration on ongoing work for the (Global) medicine promotion project and (European) Patients Organisations project. Working in collaboration with the students and their academic advisors, HAI Europe developed a work plan consistent with the student’s targeted learning objectives.

**RESULTS**

The successful input by the interns has encouraged HAI Europe to forge new contacts with European universities to enlarge the internship/placement programme for 2007, thereby increasing access by upcoming health professions to the NGO perspective. The students received guidance and tuition from HAI Europe on areas of work within their usual parameters but using different methods of approach in accessing information and in analysing their study results.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: 25th Anniversary Celebration of HAI Europe
Project Locus: Global
Project Type: Networking, education and capacity-building
Project Time frame: October 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Europe
Project partners: N/A
Project coordinator: Tim Reed
Project means: Global Programme

AIMS
To celebrate the impact that HAI has had as a long-standing premier NGO in policy advocacy work on pharmaceuticals and highlight the successes of HAI, through its regional offices and members, in its mission to increase access to essential medicines and improve their rational use; to justify the faith shown by its donors in confirming its long-term, sustainable and unique position as being the only international NGO working on pharmaceutical issues.

ACTIVITIES
A special celebratory book was published commemorating HAI Europe's members involvement in 25 years of campaign work.
A 2-day conference was organised by HAI Europe at a prestigious venue in Amsterdam. Donors and participants from all the regions in which HAI is represented were invited to attend and high level speakers presented on the three core themes of the new Global Programme (2007-2010). Although the conference was hosted by HAI Europe, the content was global in scope. Speakers were interviewed by the Press (including the BBC) and media coverage encouraged. Following the conference the HAI Europe Association and the newly founded HAI Global Board convened to discuss the impact of the conference on HAI future work and to start planning accordingly.

RESULTS
Over 200 participants, including Dutch government officials, attended the conference. The jubilee book and the conference proceedings are made available to all through the HAI Europe website. A clear picture was given of the impact of HAI on global issues and the scope of civil society in shaping policy. HAI Europe's profile was enhanced and its members witnessed the credit and prestige of an NGO reaching global recognition for its work.
LATIN AMERICA

Project Thematic Area: Network Development/Access to Essential Medicines
Project Title: Participation in FOROSALUD
Project Locus: National - Peru
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information sharing
Project Time frame: Since August 2002, ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Latin America
Project Partners: N/A
Project Coordinator: Roberto López-Linares
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

INTRODUCTION
FOROSALUD is a Peruvian public action organisation, a coordinated space within civil society that works in the health sector by promoting the debate around the socialisation of studies and experiences and analysis on the health situation in the country. FOROSALUD fuels citizen vigilance and social surveillance of the health sector.

AIMS
The project aims to promote access to essential medicines and the rational use of all drugs by networking with actors active in the health sector and to work together to advance these goals.

ACTIVITIES
HAI Latin America has participated in FOROSALUD since its inception in 2002. Since August 2006, the HAI regional office has been represented on its Board of Directors and Executive Board. In the same way, HAI Latin America coordinates the Forum on Medicines and represents FOROSALUD on the Ministry of Health’s National Drug Committee of the National Health Council. During the council’s sessions, HAI promotes access to essential medicines and the rational use of drugs. HAI has raised the need for a National Drug Policy and has called for modifications to national pharmaceutical legislation.

In July 2006, the third FOROSALUD conference took place and HAI played an active role in it, coordinating the forum on medicines. Through its involvement in this coalition, HAI Latin America has successfully placed medicines, public health and human rights on the public agenda.

HAI Latin America organised conferences for civil society, trade unions, the Peruvian Congress, professional associations, universities, health workers, and other constituencies. The regional office also organised public demonstrations for access to essential medicines, and wrote and distributed position papers and declarations that contributed to the public debate around these issues.
RESULTS

Access to essential medicines and human rights are now on the public agenda. HAI Latin America was placed in charge of Notisalud - an electronic bulletin managed by FOROSALUD, which summarises media coverage on health-related issues.
Project Thematic Area: Network Development/Access to Essential Medicines

Project Title: Participation in the Collective for Life and Work on HIV/AIDS
Project Locus: National - Peru
Project Type: Advocacy, education and capacity-building, information-sharing
Project Time frame: Since 2001, ongoing
Coordinating Office: HAI Latin America
Project Partners: N/A
Project Coordinator: Roberto López-Linares
Project Means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To strengthen and support the research capacity of the Collective for Life as part of its efforts to promote access to antiretroviral medicines (ARVs).

ACTIVITIES
HAI Latin America is collaborating with other NGOs, church groups and groups of people living with HIV/AIDS through the Collective for Life. The goal of the collective is to gain universal access to comprehensive medical care, including antiretroviral treatment for everyone living with HIV/AIDS that needs it. This principal lines up with HAI’s objective of promoting universal access to essential medicines.

As part of its work with the collective, HAI Latin America participates in the Executive Secretariat and its vigilance committee. The first maintains relationships with other stakeholders. The second’s actions are supported by MSF and have focused on monitoring activities on the implementation of antiretroviral care and services in 15 Lima hospitals. The vigilance committee was also invited to participate in MSP’s Dynabeads project. This project aimed at encouraging the use of a CD4 lymphocyte monitoring technique. As a part of it, five provinces in the country’s interior were visited in the first half of 2006 to collect data that were later reported to MSF and the collective’s Executive Secretariat.

