
***TropIKA.net* Initiative:** strategic knowledge management for infectious diseases of poverty

Edith Certain

*UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme
for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)*

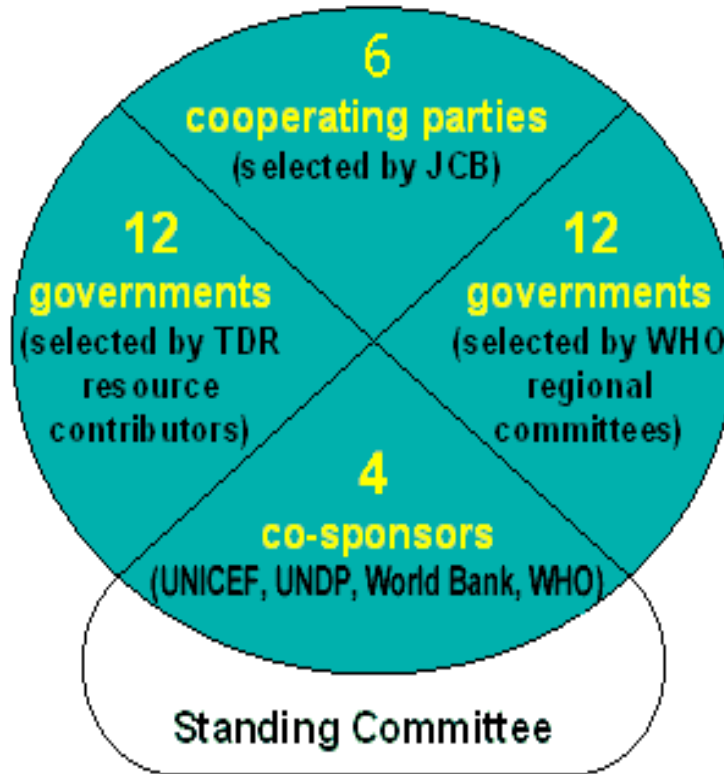
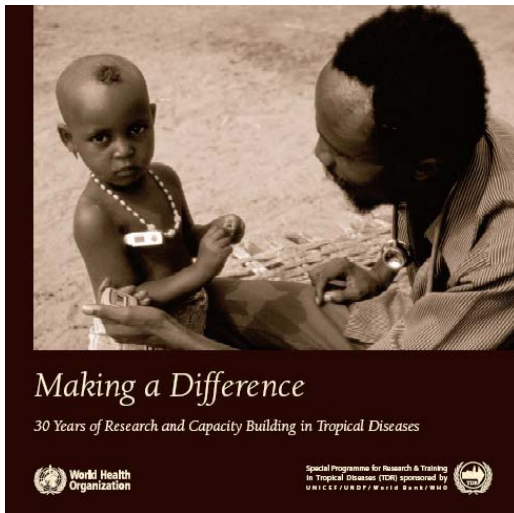


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WHO-based, inter-agency and inter-governmental



www.who.int



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TDR Vision

To foster:
an effective global research effort
on infectious diseases of poverty
in which disease endemic
countries play a pivotal role



