



Information Center



Royal Academy of Science
International Trust

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For Immediate Release

RASIT Launches the World Women's Health and Development Forum

London, June 16 2014 - The Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) is pleased to announce the launching of the World Women's Health and Development Forum aiming to advance the health, wealth and empowerment of women in all of their diverse communities.

The first annual Forum will be held from 19 – 21 November 2014, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, 1211 Genève, Switzerland.

As the world and its economies become increasingly globalised, it is necessary to think about health in a global context. Whilst there are talks about sustainable development for women's health, little is mentioned about women's health for sustainable development. Other than reproductive medicine, the subject of women's health has not been presented or discussed in many countries around the world. As a result there is a remarkable lack of knowledge within academia as well as at healthcare, public and policy-maker levels on sex- and gender-disparities in the prevalence, progression and outcome of numerous diseases and conditions, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. This lack of knowledge not only affects women but also men and the whole of society.

The Forum will take place at a critical time in the United Nations post-2015 process. As the international community strives to achieve the Millennium Development Goals while formulating the post-2015 development agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2015 is recognised to be a once-in-a-generation opportunity for transformational change with the potential to shape the future of our peoples and our planet for the better. Yet, beyond global policy makers and advocacy groups, most citizens are not fully aware of the contours and importance of this new sustainable development agenda.

The purpose of the World Women's Health and Development Forum is to harness strategies, expertise and resources across the broadest spectrum of policymakers and civil society to move the health of women and girls into mainstream discourse, and spark sustained public demand for lasting political action in support of an ambitious outcome from the post-2015 sustainable development process. A Forum Declaration, designed to frame an ambitious "Global Action Agenda for Women's Health," shall be produced.

The Forum Planning Committee is making every effort to ensure that perspectives from north/south; gender; youth; senior persons; indigenous peoples; persons with disabilities; global geographic areas; expert constituencies; and international networks (including the sustainable development, post-2015 development & women constituencies) are included. The planning process itself will be as inclusive and representational as possible, to produce a credible Forum Programme, and set the stage for an outcome declaration that equitably reflects the aspirations and ambitions of all global citizens.



This three-day High Level Forum is an opportunity for UN Member States, UN system entities, scientists, healthcare professionals, members of NGOs, the media and the private sector, and other interested stakeholders to discuss sustainable ways and means to develop and promote the health of women and girls worldwide.

The Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) assigned UN Innovation and Development (UNID) to administer and manage the World Women's Health and Development Forum. The UNID shall act is responsible for inspiring business and public confidence in the Forum through an exemplary standard of governance.

The Forum's activities are managed by the UNID Executive Leadership led by the CEO Turkey Ufuk Eren. The leadership and staff of the Forum comprise exceptional individuals from all walks of life and different nationalities.

For more information, please contact us at: whf@rasit.org.