



HEALTHY FUTURES Benefits from Valuable Input from Stakeholders

Press Release: 21 March 2014

HEALTHY FUTURES (Health, Environmental Change and Adaptive Capacity) is an FP7-funded research project that aims to assist in mitigating the risk of outbreaks and transmission of three water-related vector-borne diseases (VBDs) in eastern Africa: malaria, schistosomiasis and Rift Valley fever (RVF). A stakeholder engagement workshop and a series of project meetings recently took place at the International Livestock Research Institute's facilities in Nairobi, Kenya.

Following the series of meetings, Professor David Taylor (National University of Singapore and the scientific coordinator of HEALTHY FUTURES) said: "Overall those involved in the scientific part of the project have made good progress. We are beginning to see some very interesting results, particularly in the areas of disease modelling and vulnerability and risk mapping. Project members have also made great progress in developing ways of collating and storing information collected and generated through HEALTHY FUTURES, which will enable future access by other researchers and interested parties. We are now entering a critical phase of the project concerning the translation of the scientific endeavour and outputs into something meaningful on the ground in eastern Africa. This is likely to be the source of our major challenges during the remaining few months of the project. Fortunately members of the HEALTHY FUTURES consortium have the dedication, expertise and resilience, and the support of a dedicated and experienced group of stakeholders, to make me confident that we can overcome these challenges together."

Representatives from government ministries and research institutes in the eastern Africa region were invited to attend a stakeholder engagement workshop from 24-25 February 2014 to discuss the development and possible final form of decision support tools (DSTs) based on findings from **HEALTHY FUTURES** that ultimately could assist health planners in formulating, assessing and comparing strategies for managing human responses to risks posed by the target VBDs as a result of environment (including climate) change. The feedback provided by participants at the workshop is being used to refine and further develop the DSTs in an effort to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

The fifth **HEALTHY FUTURES** partner meeting was held from 26-27 February. With less than one year remaining in the project, the **HEALTHY FUTURES** partners and Expert Review Panel (ERP) members spent time discussing and planning the final phase of the project. Discussions included the organisation of the upcoming international conference *Climate Change and Vector Borne Diseases: Past, Present and Futures*, which will be held from 18-20 November 2014 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The fourth and final **HEALTHY FUTURES** ERP meeting was held on 28 February. During the meeting, the ERP assessed the progress made by the project since the last meeting and reviewed the decisions made at the partner meeting, making further recommendations where needed. ERP members who attended the meeting included Madeleine Thompson (International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia Earth Institute), John Malone (School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University) and Brian Otiende (East African Community Climate Change Coordinator).

Prof Taylor expressed his gratitude to all who had participated in the meetings, in particular to the stakeholders who had attended the engagement workshop and the external experts who had provided their insightful and supportive views on progress and future direction of the project.

For more information about HEALTHY FUTURES, visit the project website: www.healthyfutures.eu

Notes for Editors

Detailed partner profiles are available on request.

Trinity College Dublin is the coordinator of this project, with AquaTT as the project administrator partner. Prof David Taylor, formerly of Trinity College Dublin and now based at the National University of Singapore, is the Scientific Coordinator of this project. The **HEALTHY FUTURES** project has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 266327.

Trinity College Dublin (TCD), founded in 1592, is the oldest University in Ireland. TCD now has more than 15,700 students, 3,700 staff and 86,000 alumni, while in 2007-2008 its staff secured more than €70 million in research income. TCD is widely recognised for the high quality of its graduates, the international standing of its research and scholarship, and the value it places on contributing to Irish society and the wider world. In the most recent (2009) THES survey of universities internationally, TCD was ranked in the top 50 (43rd) and in the top 15 (13th) universities in the world and in Europe, respectively.

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National University of Singapore (NUS) is a leading global university centred in Asia. NUS is currently (2012) ranked in the top 25 universities globally according to the QS ranking of top universities in the world. NUS comprises 16 faculties and schools across three campus locations in Singapore – Kent Ridge, Bukit Timah and Outram. The university provides a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 37,000 students from 100 countries further enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

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AquaTT is an international non-profit organisation that aims to bridge the knowledge gap between the dynamic R&D environments and the progressive commercial sector. AquaTT supports its target

audiences through the provision of support services and through participation in, and coordination of EU projects and initiatives in the area of knowledge management, including customised dissemination, education, training and knowledge transfer.

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