<http://who.int/tdr>

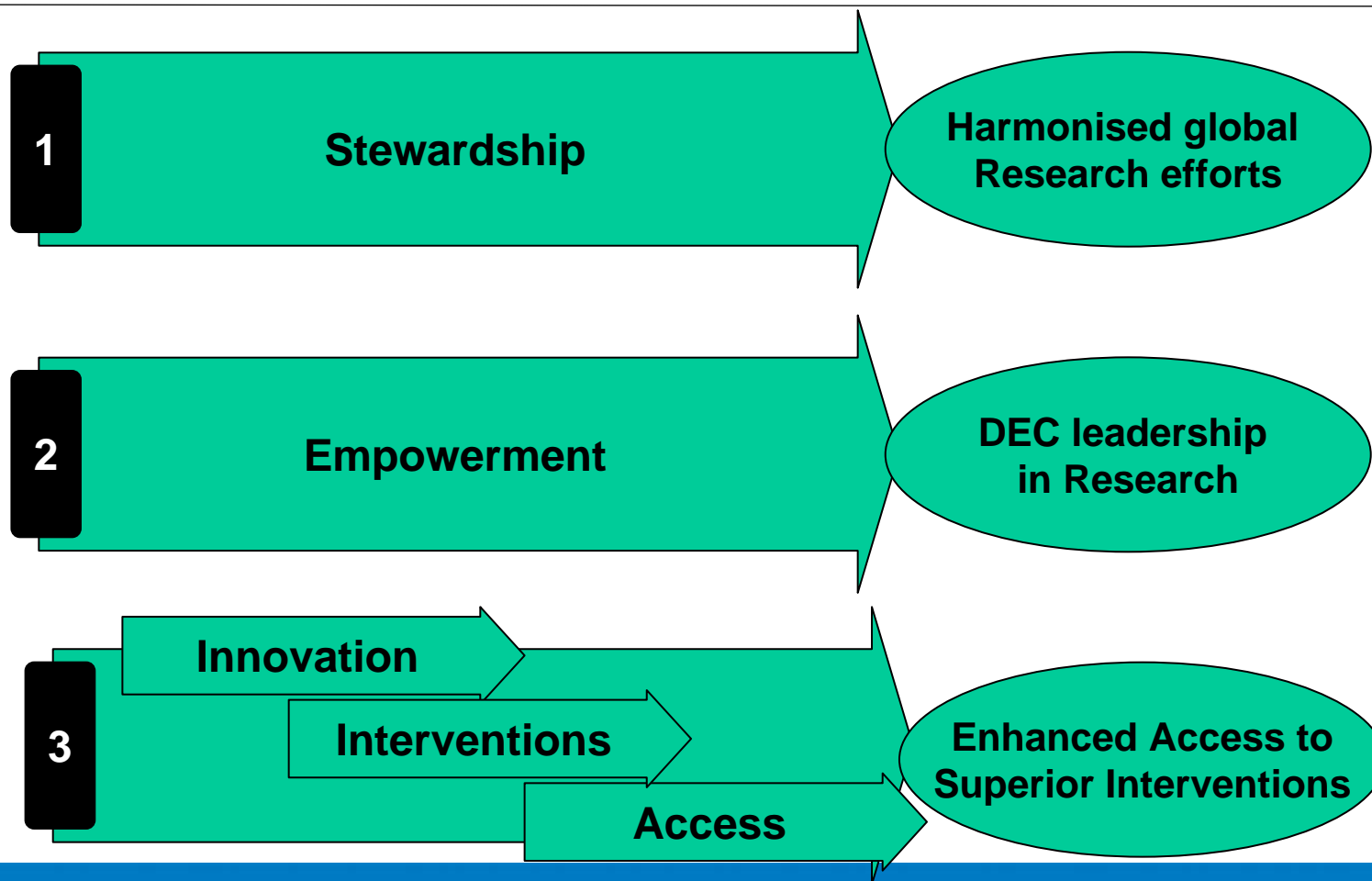


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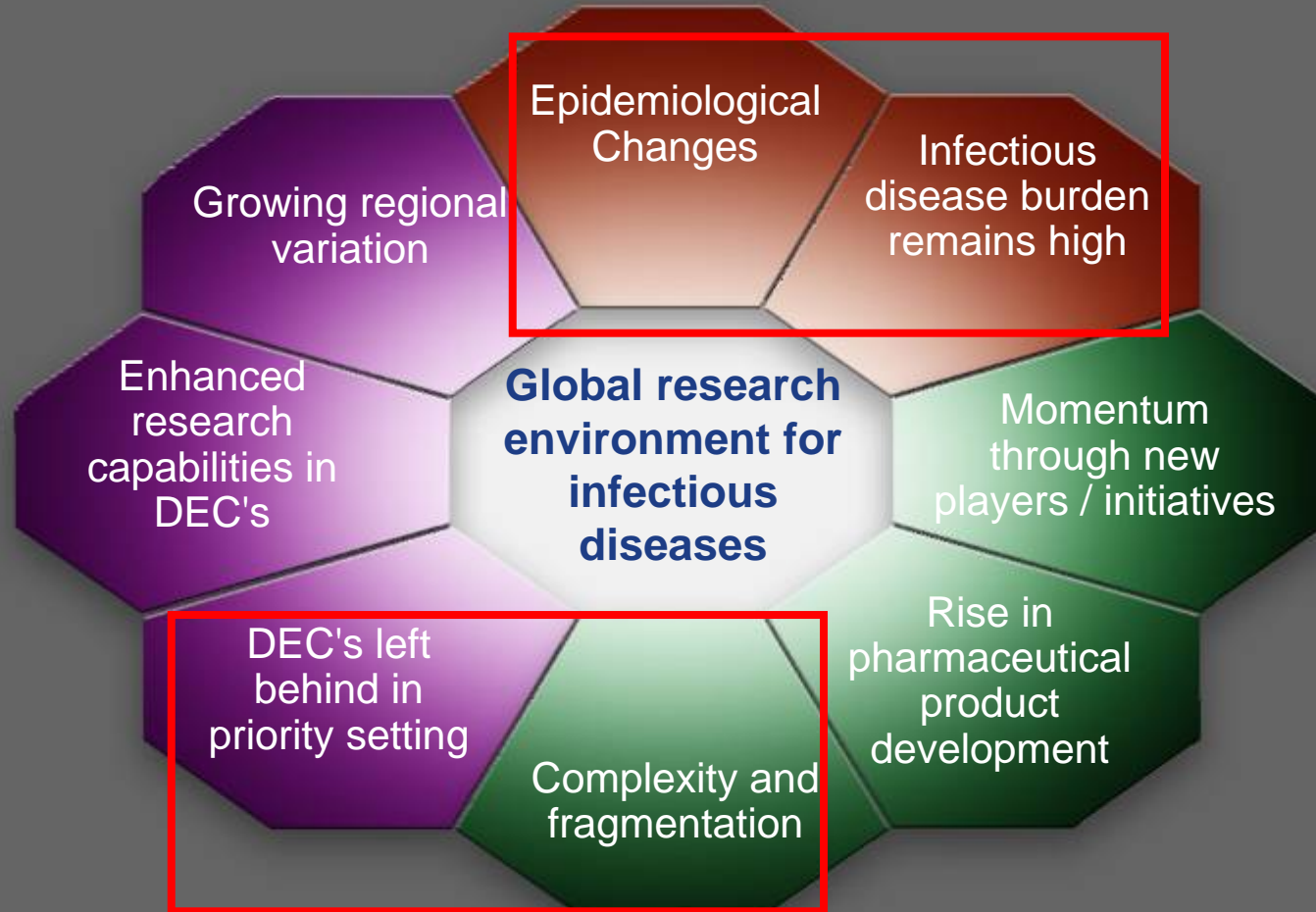
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TDR three main functions



Critical trends in global research environment



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TDR: Stewardship for Research on infectious diseases of poverty

- Role as facilitator and knowledge manager to support stakeholders on:
 - assessment of research and control needs
 - progress analysis, priority setting, and advocacy for research on infectious diseases of poverty, and
 - providing a neutral platform for stakeholders to discuss and harmonize their activities.
- *with participation and pivotal roles for DEC's institutions and decision makers*

