

GAPA COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ No. 4: MAY 2011

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Dear members of the GAPA Council of ISPAH,

Welcome to the GAPA Council and to the fourth Communiqué

The GAPA Council Executive sends its membership an e-communicé after each Executive Committee Teleconference to keep you informed and invite your assistance with the actions of the GAPA Council. This communiqué outlines a few developments from the last 4 months.

1 - Update on the Toronto Charter for Physical Activity: A Global Call for Action

Since the launch of the charter in May 2010 the focus continues to be on translation and dissemination. The following progress has been made:

- * Almost 500 individuals and 135 organisation from 40 countries have signed up their support for the Charter. To register your individual or organisation support visit the GAPA website at <http://www.globalpa.org.uk/charter/>;
- * the charter is now available in Arabic, English, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese – Brazil, Portuguese - Portugal, Spanish, Spanish – Castilian, Catalan, Thai and Turkish at www.globalpa.org.uk. Soon we will have Bengali, Chinese, Croatian, Hindi, Korean, Polish, Slovak and in total 23 languages available. Many thanks go to the volunteers who have generously coordinated the translation process. If you are interested in translating the charter please contact Karen Milton at K.Milton@lboro.ac.uk;
- * the charter continues to be disseminated through a wide range of physical activity regional networks, international and national NGOs and other key contacts and presented at key events and meetings;
- * GAPA published a document *Non Communicable Disease Prevention: Investments that Work for Physical Activity* outlining 7 best investments to increase population levels of physical activity and support the implementation of the principles and framework for action of the Toronto Charter. If applied at sufficient scale, these will make a significant contribution to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases and contribute to improving the quality of life and the environments in which we live. GAPA is now focusing efforts on translating and disseminating the new document.



What can you do with the Toronto Charter?

- * Continue to register your personal support as we are keen to increase the support across all regions. Please visit www.globalpa.org.uk;
- * Send a copy of the **Toronto Charter for Physical Activity** to your colleagues and encourage them to do circulate;
- * Advocate for and register your employer/organisation to support the Charter;
- * Arrange to meet with a key decision maker to discuss how their program and policies can align or adopt the principles and recommended actions of The **Toronto Charter for Physical Activity**;
- * Mobilise networks and partnerships across all sectors to support and implement The Toronto Charter.

Also, tell us what you did. We are keeping a log of implementation activities. Please send emails of actions or questions to info@globalpa.org.uk.

2 - Developing a global physical activity information service - Global-PA-net

GAPA is almost ready to establish a regular physical activity information service via an e-news and website. **Global-PA-net** plans to share physical activity evidence, best practice and knowledge across a global network of physical activity practitioners, scientists, policy makers and advocates. Under the leadership of Trevor Shilton (Director Cardiovascular Health Programs, National Heart Foundation of Australia (WA), and Adrian Bauman (Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology, University of Sydney, Australia) and with support from the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), the West Australian Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway), the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and the World Heart Federation (WHF). **GAPA plans to launch Global-PA-net in the fall of 2011. Watch out for the first issue soon!**

3 - Supporting and building advocacy for physical activity

GAPA will soon define how to support training opportunities in advocacy for physical activity, a core function of the council, within existing capacity building activities and as dedicated 'advocacy' courses. The intent is to develop and disseminate advocacy training tools (e.g. webinars) for both virtual and face to face training.

4 - Linking physical activity regional networks

GAPA continues to advocate for and support the work of regional networks for physical activity at the global level and particularly to explore ways to partner in projects that support the dissemination and implementation of the Toronto Charter and Global-PA-net.

5 - Linking physical activity with the global focus on NCD Prevention and Health in All Policies

GAPA has an important role in advocating to reinforce the critical link between physical activity and two vital global issues that have emerged from key meetings in 2010:

* **Health in All Policies (HiAP).** The current priority afforded by the WHO and other global bodies to inter-sectoral action and Health in All Policies (HiAP) remains an important opportunity for physical activity. The Toronto Charter clearly articulates how transport, planning, education, sport, recreation, urbanisation & sustainability are vital in advancing global physical activity.

