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Organization

II International Meeting

Strengthening Mental Health Systems in Low and Middle Income Countries: Same challenges, new perspectives

Rimini, April 21-24 2009

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- Broader picture of this three year project
- How the meeting works
- What has changed from the first edition

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- the burden of mental disorders is high and the treatment gap significant
- resources are scarce, used inefficiently and poorly distributed
- many countries are still hindered by the lack of a policy or legislative framework to guide planning efforts
- there is a lack of mental health training in primary care and on human rights

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International Meeting
Strengthening Mental Health
Systems in Low and Middle
Income Countries
2008-2010



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General Objective

To support and assist
low and middle income countries in planning
and implementing specific activities
based on the needs assessed by the WHO-AIMS
to strengthen their mental health systems

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We are going to do that:

- By discussing the project proposals developed by the participant countries
- By promoting exchange of best practices among the participant countries
- By facilitating collaborations and partnerships among all actors of international cooperation
- By promoting and advocating mental health through and within the international cooperation

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Structure of the project

- Every year we have 12 different countries participating
- Every participant country develops a project proposal
- Each proposal goes through several revisions
- All actors of the international cooperation are invited

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I International Meeting 2008

- **Albania**
- **Azerbaijan**
- **Bangladesh**
- **Benin**
- **Burundi**
- **China**
- **Egypt**
- **Ghana**
- **Jamaica**
- **Moldova**
- **Mongolia**
- **Thailand**
- **Tunisia**
- **Uganda**
- **West Bank and Gaza**

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Country Presentations

- The country context
- The weaknesses and strengths of their mental health system
- The rationale of the choice of the project proposal submitted
- A very short description of the project proposal



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We know and we experience daily that there are many difficulties:

- Governments are not interested in financing and supporting mental health projects
- Raising funds, both private and public, for international mental health projects is very difficult

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- Partnerships among the different stakeholders
- Exchange of experiences and collaborations
- Work in planning and organizing services in a way to optimise the available resources (formal *and* informal) for mental health...

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**...all these are going to be critical
and imperative
to achieve our objectives**

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THANK YOU

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