



## **“Dayton in Africa” Series**

### **African Health Care Issues**

The Dayton Council on World Affairs will present “Dayton In Africa” series in the 2008-09 Adult Program Year. We will concentrate our series on the many positive initiatives that connect Dayton to Africa and the individuals and organizations that are actively conducting assistance programs in Africa. Our series will be a collaboration of DCOWA board members and Wright State University staff and students.

The first presentation in the series is African Health Care Issues.

The Health Care Issues presentation will concentrate on issues that have greatest impact on African health. The overall current state of African health and its worsening course over the past several decades was felt to be an important introduction, emphasizing some of the systems issues that impede better African health impact on health in Africa rather than on specific diseases. Although some infectious diseases are very prevalent (trachoma, malaria, HIV, hepatitis B, etc.), they do not have the greatest impact upon public health in Africa. The overall current state of African health and its worsening course over the past several decades was felt to be an important introduction, emphasizing some of the systems issues that impede better African health.

Nutritional needs of Africans is of greatest importance, since the population of Africa continues to grow while subsistence farming has not kept pace with food needs.

Public sanitation to reduce the incidence of diarrheal and parasitic disease would help break the life cycle of many parasites that allow outbreaks of bacteria that cause diarrheal illness to be more easily contained.

Health care delivery and the training of health care workers is important because of the relative lack of availability of professionals in Africa, many of whom emigrate to western countries after training.

Violence was felt to be an important health issue, but will be deferred to those planning a conference on African democratization.

The following outline is a draft of the content for the first forum on the “Dayton In Africa” series.

- I. State of African health
  - A. Current health care statistics and trends
  - B. How Africa attained its current health care status
  - C. How to remediate current system problems obstructing improved health
- II. Nutrition
  - A. Starvation and malnutrition impact upon overall health and childhood physical and mental development
  - B. Animal vs. plant sources of nutrition (and genetically modified vs. organic plant foods)
  - C. Microfinancing subsistence farming and local economies
- III. Public sanitation
  - A. Impact upon health status and spread of infectious disease
  - B. Implementation of local sewage treatment
  - C. Potable water management

#### IV. Health care workforce

- A. Western countries' "brain drain" from Africa and other developing countries
- B. Retaining trained professionals
- C. Implementing health care initiatives with non-professional personnel

Potential speakers include Tony Hall who will be asked to speak on the nutritional needs of African, he has a great deal of knowledge of deteriorating Africans' health.

Dr. Rich Wyderski will present health care access and workforce issues.

Dr. Richard Schuster at the Wright State University Division of Global Health Systems Management and Policy will be asked to have a faculty member present public sanitation.

Donna Schlagheck, PhD, the Chair of WSU's Department of Political Science will be the moderator for the event.

The presentation will be on Wright State University's campus.

Dean Howard Part will be asked for participation and support of the WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine for the venue, audiovisual support, help with publicity, etc.

The Carter Center will be asked if President Carter or a high ranking member of that organization is available speak about the work the Carter Center has done in reducing the incidence of guinea worm disease.

#### Other topics for planning for the "Dayton In Africa" series are:

Democratization Trends

A partnership with Dayton Art Institute to have an African arts/culture program

Tanzania-Dayton connection -- cities of "Peace"

President Johnson of Liberia to Dayton

UN Secretary General's Representative to Somalia

World Bank speaker, microeconomics in Africa and women in economic development

Collaboration with other Dayton groups connecting to Africa