* **Non-communicable Disease prevention.** The United Nations (UN) and World Health Organization (WHO) focus on Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control in the lead-up to the upcoming UN high-level summit in September 2011 provides another important advocacy avenue for GAPA. GAPA aims to ensure physical activity promotion is a priority for action and contributes to the NGO voice in build up activities. Key actions include:

→ A place at the table during the November 2010 Informal Dialogue with the NGO sector on the way forward to the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Non-communicable Diseases. The IUHPE and GAPA successfully advocated for addressing “Physical Inactivity” as a major risk factor with Physical Activity promotion in its broader sense integrated in the final meeting communiqué

→ GAPA and physical activity representation and dissemination of the two GAPA flagship documents at key meetings:

- ◆ **A high level workshop on Global Partnering to Promote Physical Activity in the Larger Context of Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Health Promotion: Miami 2** (Miami, USA – January 30th – February 1st 2011)
- ◆ **WHO/UNDESA UN Summit Regional Consultations** in the Americas (Mexico City, Mexico – February 23rd – 25th 2011) and Africa (Brazzaville, Congo – April 4th – 6th 2011)
- ◆ **Healthy Latin America Coalition** (Buenos Aires, Argentina – March 3rd – 4th 2011)
- ◆ **First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-Communicable Disease Control** (Moscow, Russia – April 28th – 29th 2011)

→ Successful integration of physical activity promotion as a key strategy for addressing NCDs in various resulting declarations:

- ◆ **Moscow Declaration on NCDs:** commitment to action, way forward (available at http://www.who.int/entity/nmh/events/moscow_ncds_2011/conference_documents/moscow_declaration_en.pdf)
- ◆ **Uniting against NCDs: the Time to Act is Now** (available at http://www.afro.who.int/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=6304)

→ GAPA is part of the NCD Alliance Common Interest Group.

→ GAPA continues to develop and strengthen relationships with key international partners and major NCD prevention and control organisations.

→ GAPA continues to ensure representation at key 2011 events, including the upcoming UN Informal Interactive Hearing on Non-communicable Diseases (New York, USA - June 16th 2011).

6 - Linking physical activity and school health: GAPA connects with the International School Health Network (ISHN)

GAPA and ISHN are currently exploring the establishment of international discussion groups to develop chapters around physical activity and whole-of-school programmes related issues. These chapters would become part of an online encyclopedia around school health issues. If you are **interested in contributing** to this initiative and being part of an international discussion groups, please let us know by emailing info@globalpa.org.uk. **GAPA invites suggestions of discussion topics!**

7 - Connecting with GAPA members – Announcing the first GAPA webinar

In order to to inform you of our progress and engage you more in our work, GAPA is hosting a 2 hour ‘virtual meeting’ to discuss and interact on a selected range of topics and engage our membership to advance our work in 2011.

GAPA announces its first webinar planned for August 10th 2011. It will take place through an electronic platform and will **focus on:**

- ◆ **GAPA - Two years of active engagement for physical activity promotion globally:**
 - *Toronto Charter for Physical Activity: A Global Call for Action,*
 - *Non Communicable Disease Prevention: Investments that Work for Physical Activity,*
 - Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Prevention globally, the role of physical activity and GAPA in the build up to the UN high level summit on NCDs (New York – September 2011).
- ◆ **Future actions:**
 - Global-PA-net: an e-communiqué to disseminate physical activity information and evidence of effectiveness of physical activity interventions globally,
 - Building Capacity for NCD prevention and physical activity and health promotion.

Register your participation in GAPA’s first ever webinar at -
<http://www.doodle.com/imrhkz3rxbys8x83#!>

Please continue to send suggestions, funding opportunities or ideas in relation to these or other potential GAPA activities at info@globalpa.org.uk.

Stay tuned for the next GAPA Communiqué!

The GAPA Executive (Fiona Bull - Chair, Trevor Shilton - Deputy Chair, Claire Blanchard - Secretary, Beatriz Champagne, Tracy Kolbe-Alexander, Olga Sarmiento, Karen Milton - technical support, Marie-Claude Lamarre - *ex-officio*).