www.who.int/tdr/about/strategy/strategy_06_summary.htm

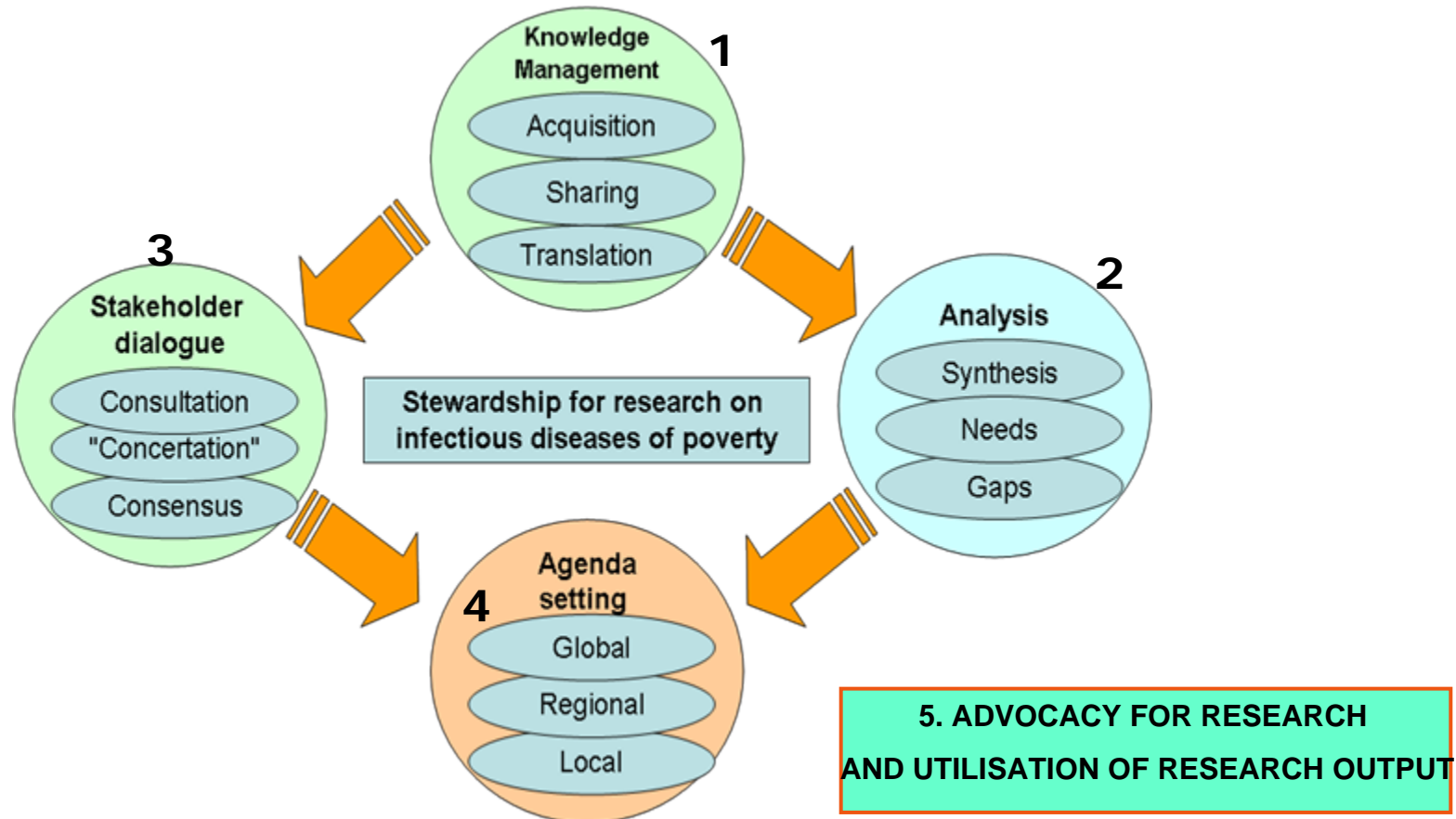


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Core functions and key activities



Stewardship functions and end-products

1. Knowledge management
 - Knowledge management platform (*TropIKA.net*)
2. Analysis, priority needs and gaps
 - 10 Disease and Thematic Reference Groups
 - Annual reports on status of research on Infectious Diseases of Poverty
3. Stakeholders dialogue
 - Convening Regional and Global Stakeholders consultation
4. Agenda setting and advocacy
 - Global Biennial Report on Infectious Diseases of Poverty
 - A high-level Group/ Consortium for advocacy of priorities in research
5. Fostering networks and kick-starting innovative initiatives
 - Initiating expert forums for framing innovative priorities



