

## Recent Movement on the development of competencies for health educators and health promoters: Galway Consensus Conference and MCHES in U.S.

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Significant efforts have recently been made to train health education and health promotion professions in the world, especially in North America, Europe, and Australia. But in the past years, there were no discussions or share about training programs, accreditation process and responsibilities and competencies of these professions in the world. The North American Region (NARO) of International Union for Health Education and Promotion (IUHPE) advocated to exchange the development process and international collaboration to identify domains of core competency in health education in 2004 at Melbourne, Australia and 2007 at Vancouver, Canada. In 2008, the key persons and stakeholders from North America and European countries conducted the first meeting at Galway, Ireland, to promote the global exchange and understanding concerning core competencies and accreditation in the professional preparation of health promotion and health education professionals. In the Galway Consensus Conference, the participants considered the issues and optimal mechanisms for developing individual and institutional-based credentialing across countries and continents. The development and implementation of credentialing systems for health educators were also addressed from different countries. The eight domains of core competencies on health education and promotion are shown on Table1.

There were no Asian participants at Galway Consensus Conference except the author. As a consensus process, this topic should be discussed in Asian countries, and the leaders among Asian countries should be included in future discussions of this topic in the world. Currently a global

consultation process that focused on the positive development, adding communications and knowledge domains, emphasis of reducing inequity, and relationship to other frameworks in health education and public health, has been implemented.

Table 1

### Eight Domains of Competencies on Health

#### Education and Promotion

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Catalyzing change | 5. Implementation |
| 2. Leadership        | 6. Evaluation     |
| 3. Assessment        | 7. Advocacy       |
| 4. Planning          | 8. Partnerships   |

*Source: The Galway Consensus Conference Statement: Toward Domains of Core Competency for Building Global Capacity in Health promotion. June 18th, 2008 (5)*

Another new movement in US is that the policy statement of advanced-level of certification for Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) was passed in 2009. The National Commission for health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) has provided competencies for both basic (CHES) and advanced (MCHES) levels of health education specialists.

The discussion on the eight domains of core competencies and introduction of the MCHES, a role model of this profession in the world, will be focused on the roundtable.

\* Participants in this roundtable can be health educators, health promoters, and other health professionals who implement health education programs or teach health education. However, all meeting attendees who are interested in this topic are welcome to join the discussion.

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