APPLICATION FROM AN INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION REQUESTING OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO

1. Name of the international nongovernmental organization (hereinafter referred to as "the organization")

Network of Community-Oriented Educational Institutions for Health Sciences.

Réseau des Etablissements de Formation en Sciences de la Santé orientés vers les besoins de la communauté.

2. Address of headquarters and name of person to whom correspondence should be addressed

Mrs Ine Kuppen
Coordinating Secretary
Network of Community-Oriented Educational Institutions for Health Sciences
P.O. Box 616
6200 MD MAASTRICHT
The Netherlands

3. General objectives

The objectives are:

- strengthening of membership institutions in their realization of community-oriented learning and appropriate instructional methods;

- strengthening of faculty capacities related to community-oriented learning;

- development of technologies, approaches, methodologies and tools appropriate to a community-oriented educational system, such as problem-based learning;

- promoting and coordinating the population-based concepts in the health services system and the educational programme;

- assisting institutions in countries that have the intention to introduce innovations in the training of health personnel, with the ultimate goal to improve health care and to contribute to the achievement of Health for All.

1 Submitted by the applicant on 28 August 1986.

The designations employed in this document are those which have been used by the nongovernmental organization itself in its application and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
4. Main Activities

The primary goal of the Network is to assist educational institutions for health sciences committed to the principle of training health personnel by focusing on the solution of health problems of the community, particularly of the individuals and families in the community in which the institutions are located. These activities are seen in relation to the achievement of health for all through primary health care.

At present activities are focused in six task-forces:

* Strategy for Community-Oriented Education. Problem-based learning is seen as one of the educational strategies. It will maximize student achievement of relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes. Efficient educational alternatives or other innovative methods also need to be considered and experimented. The main activities of this task-force are presently in Latin America and include seminars, workshops and exchange of faculty.

* Priority Health Problems in Medical Education. A project to develop analytical tools to help institutions to determine the health problems of a given population and translate the findings into curricula has been in operation since April 1986. Fellows from eight institutions (Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, Indonesia, Nigeria, Thailand) have been working together at McMaster University, Canada, on this project and to prepare plans for application in their home institutions.

* Clinical Training in Health Care Settings. The main goal is to develop strategy guidelines for the planning, implementation and evaluation of clinical training in health care settings within the context of community-based education.

* Student Evaluation. A symposium is to be held in May 1987, that will lead to development of this task-force.

* Change in Established Schools for Health Sciences. This task force brings together traditional schools with concrete plans for change, for which they wish to obtain the support of Network schools. Part of the programme is a study on the "Innovative Parallel Track" as a strategy for change. This consists of putting the emphasis on community orientation through problem-based learning and community-based education.

* Linking Educational Institutions with Health Services. This task-force is in the initial stage of development. It will aim to establish relationships with the services developing and delivering health care. This link will also promote coordination between the health services developing health care systems based on the primary health care approach, and institutions responsible for health manpower development.

5. How do the objectives and activities of the organization relate to the General Programme of Work of WHO?

The foundation of the network was initiated by WHO, since the educational and health care developments practised by the schools concerned fitted in well with the general objectives of health for all. The development of primary health care in countries will require suitably oriented education programmes to be developed, and the experience of the Network in this regard could be of considerable benefit. This was emphasized in the meeting on Universities and Health for All 2000, 9-12 June 1986 (organized by Cuba with WHO cosponsorship).

6. Specific interest with reference to the work of WHO

(a) Please list activities which the organization has carried out jointly with WHO during the preceding period of working relations

The present focus of the Network activities is to make the experience and skills of its membership available to other schools of health sciences that are planning and implementing strategies for change towards community-oriented education for health services personnel. One task force, "Change in Established Schools for Health Sciences", started with support from the World Health Organization, directs these activities.
Collaboration with the World Health Organization, in particular with the Programme of Health Manpower Development, has been intensive and in keeping with the Health for All goals to which the Network wholeheartedly subscribes and supports through its activities. Officers from the WHO Programme have actively participated at all meetings of the Executive Committee and General Assemblies of the Network (Cuba 1983; Ismailia 1985). WHO has also given financial support for the work of the Network's task forces.

(b) Please specify those programmes and activities of WHO with which the organization will wish to be associated in future, together with details of any planned collaborative activities with WHO.

The Network will associate its activities as closely as possible with those of the WHO Programme of Health Manpower Development, particularly those relating to: (i) Institution strengthening. These activities aim to strengthen the capacity of educational institutions to supply health manpower oriented to the needs of national health-for-all strategies; (ii) Effective educational programmes and processes. These activities aim to develop approaches and processes for educational programmes for all levels and categories of health personnel by means of improved selection procedures, learner-oriented activities, and assessment procedures, so as to ensure that the health personnel are suitably oriented to national health-for-all strategies.

7. (a) Does the organization advocate any special health measures or procedures? If so, what are these?

The strategy of health for all through primary health care. The members of the organization try to promote a balanced approach to medical care within the context of health care, stressing the primary health care approach.

(b) Has the organization any special reservations as to treatment or health procedures? If so, what are these? No.

8. History

The Network of Community-Oriented Educational Institutions for Health Sciences is an independent international organization founded in 1979 in Jamaica at the invitation of the World Health Organization.

It brings together a group of key people from medical institutions all over the world committed to community-oriented training methods and the use of a problem-solving approach.

The Network provides mutual support for its members, and is also active in supporting others by making its unique experience available as described in this application.

9. Membership

Full membership of the Network can be acquired by educational institutions for health sciences which are implementing community-oriented education and who are willing to collaborate with other institutions in the Network in achieving common goals. There are 19 full members of the Network.