Knowledge management and sharing

- New knowledge platform designed to foster equitable access to Innovation & Knowledge Applications:
www.TropIKA.net
- Launched at Forum 11, Beijing, 30 October 2007
- Hosted in BIREME, Brazil
- International Advisory Board
- International Editorial Team
- Input and feedback from the scientific community through many interactive features (CoPs, forums, comments)
- Supporting active participation of stakeholders at large health forums through the *Meeting Knowledge Hubs* in partnership with [UNESCO/MoST](#)



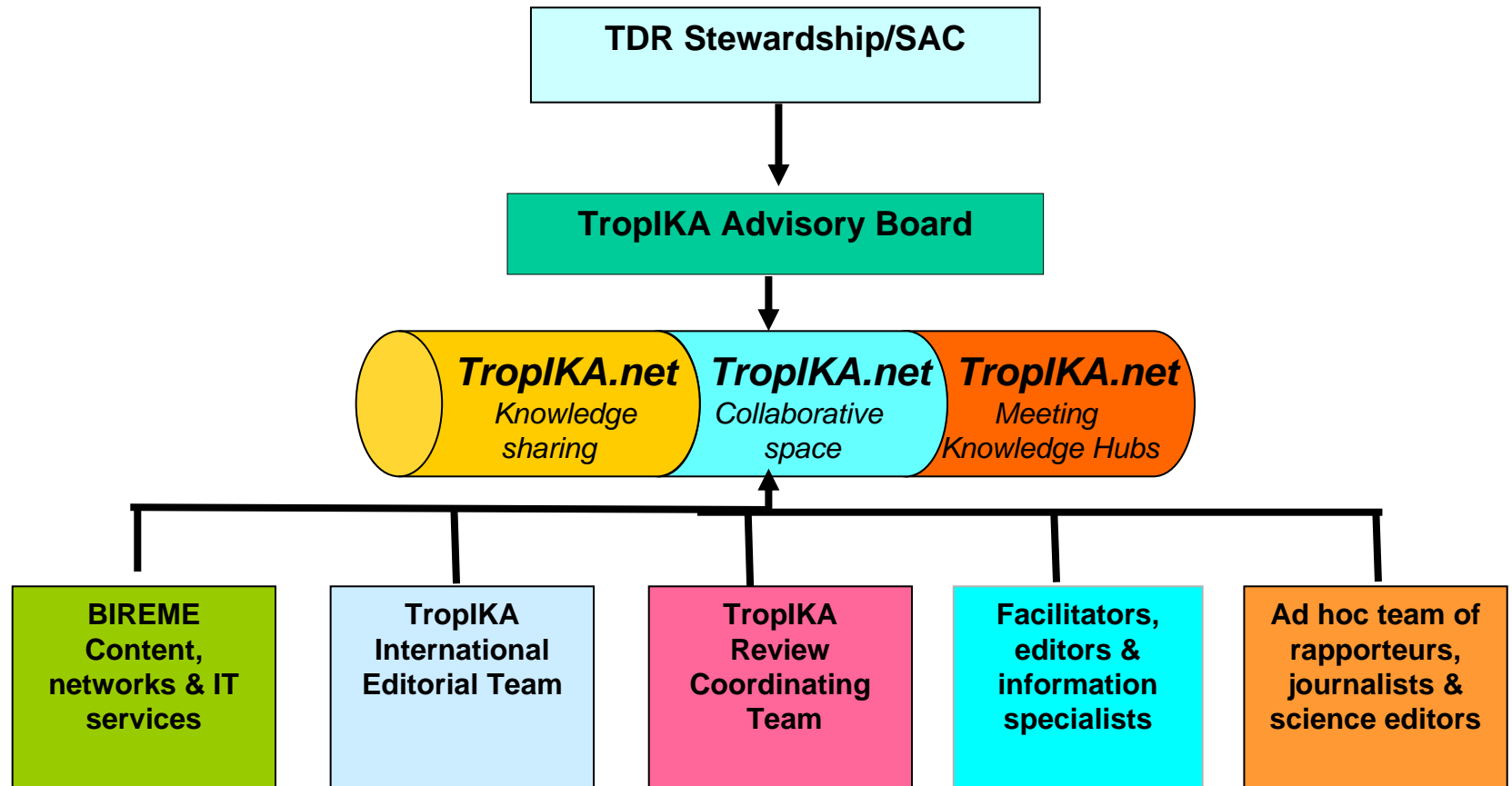
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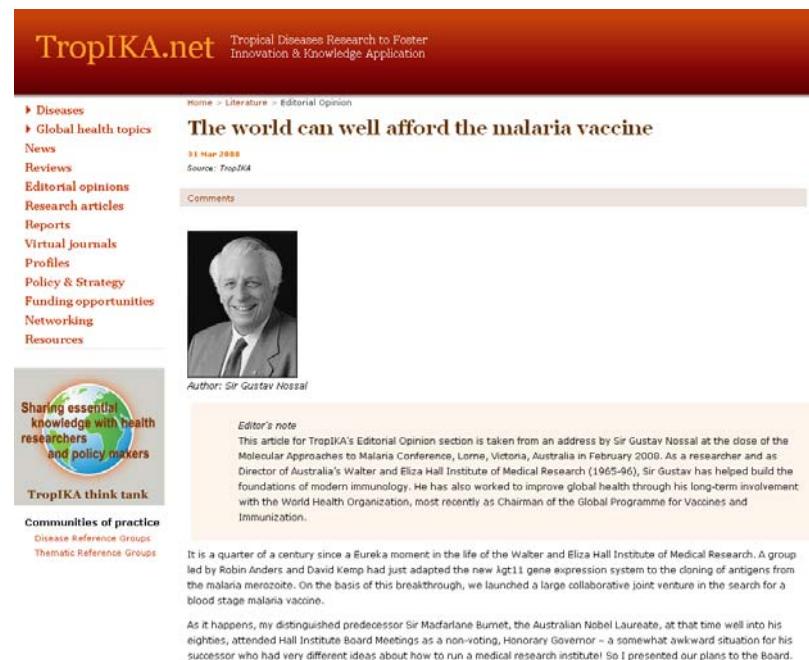
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TropIKA.net Operational Framework



