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Looking to China

In May, the Coalition's Executive Committee met in China to discuss key institutional and global issues: the adoption of a new monitoring and evaluation framework, the election of new board members, and the future of sexual and reproductive health in a post-2015 climate. It was the first time an Executive meeting, not linked to the Coalition's general membership meeting, was held outside of Europe or North America.

Why China? In May, the China Contraceptive Supplies Administration (CCSA) ended its two-year term on the Executive Committee; the meeting in Beijing afforded an opportunity to explore options for forging a lasting engagement between China and the Coalition. Also, with more than 10 Chinese member organizations, the Coalition looks to engaging key stakeholders in a discourse in order to understand better how China can benefit the global RH supplies landscape.

NHFPC Vice Minister welcomes Coalition

Dr. Wang Guoqiang, Vice Minister of China's National Health and Family Planning Commission, addressed the group in a special meeting. "This meeting is a great

opportunity for China to get ideas and support,” he said. He spoke of the vast support the Chinese government had recently afforded West African countries at the height of the Ebola crisis, as well as the provision of emergency support -- 1,000 nurses, doctors and health workers -- to Nepal in the wake of the devastating April earthquake. Dr. Wang enlisted the support of the Coalition to help get Chinese medical products into the global market calling Chinese pharma’s struggle to make a dent on the global RH supplies market a “great pity”.

Prequalification is overriding concern at roundtable

Some 30 experts from Chinese government, pharma and civil society attended a special roundtable meeting hosted by the Coalition. The discussion focused on the role of China as a development partner; the challenges in bringing promising technologies to the global stage; the potential for Chinese investment in Africa; and meeting young people’s reproductive health needs. An unmistakable refrain emerged: the preoccupation with WHO prequalification. Many participants shared a sense of frustration at what they saw as the arduous process of acquiring WHO prequalification status for Chinese RH supplies and called for the Coalition to help demystify the process and thus support Chinese manufacturers. The full report, with recommendations for follow-up, will be released shortly. The Coalition intends to draw substantially from this discourse to inform strategic next steps on its work with China.



Mr. Xu Ming, China Chamber of Commerce, speaks at roundtable



Executive Committee suits-up at Zizhu

Behind the scenes - visiting Chinese manufacturers

Members of the Executive Board also had the opportunity to visit the production facilities of three member organizations in China. Visitors observed production lines at Dahua Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. in Shanghai, which produces Sino-implant and Sino-implant (II), long-acting reversible contraceptive implants and Shanghai Dahua Medical Apparatus, Co. Ltd which produces female condoms. Zizhu Pharmaceuticals in Beijing, the largest research and production base for family planning medicines in China, also opened its

doors. Zizhu manufactures ethinylestradiol, which was recently prequalified by the WHO under its API (active pharmaceutical ingredient) prequalification procedure. This is the first API prequalified in the therapeutic area of reproductive health, making Zizhu a ready model for Chinese production.

Three new Innovation Fund grants awarded

- To [Management Sciences for Health](#) to advance prospects for universal health coverage (UHC) by (1) analyzing how health systems strategies have affected access to RH supplies; (2) identifying which UHC strategies have had the greatest impact on expanding access to RH services; and (3) generating evidence-based recommendations for low- and middle-income countries.
- To [Financing for Development](#) to facilitate impact investments that yield social, financial, and business development returns for both investors and manufacturers. This project will be split into three parts: analysis of the market and investor scoping; manufacturer scoping and brokering investment pairings; and monitoring, evaluation, advocacy, and extrapolation.
- To [Family Care International Inc.](#) to use national Essential Medicines Lists as opportunities for broadening access to new and underused RH technologies (NURHTS). Under this study, FCI will review the contents of current country-level EMLs, (2) Identify gaps where NURHTS are absent and (3) create a compendium of information, searchable by country, commodity and next scheduled EML revision.

Call for Oslo presentations

In anticipation of the Coalition's 16th General Membership meeting in Oslo 08-09 October, the Coalition is pleased to call for presentations (individual or panel). All necessary information can be found [here](#) and the deadline for submissions is Friday, 03 July.

Secretariat seeks members to join Nomination Committee for Chair

This month, Coalition Chair Marleen Temmerman [announced her intention](#) not to renew her term as Chair, when it expires later this year at the Oslo Membership Meeting. Citing the need to address current challenges in the lead-up to the post-2015 development agenda, Marleen called for a Chair who could rely on the strategic support of a global organization and steer the Coalition purposefully through the coming years.

The search for a new Chair has already begun. As part of that process, the Head of Nominations on the Executive Committee, Jagdish Upadhyay, has called on the

Secretariat to assist him in assembling an ad hoc Committee, which will help ensure Coalition-wide input into the nomination process. Under the Coalition's new Terms of Reference, approved in Mexico City, the Committee should include one additional Executive Committee Member and up to three RHSC Members-at-large.

Any Coalition members wishing to be considered for inclusion on the Nomination Committee are invited to forward their names and a statement of interest by the end of June to the following address: CHAIR@rhsupplies.org. In the meantime, members are also encouraged to continue forwarding nominations for the post of Chair itself, also to the same address.

LAC Forum welcomes fourth Director and new Executive Board

Members of the Coalition's LAC Forum have demonstrated their commitment and support by ratifying a 10-member governing board to guide the regional forum in the years to come. Led by new President Nora Quesada, the Executive Board includes representatives of public and nongovernmental sectors. Committee members, whose terms will officially start on 1 July, include the following:

Rodolfo Gómez Ponce de León,
PAHO/OPS

Federico Tobar, UNFPA/LACRO

Rufino Luna, Mexico Health Secretariat

Daniel Asplicueta, Peru Health Ministry

Jennifer Slotnick, USAID

Chris Bross, IPAS

Vicente Diaz, IPPF

Carlos Gutierrez, PRISMA

Ricardo Vernon, INSAD

Four members join the Coalition, bringing the membership to 333

- [Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council](#) is part of the country's Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and is mandated to coordinate the provision of family planning services in Zimbabwe, including the procurement and distribution of contraceptives.
- [Dimagi Inc.](#) is a socially conscious US-based technical support agency that helps organizations deliver quality health care to urban and rural communities around the world.
- The [Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development \(HEPS– Uganda\)](#) is an NGO that advocates for health rights and responsibilities, and that works to give voice to the poor and vulnerable.
- [Kessel medintim GmbH](#) is a small family-owned business and manufacturer of medical devices, contraception and sexual healthcare products, based in Germany.

Coalition member organization Rutgers WPF has had a name change and is now known as just [Rutgers](#).

In the calendar

13-16 July	Conference on Financing for Development , Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4-9 October	21st FIGO World Congress , Vancouver, Canada
5-9 October	RHSC 16th General Membership Meeting, Oslo, Norway
18-21 October	Global Maternal Health Conference , Mexico City, Mexico
9-12 November	4th International Family Planning Conference, Bali, Indonesia



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