

RWANDA NEWS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Rowan in Rwanda</i>	1
<i>Books Glorious Books!</i>	1
<i>First EH Conference</i>	1
<i>Africa Links</i>	2
<i>Academic Visit</i>	2
<i>Fellows</i>	2
<i>The Facts</i>	2

Thank you for your continuing support. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the executive.

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Further details about our link with RWAEH are available on the website

www.ciehcymru-wales.org

Please do renew your membership!

ROWAN IN RWANDA

Rowan Hughes is flying out to Rwanda in April. Rowan who is a regular to Kigali will be strengthening links with the Kigali Health Institute (KHI) and meeting colleagues. Thanks to the generous help by all in raising money Rowan will be taking out a laptop, projector and digital camera. Rowan will also be having discussions to see what assistance RWAEH Overseas Group can provide in supporting the first Rwanda Environmental Health Conference which is taking place in May.



BOOKS GLORIOUS BOOKS!

The RWAEH Overseas Working Group has managed to obtain 140 public health books from the Welsh Assembly Government's specialist Public Health Library in Cardiff. These have been sent out to KHI and should arrive during Rowan's visit. In addition the Group have sent out a further 8 boxes of environmental health text books (totalling 143 books) in 2008.

More books are still needed so if you would like to donate any money towards these or any other items needed then please see the 'Wedding List' which can be found at www.ciehcymru-wales.org

FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE IN RWANDA

The first ever Environmental Conference will take place in Rwanda on 27th and 28th May 2009. The theme will be environmental health training and practice for sustainable development; trends and challenges in Rwanda. It is not difficult to start to imagine what those challenges are. Conference topics will range from building standards to community education for behaviour change and the usual suspects of water safety management and climate change and health. We wish the organising committee our best wishes for a very successful conference!

If you wish to attend or present a paper please contact Zachary Bigirimana zbigirimanaa@yahoo.com (+250 572172) as soon as possible or contact the Chair, Treasurer or Secretary of RWAEH.

WALES FOR AFRICA HEALTH LINKS GROUP CONFERENCE 2008



Last year the first Wales for Africa Links Group Conference took place at the Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea. RWAEH was represented and heard First Minister Rhodri Morgan open the event.

The conference facilitated the sharing of experiences, skill and resources both through informal networking and a central 'display' area. Information was displayed about all organisations work with the emphasis on sharing that information / resources with other links. Contributions by Link partners included The Gambia, Nigeria and Somaliland. RWAEH Overseas Group members were on hand to inform others of the work we all had undertaken and much networking was achieved, including getting a contact for reduced overseas postage rates from DHL.



ACADEMIC VISIT

A visit was made to Kigali Health Institute in Rwanda in September 2008 by Paul Belcher and George Karani (UWIC) which helped strengthen links with lecturers and students. As a result of their visit and meetings with staff they agreed to work on some of the following areas: Research on waste development; Research on indoor pollution; Development of CPPD; Development of staff and student exchanges.

COMMONWEALTH FELLOWS

EHP Peter Minhinnett on behalf of CIEH was successful with 4 Commonwealth Fellowship applications. The Fellows visited the UK from Uganda, Zambia, Sierra Leone and Kenya for 3 months from September 2008. It is hoped that this opportunity may be available to Rwandan EHPs in the future if the country becomes part of the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your continued support over the past year where we have raised funds from the virtual Christmas card fund, raffles, etc. Can we also add section on renewals from previous newsletters.

RWANDA.... THE FACTS

Healthcare and disease: Large parts of the health infrastructure that were destroyed or damaged during the genocide have been rebuilt with foreign donor support and an emphasis on primary health care. Churches operate more than one-third of health centres and district hospitals. Access to health care is among the highest in the region.

Average life expectancy (m/f): 44/47 **Average number of children per mother:** 6

Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births: 1,300

Infant deaths per 1,000 births: 160 **HIV/Aids rate:** 3.1%

Doctors per 1,000 head of population: 0.05 **Adult literacy rate:** 64.9% (m 71.4%/f 59.8%)

Economic outlook: Rwanda's GDP has more than doubled since 1994 with an influx of foreign aid and government policies to attract investment. But the economy is still dependent on agriculture.

Main industries: Agriculture, metal ores, beverages, tobacco, food products

Key crops/livestock: Plantain, sweet potatoes, cassava, beans, sorghum, coffee, tea, live-stock

Key exports: Coffee, tea, metal ores

GDP: £1,274m **GDP per head:** £135

Proportion of global carbon emissions: 0.01%

Traditional dish: Umutsima (cassava and corn)

Foreign tourist visitor per year: 113,185

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please send with your payment and provide the following details:

To: Rowan Hughes, Treasurer, RWAEH Overseas Branch,
8 Usk Way, Cwm Talwg, Barry, South Glamorgan CF62 7XL

From:

Address:

Please find enclosed herewith:

Membership renewal for year 2009– 10 £10.00

Donation to General Funds

Donation for Wedding List (please specify item)

TOTAL £

You are advised not to send cash through the post. Please make cheques payable to 'The Rwanda Fund' Fund' or via BACS Transfer to 'The Rwanda Fund' sort code 72-00-04; account number 76693489.