Sharing strategic knowledge with researchers and policy makers

- Acquiring and sharing best scientific evidence resulting from research on infectious diseases of poverty
- Commissioning authoritative reviews and technical briefs to facilitate the translation of research findings into practice and policy
- Inviting and posting original views, perspectives and comments from research leaders and stakeholders
- Improving access to published scientific literature on infectious diseases of poverty through partnering with other information providers
- Advocating for open (or free) access to published information on these diseases



TropIKA.net: selected and value added content

- Research News
- Commissioned review articles on infectious diseases of poverty
- Literature (published research articles, scientific reports)
- Virtual journals
- Funding opportunities
- Stakeholder profiling
- Networks, forums, CoPs
- Conference reporting
- Resources (training packages, factual databases, multimedia)
- Blogs,
- Technical and strategy briefs for decision/policy makers

The screenshot displays the TropIKA.net website. At the top, the header includes the logo and the tagline "Tropical Diseases Research to Foster Innovation & Knowledge Application". A left sidebar lists navigation categories such as Diseases, Global health topics, News, Reviews, Editorial opinions, Research articles, Reports, Virtual journals, Profiles, Policy & Strategy, Funding opportunities, Networking, and Resources. The main content area features a large image of people at a water source. Below this, there are sections for "What's new on TropIKA.net" (dated 27 Aug 2008) featuring a research article on Cerebral Malaria, "Editor's choice" (dated 27 Aug 2008) by Paul Chinnoch, "Meet TropIKA.net experts" (dated 27 July 2008) about the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, "TDRnews latest issue" (May 2008), and a "Feature article" about community-directed interventions. A right sidebar highlights a "Featured Meeting" (2008 Algiers Ministerial Conference) and includes a search bar, login fields, and RSS feeds. The footer shows browser navigation buttons like "Done" and "Internet".