HAI Latin America’s representative in the collective participated in the country coordinating mechanism’s committee on medicines for Global Fund projects. This body carried out advocacy work to stop antiretroviral stock-outs at health care centres. It is also following the antiretroviral medicines procurement process.

Through the collective, HAI Latin America participated in the elaboration of the HIV/AIDS multi-sector strategic plan, which still had not received official recognition by the Peruvian government by the end of 2006.

HAI was given special accreditation to attend the Special Session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS that was supposed to be a review of progress made on commitments signed by member states at the 2001 session. At a parallel event to the special session, members of civil society organised two meetings, one with Latin American participation and one with
participation from all over the world. The groups wrote positions papers and these contributions were include in the policy document that was later prepared as a result of the special session.

A HAI Latin America representative attended the International Conference on AIDS in Toronto (held in August 2006) where HAI conducted a satellite session. During this meeting, a report was presented on the Global Fund’s effect on access to medicines.

RESULTS
Through this work, HAI Latin America has facilitated greater coordination with the national agencies working on the prevention and control of HIV and AIDS. It has also made contributions to the surveillance of the Global Fund implementation processes; and helped gain recognition for the Collective for Life by public and private organisations in the field of access to antiretroviral treatment.
INTRODUCTION
In preparation for HAI Latin America’s planned regional conference, the regional office hosted a number of meetings.

AIMS
To discuss key concerns in the area of pharmaceutical policy and practice of interest to members of the regional network.

ACTIVITIES
HAI Latin America organised an international conference in Lima entitled “Medicines and public health: Putting the pieces of the puzzle together”. More than 100 people attended the conference, including HAI Latin America members from foreign countries. The meeting’s objectives were to identify key factors and stakeholders in the pharmaceutical setting that exert influence on access to and rational use of medicines. Secondly, it aimed to set out guidelines for creating a working agenda for HAI Latin America for the next few years.

HAI Latin America also held a consultative committee meeting in February 2006. The meeting included regional member participants from Mexico, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Brazil, and Bolivia. The agenda broached all the important areas for the regional network including network reports, evaluations and perspectives; the regional network’s working plans; and the network’s working spaces and strategies. At the end of the meeting, an official document was drawn up describing in detail the meeting’s discussions and decisions and circulated.

In November 2006, the HAI Latin America Advisory Committee organised the 3rd HAI Latin America regional encounter. It directly followed the international meetings. The coordination office handled the logistics for the participants’ travel, found a venue, defined the working agenda, prepared documents related to the agenda, and supported the execution of the meeting and its presentations and agreements. More than 20 HAI network members from 11 Latin American countries participated in the meeting.

RESULTS
The meetings enabled HAI Latin America members to discuss priority issues and formulate workplans for the regional network to carry out in the coming few years.
AIMS
To provide information and interpretation on timely, topical issues in order to provide civil society with tools to see how these issues affect access to medicines. The project also aimed to increase knowledge of and access to this information.

ACTIVITIES
Five editions of the national (HAI Peru) bulletin and five issues of the HAI Latin America email bulletin were published in 2006. (The November-December bulletins will be published in early 2007).

HAI Latin America regularly updated its regional HAI website, posting relevant news articles and press releases. Work was also carried out to activate all the links in the site’s archived stories and to organise this material by year in order to make it more accessible to visitors.

The HAI Latin America coordination office presides over a discussion list initiated by members of HAI Peru. In January 2006, the list had 106 subscribers and this number had increased to 251 by the end of 2006. The HAI Latin America documentation centre continues to operate and is constantly updated as new material and documents are received.

RESULTS
Through its information dissemination efforts, members of civil society received balanced information on news that affects access to medicines. The sharing of information, bulletins and list serv encouraged debates on relevant issues (access, drug prices, the Free Trade Agreement, TRIPS, access to antiretroviral therapy, drug policies, the rational use of medicines as well as ethical drug promotion and more.)
Project Thematic Area: Network Development

Project Title: 25th Anniversary Celebration of HAI Europe
Project Locus: Global
Project Type: Networking, education and capacity-building
Project Time frame: October 2006
Coordinating Office: HAI Europe
Project partners: N/A
Project coordinator: Roberto Lopez-Linares
Project means: Global Programme (part thereof)

AIMS
To support the work of other HAI regions and to promote the HAI Latin America network at various meetings.

ACTIVITIES
The regional coordinator of HAI Latin America participated in the HAI Europe 25 year Jubilee Conference held in Amsterdam in late October 2006, giving a presentation "The Impact of Free Trade Agreements on Access in Latin America" and was on the Round-table on access to medication in the context of trade agreements. His presentation focused on the implications of bilateral trade agreements that countries of the region were negotiating with the United States. The main concern was that these bilateral agreements are including "TRIP plus" mechanisms, so new obstacles for access to essential medicines will be in place when agreements begin operating. The presentation emphasized relevant issues such as the following: (a) the CAFTA and Peru-USA agreements convey TRIP plus mechanism, mainly those related with the use of data on safety and efficacy of a medicine; (b) there was no negotiation, but an imposition of an agreement by the USTR; (c) an organization like HAI Latin America would have to be prepared to face new pressures of USTR after the approval of the agreement regarding the changes of national legislation; (d) USTR could demand more than is strictly contained in the agreement.

In addition a poster display and presentation of HAI Latin America publications was on show during the two-day conference.

RESULTS
Increased awareness of the extent of the HAI Latin America network and its work.