

What's New

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Keep up to date with new initiatives and activities in the Ecohealth field. Regular updates are available at the *Eco-Health* website: <http://www.ecohealth.net>.

EXPLORING THE DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The American Museum of Natural History in New York City will host The Milstein Science Symposium: “*Exploring the Dynamic Relationship between Health and the Environment*” on April 2 and 3, 2009. This conference will create opportunities for physicians, veterinarians, ecologists, mental-health professionals, city planners, and many others to form new and interdisciplinary partnerships and to approach scientific problems collaboratively. Speakers will address the environmental burden of disease and the consequences, to both human health and the environment, of decision-making in policy areas such as transportation, energy, agriculture and food production, and health and urban planning. Participants will explore how significant stressors—such as ecosystem loss and modification, climate change, shifting availability of water, human migration patterns and globalization, air pollution, and urbanization—can act together in ways that are difficult to model or predict, and can adversely impact public health and the environment. Additional information can be found at: <http://cbc.amnh.org/health>.

APHA ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The American Public Health Association is announcing a Call for Abstracts for its 137th annual conference, to be held November 7–11, 2009, in Philadelphia, PA. Abstracts

in any area of public health will be considered, with special focus on this year's theme, “Water and Public Health: The 21st Century Challenge.”

The APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition attracts over 13,000 attendees annually, and is the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world. Physicians, nurses, administrators, educators, epidemiologists, and researchers from all over the world will be in attendance. Issues in current and emerging health science, policy, and practice will be addressed, with the general goal of health promotion and disease prevention.

All abstracts should be 250 words or less, and should be submitted online, at <http://apha.confex.com/apha/137am/oasys.epl>. The deadline for submissions ranges from February 9–13, depending on the section or forum in which you wish to submit. More information can be found at the general conference website: <http://www.apha.org/meetings>.

IUSSP INTERNATIONAL POPULATION CONFERENCE

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) is holding its 26th International Population Conference from September 27 through October 2, 2009 in Marrakech, Morocco. The 6-day conference features over 20 demography and environmental health sessions. These include, but are not limited to: Reproductive Health; HIV/AIDS and STDs; Health, Mortality and Longevity; Fertility; Poverty and Development; Population Aging and Intergenerational Relations; Ethnicity, Religion and Culture; Vulnerability and Human Rights; and Environment.

Rooms are still available for side meetings before and after the conference. If interested, requests for side meetings and/or exhibits should be submitted online by March 15,

2009. More information and a complete listing of all sessions for the conference can be found at: <http://iussp2009.princeton.edu>.

9TH WONCA RURAL HEALTH WORLD CONFERENCE

The Clinic of Social and Family Medicine of the University of Crete, in collaboration with the European Rural and Isolated Practitioners Association (EURIPA), is hosting the 9th WONCA Rural Health World Conference. The conference will be held June 12–14, 2009 in Crete, Greece. WONCA, or the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians, is a council of national colleges, academies, and organizations concerned with the academic aspects of general medicine. They are responsible for several conferences yearly. The theme for the 2009 Rural Health World Conference is “Health Inequalities,” and the specific focus will be on the development of inter-professional, interdisciplinary, and inter-sectoral partnerships within the global rural health community. This theme is expected to draw community leaders from around the world who are familiar with existing health assets and pathways for change, with the goal of bolstering rural and island communities and empowering immigrants.

Abstracts are currently being accepted in the following four subject areas: “health inequalities,” “technology suitable for rural settings,” “island medicine,” and “health services for immigrants.” The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 20, 2009. More information on this conference can be found online at the official website: <http://www.ruralwonca2009.org>.

ENVIROENERGY 2009: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The National Institute of Technology in Kurukshetra, India, is hosting an international conference, ENVIROENERGY 2009, focused on energy and global environmental issues. The conference is scheduled for March 19–21, 2009, in Chandigarh, India. Challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, deforestation, and biodiversity conservation will be explored. Keynote speakers will include members of parliament, government officials, and community leaders in India’s energy reform. Full-length

papers are still being accepted in a number of areas, including climate change; environmental pollution and management; environmental ergonomics; remote sensing and environment; and energy policy, planning, and management, among others. For more information, see the conference website: <http://www.enviroenergy2009.org>.

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING WEB RESOURCE LAUNCH

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet has launched a one-stop web resource for individuals and organizations interested in the social and emotional well-being (SEWB) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. By enhancing access to information and knowledge, this online resource seeks to assist in the establishment of long-term strategies and policies that aim to empower indigenous Australians.