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TropIKA.net target user groups

- Scientists in the field of tropical diseases research.
- Experts from and beyond the ten TDR Disease-Specific and Thematic Reference Groups (DRG / TRGs) that are currently being set up in TDR Stewardship programme
- Policy and technical advisers to Ministries of Health (MoH) in the North and South (target: 400)
- Major health meeting/forum participants
- Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Product Development Partnerships (PDPs)
- International charities and funders.

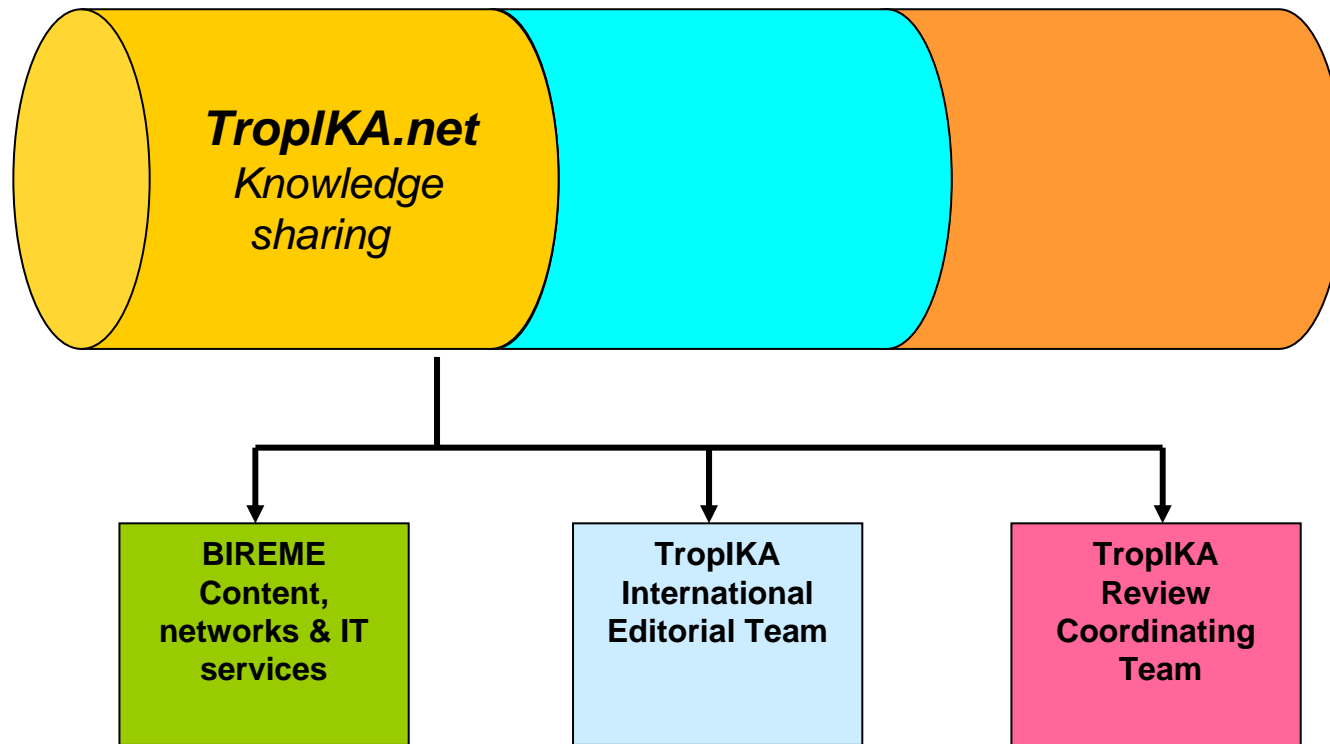


The human factor: fostering a bottom up approach

- TropIKA reviews commissioned globally
- Input from TropIKA journal clubs based in universities in the North and in the South
- Input from country based disease and thematic reference groups working in CoPs
- Interactive features for users' feedback
- *TropIKA* Career Development Fellowships (CDF) and sabbatical opportunities for knowledge management and translation in infectious diseases of poverty



TropIKA.net: Knowledge sharing



Partnering with BIREME/PAHO

- Platform operation, development, maintenance and hosting
- Webmaster functions
- Coordination of team of scientific writers (to provide original content (news, commentaries, reviews, blogs))
- Information services (funding opportunities, websites, networks) and bibliographic services
- Marketing activities
- Access to DEC health literature through the Global Health Library and SciELO network



International Editorial Team

- An editor in chief coordinates a network of freelance journalists, science writers, scientists
- Selection of content backed by scientific and technical expertise
- Commissioning of scientific and technical content : (news, editorial opinion, articles, commentaries)
- Overall editorial responsibility to develop and maintain the editorial line of the site
- Monitoring of the TropIKA content for quality and relevance to the target readership.



