



Plenary 1 Summary

On June 12, 2007, co-chairs of the Pacific Health Summit Steering Committee welcomed 250 of the world's top leaders from science, policy, public health, medicine and industry to Seattle to discuss how to connect science and policy for a healthier world. The Summit theme was "Pandemics: Working Together for an Effective and Equitable Response."

Keynote speaker Andrew Von Eschenbach opened the discussion by outlining three specific areas on which to focus collective efforts: forging a global, integrated effort against disease; harnessing the transformational power of modern science and technology; and benefiting from lessons learned from past experiences. He challenged participants to become more proactive in developing opportunities that would mitigate against the catastrophic outcomes of a threat like pandemic influenza.

In the panel discussion that followed, David Heymann described the numerous networks currently in place for combating the spread of infectious disease—networks that provide models for further global collaboration. For example, a WHO framework for international collaboration that grew out of unique partnerships formed during the SARS epidemic can support future surveillance and

response activities. Additionally, the immunization network already in place to eradicate polio could be leveraged for a pre-pandemic influenza vaccination campaign. According to Heymann, the largest stumbling block is making the goods and services that are available in industrialized countries available everywhere.

Joe Hogan focused on the need to develop infrastructure that supports rapid diagnostics capabilities and policies that facilitate strong public-private partnerships. In addition to developing and delivering an effective vaccine, the global community must also consider equipment and other needs. If industry experienced shortages during the SARS outbreak, then from a capacity standpoint, more planning, mobility of assets, and coordination are necessary for future pandemic preparedness.

Zhu Chen described the need for a global health paradigm shift from late-stage medicine to an early health model. Such a shift requires communication and collaboration between new partners, and Chen emphasized the need for more interaction between animal and human health sectors.

Responding to calls for technology transfers for developing countries, Jean Stéphenne cautioned that such efforts take time. In

seeking to accelerate that process the global community must recognize that reductions in time should not come at the expense of vaccine safety and efficacy. ☞

If we continue to do new things with the same approaches we have always used in the past, we are likely to fail. Because just as changes in science and technology are providing us with new opportunities, we must also change how we go about utilizing those tools in a collaborative, cooperative way.

- Andrew Von Eschenbach

Welcome Addresses from Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Michael P. Birt
*Director, Center for Health and Aging
The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Lee Hartwell
*President and Director
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center*

Tadataka Yamada
*President, Global Health Program
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

Moderator:
Maria Cattau
*Former Secretary General
International Chamber of Commerce*

Panelists and Keynote Speakers:
Zhu Chen
*Minister
Ministry of Health, China*

Andrew Von Eschenbach
*Commissioner
U.S. Food & Drug Administration*

David Heymann
*Assistant Director-General for
Communicable Diseases
World Health Organization*

Joseph Hogan
*President and CEO
GE Healthcare*

Jean Stéphenne
*President and General Manager
GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals*

For further information, please visit: www.pacifichealthsummit.org. Summit photos by Mark Weeks.