Faculty of Medicine
Suez Canal University
Ismailia
Egypt
Dean: EZZAT, Dr Esmat

Faculty of Health Sciences
McMaster University
1200 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8N3Z5
Canada
Acting Dean: FLIGHT, Dr George H.
Faculty of Health Sciences
Ben Gurion University of the Negev
P.O. Box 653, Beersheva
84105 Israel
Dean: GLICK, Dr S.

College of Health Sciences
Ministry of Health
P.O. Box 12
Manama
Bahrain
Dean: AL-HAMER, Dr Faisal Y.

Faculty of Medicine
The University of Newcastle
Newcastle N.S.W. 2308
Australia
Dean: HAMILTON, Dr John

Primary Care Curriculum
School of Medicine
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131
U.S.A.
Director: KAUFMAN, Dr Arthur

College of Medicine and Medical Sciences
Arabian Gulf University
Manama
Bahrain
Acting Dean: KHALIDI, Dr Usama Al

Faculty of Health Sciences
Univ. Autonoma Metropolitana Xochimilco
Calz. des Hueso no. 1100, Quietud, Del Coyoacan, Mexico
Mexico
Director: LOZA HIDALGO, Dr Tomas

New York Medical School
The City University of New York
Convent Av 138th St.
New York, N.Y. 10031
U.S.A.
Dean: LYTHGOTTE, Professor D.

School of Medical Sciences
University of Science and Technology
University Post Office, Kumasi
Ghana
Dean: MARTEY, Dr J. O.

School of Medicine
University of Gezira
P.O.B. 20 Wad Medani
Sudan
Dean: MUSTAFA, Dr Awad Elsid

Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Ilorin
PMB 1515 Ilorin
Nigeria
Dean: OLATUNDE, Dr Ayoola
Ministry of Public Health  
Higher Institute of Medical Sciences  
Ermita 248, esq. a San Pedro, Havana  
Cuba  
Representative: ORDONEZ, Dr Cosme

School of Medicine  
Gadjah Mada University – Sekip  
Sekip Yogyakarta  
Indonesia  
Dean: RADJIMAN, Dr

School of Medicine  
University of the Philippines–  
547 Pedro Gil St  
Manila  
Philippines  
Dean: ROMUALDEZ Jr., Dr Alberto

School of Medical Sciences  
University Sains Malaysia  
Penang  
Malaysia  
Dean: ROSLANI, Dr Mohammed

Faculty of Medicine  
Khon Kaen University  
Friendship Highway  
Khon Kaen 40002  
Thailand  
Dean: SANPITAK, Pisit

Faculty of Medicine  
Rijksuniversiteit Limburg  
P.O.B. 616  
6200 MD Maastricht  
Netherlands  
Dean: STURMANS, Dr F.

Institute of Medicine  
Tribhuvan University  
P.O. Box 1524, Kathmandu  
Nepal  
Dean: UPADYAY, Professor Madan Prasad

Associate membership can be obtained by institutions, organizations and groups of people interested in the objectives of the Network and its activities and wishing to play an active part in furthering the Network goals. There are associate members in the following countries:

Bangladesh  
Brazil  
Canada  
Colombia  
Egypt  
El Salvador  
Germany, Federal Republic of  
Greece  
Guyana  
India

Indonesia  
Iraq  
Israel  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Jordan  
Mozambique  
Nicaragua  
Nigeria  
Pakistan
10. Is the organization affiliated to any other international nongovernmental organization, or to an organization of the United Nations system?

World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)
International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)

11. Address of branch/regional offices

The organization has a secretariat in Maastricht, The Netherlands, but no regional offices. Regional activities are partly carried out through the membership of the Executive Committee.

12. Structure

The organization is directed by an Executive Committee, consisting of Chairman, Past Chairman, Secretary General and two members. It meets at least once a year.

The Network members meet formally in a General Meeting at least biennially, to determine policies for the period to come and generally to direct and to control all activities (March 30–April 1, 1981, Italy; July 1–2, 1983, Cuba; September 7–8, 1985, Egypt).

13. Officers

Executive Committee consists of:

Chairman: Dr Vic R. Neufeld, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, 1200 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ont. L8N 3Z5, Canada.

Immediate Past Chairman: Dr Zohair Nooman, Vice-Dean Faculty of Medicine, Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt.

Secretary General: Professor Dr J. M. Greep, Faculty of Medicine, Rijksuniversiteit Limburg, P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Director, Secretariat of the Network: Dr Harmen A. Tiddens, P.O. Box 22, 3769 ZG Soesterberg, The Netherlands.

Professor Gopal Acharya, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, P.O. Box 1524, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Dr Cosme Ordóñez, Director Policlinic Plaza, Ministry of Public Health, Ermita/248, esq. a San Pedro, Havana, Cuba.

Observers:

Dr I. Eliasson, IFMSA Immediate Past President, Kavlingenvagen 3A 22240 Lund, Sweden.

Dr T. Fülöp, WHO Geneva.

Dr J.-J. Guilbert, WHO Geneva.

Professor H. Walton, W.F.M.E. President, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place, Edinburgh EH8 9AG, Scotland, U.K.
14. Can officially designated representatives speak authoritatively for the membership on matters concerned with the stated purposes of the organization?

Only when authorized by the Board.

15. Finances

Fees from members.

Support by WHO, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation; the State University of Limburg supports the secretariat; incidental funding by government agencies.

16. Publications and Documentation

"Tutorials in Problem-Based Learning - A new direction in teaching the health professions" by Henk G. Schmidt and Maurice L. de Volder.

"Tutorials in Problem-Based Learning - A new direction in teaching the health professions, Volume 2" by Willem S. de Grave, Jos H. C. Moust and Henk G. Schmidt.

Newsletter.

1 Held by the WHO Secretariat.