



Platform for Health Insurance for the Poor and ICCO  
are organising an international seminar about

## **Health insurance for the poor: what works why? Lessons from Asia**

Date : November 20, 2008, 13.00 – 17.00 pm  
Venue : ICCO, Joseph Haydnlaan 2a, Utrecht  
Chairperson : Mrs. Catherine Hodgkin (MPH), Director KIT Development Policy & Practice

### **Programme**

- 13.00 **Opening and welcome**
- 13.15 **Keynote speech: Health Insurance for the Poor: the Issues at Stake**  
Prof. Dr. Venkat Raman, Faculty of Management Studies University of Delhi
- 13.35 **Lessons from a Review of Community Health Insurance Schemes in India**  
Dr. Deva Devadasan, Director Institute of Public Health Bangalore, India
- 14.00 **Health Equity Funds in Cambodia: an Instrument to Improve Access to Healthcare for the Poorest**  
Dr. Bruno Meessen, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium and POVILL Consortium
- 14.20 **Discussion and Questions**
- 15.00 **Tea/coffee**
- 15.20 **Three Parallel Workshops**
- 16.20 **Feedback from Workshops**
- 16.30 **Reflection on the Day**
- 16.45 **Closure**
- 17.00 **Drinks**

**Registration** Before 10 November 2008 at ICCO, Ms. Linda van Ee:  
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## **Parallel Workshops** (15.20 – 16.20 hrs.)

### **1. Towards a Health Insurance Organization in Bangladesh – Desperately Seeking your Advice ...**

Facilitation: Jurrien Toonen (KIT), Toon Bullens (Interpolis)

Since 5 years the Diabetes Association of Bangladesh DAB, has set up the Health Care development Project HCDP. HCDP aims at sustainable development of general health care of high quality, with inclusion of the poor *through the private sector*. Besides a Robin Hood approach of cross-subsidizing, HCDP seeks for more approaches to ensure access of the poor, a.o. by launching an autonomous institute for health insurance, with support of Interpolis and KIT. Through this workshop, KIT and Interpolis hope to take the advantage of the know-how available in HIP to critically analyse with you our working hypotheses. Once the project will be implemented, KIT/ Interpolis will give regularly feed-back to HIP members on *what works why*.

### **2. Operational Research on Health Insurance: Why, How, and for Whom?**

Facilitation: Rob Baltussen, Ernst Spaan, NICHE (Nijmegen International Centre for Health Systems Research and Education), Arthur the Have (ECORYS)

Can health insurance be better organized through public or private schemes; how to best identify the poor for premium exemptions; and what is the effect of insurance on health care utilization and poverty reduction? These are just some examples of questions that your institute, involved in the funding or implementation of health insurance in low- and middle income countries, may be dealing with. Operational research can be a means to answer these questions. This workshop elaborates on the '*why, how and for whom*' of such operational research. It first provides an overview of the kind of questions that operational research can answer in this respect, and then identifies pertinent research questions from workshop participants. The workshop may result in a draft joint proposal to be submitted at the end of the year to the NWO / WOTRO Platform for Global Health Policy and Systems Research.

### **3. Social Assistance in the Health Sector: Challenges and Opportunities**

Facilitation: Dr. Bruno Meessen, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium and POVILL Consortium

The financing of many health systems relies on a contribution by the users (out-of-pocket payment, health insurance premium). This sets challenges for all the households with limited ability to pay. Cambodia has developed an original strategy to deal with this problem. The Health Equity Fund is an institutional arrangement that ear-marks public or donor funds for compensating health care providers for the services they delivery to the poor. Participants to the workshop will share their experience with programmes targeting the poor; discuss the possible role for the civil society in social assistance programs; and identify challenges that such strategies raise for international NGOs.