The website includes guidelines, resources, policies, strategies, publications and links, as well as funding opportunities and current research. There is also a comprehensive review of the state of SEWB in indigenous Australians. Data include a comparison of common stressors, hospitalizations, drug and alcohol abuse, and intentional self-harm among the indigenous and the total population. Available preventative and treatment services, barriers to improvement, policy implications, and social health programs are also outlined. A printable version of this review is also available at: http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/sewb_review. The full website can be viewed at: <http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/sewb>.

IUCN “RED LIST” REPORTS NEARLY ONE QUARTER OF EARTH’S MAMMALS FACE EXTINCTION

At the World Conservation Congress held in Barcelona, Spain in early October 2008, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released its long-awaited database itemizing the status of all known mammal species. The database is part of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, last updated in 1996. The conservative analysis of the data found that 1141 of the 5487 terrestrial and aquatic mammals known to humankind are threatened, with 188 listed as “critically endangered,” and 29 possibly already extinct. The report identifies habitat loss and hunting as the

biggest culprits of the decline in land mammals, especially large hoofed animals and primates in South and Southeast Asia. Pollution and accidental fishnet trapping are cited as the biggest threats to marine species, primarily those in the North Pacific, North Atlantic, and Southeast Asia. IUCN and Conservation International mammalogist Jan Schipper is encouraged by the fact that well-funded conservation programs have been successful in the recovery of a few species, but this update clearly indicates that more efforts are greatly needed.

For the full database, please visit <http://www.iucnredlist.org/mammals>.

11TH PACIFIC SCIENCE INTER-CONGRESS

The Pacific Science Association will hold its 11th Inter-Congress March 2–6, 2009 in Tahiti, French Polynesia. Scientists from all over the Asia-Pacific region are expected to attend, with the goal of developing productive exchanges and addressing the similar issues faced by both larger countries and the smaller island states throughout the region. The theme of the Inter-Congress is “Pacific Countries and Their Ocean: Facing Local and Global Changes,” and will be broken into the following sub-themes: “Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”; “Climate Change and Ocean Acidification”; “Health Challenges in the Pacific: Infectious Disease, Non-communicable Disease, and Health Workforce”; “Culture and Politics: the Cultural and Political Stakes of Modernity”; and “Economy: Economic Challenges for the Future of the Pacific.” Each of the five themes will be addressed in half-day parallel sessions over the course of the Inter-Congress. Visit the official website at: <http://www.pacificscience.org/congress2009.html> for more details.

RAVAGE OF THE PLANET II—SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL HAZARDS

The Center of Excellence in Postgraduate Research at the Wessex Institute of Technology is organizing the second “Ravage of the Planet” conference in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference, scheduled for December 15–17, 2009, is expected to attract researchers and professionals from all over the world in a wide variety of topics.

Obtaining sustainability is the main objective to be explored, with the goal of finding solutions within a broad network of different disciplines. Thirteen topics are scheduled for discussion including: the re-encounter, health risks, safety, new technologies, energy, air, soil, water resources, ecology, learning from nature, planning and development, training and information, and political and social issues. The conference will provide an opportunity to keep up to date with the latest advances and to collaborate with global experts in the field of environmental sustainability.

To view the conference website, which has full details about the conference objectives, topics, and submission requirements, go to <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/ravage2009cfp.html>.

ECOSUD 2009: SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ECOSUD 2009 is the seventh installment in a well-established series of international conferences on ecosystems and sustainable development. Organized by the Wessex Institute of Technology, in collaboration with *The International Journal of Design and Nature and Ecodynamics*, the conference will take place July 8–10, 2009, in Chianciano Terme, Italy. Participation in this conference will provide the opportunity to collaborate with professionals in various disciplines. In addition, papers presented at Wessex Institute conferences regularly appear in notable academic journals and online databases. Meetings will encourage interdisciplinary collaboration between scientists, engineers, economists, and other professionals, with projects and research ranging from mathematical and ecological models and eco-informatics to biodiversity and socio-economic factors. In all, abstracts are being accepted in over 20 different topic areas, which can be found on the conference website, <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/09-conferences/ecosud-2009.html>.

AIR POLLUTION 2009: SEVENTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MODELLING, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF AIR POLLUTION

The Air Pollution 2009 conference, organized by the Wessex Institute of Technology, will be held in Talinn,

Estonia, July 20–22, 2009. It will be the 17th annual meeting in a series on modeling, monitoring, and management of air pollution. The meeting aims to bring together researchers working in industry, academia, and government on the problem of air contamination to share and broaden their knowledge. Several topics within the field will be

explored, from indoor air quality to aerosol policies for cleaner air. Papers are now being accepted for this conference. A full description is available online at: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/09-conferences/air-pollution-2009-2.html>.

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