

1. COURSE BACKGROUND:

This is a 10 days programme, which is designed to develop and enhance a broad range of health knowledge among NAM Member Countries. The curriculum of the programme has been constructed based on the theme of 'Gender & Health'.

Gender refers to the characteristics of women and men that are socially and culturally determined. Gender combines powerfully with other health determinants, such as poverty, age, ethnicity and other markers of social exclusion, to produce the particular patterns of inequity, or unfair differences. The case for taking gender inequity seriously in health policy, planning and delivery encompasses rights based, effectiveness and sustainability arguments.ⁱ

Gender shapes vulnerability to illness and ability to protect and maintain health. Gender affects access to health services and the quality of care received. For example, shockingly high rates of maternal mortality remain in part due to the barriers many poor women face in accessing relevant services. In many contexts, this is exacerbated by limited availability of quality services to meet women's needs. Gender also affects burdens of ill health, as women and girls frequently carry out the caring role at household and community levels.ⁱ

There is an urgent need for action within beyond the health sector. Gender and health interactions are part of a broader context of institutionalised gender inequity in social and economic relationships, which goes beyond the provision of health services. The Millennium Development Goals recognise that access to education and decision-making at all levels, and to financial resources strongly affects the health status of women.ⁱ

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the course is to provide an arena for members of governmental and non-governmental agencies to develop theoretical and practical knowledge on gender and health. The specific objectives of the course are:

- To introduce participants to the issue of gender and health;
- To highlight health as an issue that hinders the achievement of a fully peaceful and illness-free society;
- To build participants' knowledge on the dynamics of gender-health;
- To deepen participants' knowledge and capacity in order to deal more effectively with the issue of health in their countries and agencies;
- To share best practices on policy mechanisms and intervention programmes on health issues.

At the end of the course, participants are expected to gain the following:

- An ability to discern and engage in discourses on gender and health;
- A deeper understanding of the forms and nature of gender and health from a cross-cultural and culturally specific perspectives;

- An ability to further appreciate and utilise research and advocacy tools at national and international levels pertaining to health issues; and
- A capacity to initiate, monitor and evaluate best practices on policy mechanisms and intervention programmes on gender and health.

3. TARGET PARTICIPANTS:

- i. Officials from government agencies involved in health issues;
- ii. Members from non-government organisations focusing on gender and health;
- iii. Medical practioners (e.g. doctors and nurses)
- iv. Community Leaders (related to gender and health)
- v. University Students (involves in gender and health issues)

4. COUNTRY PAPER

Participants are required to prepare a country paper on gender and health in their country to be presented for 15-20minutes at the end of the programme. The programme will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the organizer will arrange for accommodation for participants in connection with the course facilities use. Information on the venues of the programme will be distributed to the successful candidates in advance before the start of the programme.

5. Language Requirements

The programme will be organised and conducted in English. As such, proficiency in the English Language is required.

6. Deadline

Please submit your application form before **9 October 2009** by e-mail to feedback@niew.gov.my or fax to **+603-2961 0344**. Alternatively, candidates can also **apply online at www.niew.gov.my**. Online applications are encouraged to expedite the selection process.

ⁱ Picked from www.ields.org