

Health Impact Assessment – a pathway to a healthier & sustainable future

Public Talk

11am–12pm, Wednesday, 2 March 2016

Venue: UNU-IIGH Building, UKM Medical Centre, Jalan Yaacob Latiff, Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur

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Abstract

Interactions between environment and health are central to many of the major health challenges facing the world today. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) provides a framework to evaluate these interactions and provide critical information for decisions regarding development and policy-making. This talk will focus on the following issues:

- An introduction to the WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Impact Assessment
- An overview of the climate change and health vulnerability guidelines
- Interactions between urban planning and health – a case study of systems approaches in HIA
- The power of HIA in incorporating community concerns regarding sustainable development
- Capacity building for HIA in the region

Dr Helen Brown directs the WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) and is teaching lead for the Occupation and Environment group in the School of Public Health, Curtin University, Australia.

Helen has been working at the WHO Centre for over ten years, providing advice and undertaking research on environmental health issues in conjunction with WHO and countries in ASEAN, and the Western Pacific Region more generally. She is particularly interested in the role of HIA and multi-disciplinary research to develop strategies that address health impacts of global challenges such as climate change, urbanisation and sustainable development. She co-authored a comprehensive guide for health impact assessment of climate change that has been used for projects in Vanuatu, Nauru and the Solomon Islands and for UNFCCC training across three continents. Helen's current research focuses on the interactions between health and environment in urban areas and has used a combination of HIA and systems approaches to support planning for a climate-resilient future in Perth. She teaches students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in a range of occupational and environmental health topics.



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