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TropIKA Reviews



Hughes Hall

TropIKA Review Coordinating Team

- Five senior scientists:
- Two Editors
- Database of 200 International scientists for commissioned TropIKA reviews
- Output: Comprehensive (15-5-2) reviews



**Hosted at Hughes Hall,
Cambridge University, UK**



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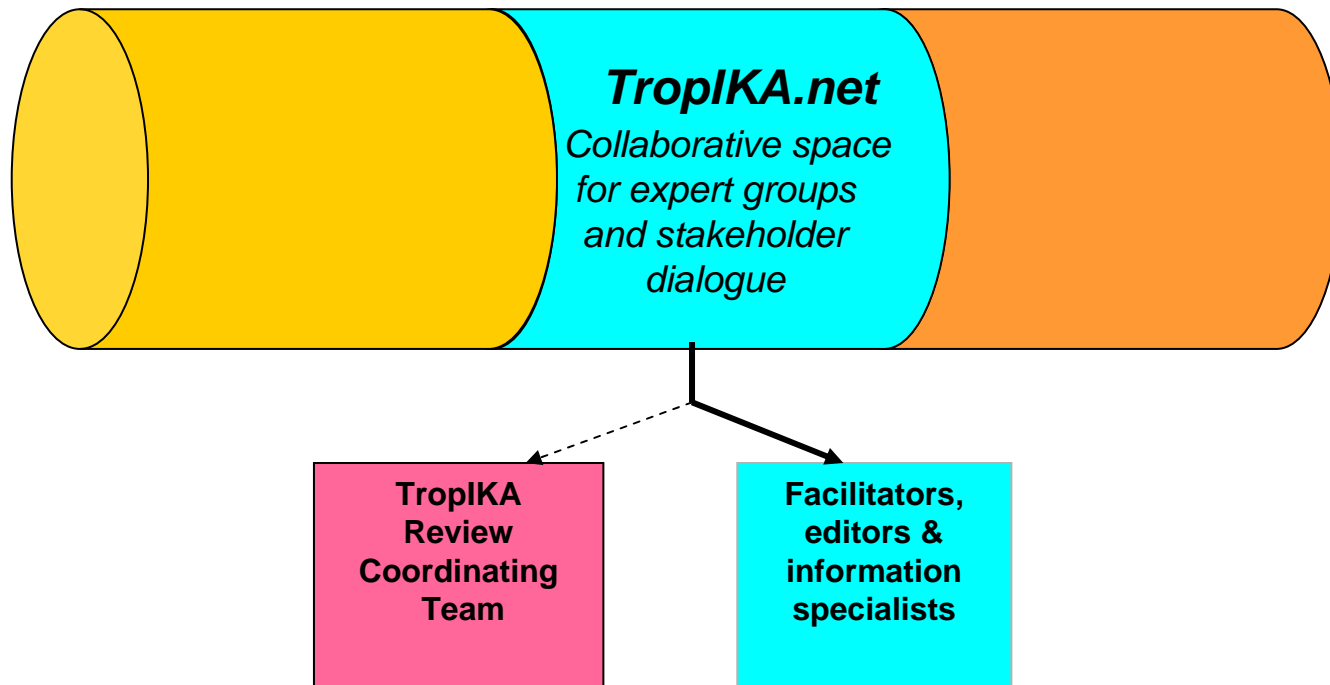
Sharing the best research evidence through authoritative reviews and briefs

TropIKA Reviews will be:

- authoritative source of up-to-date, peer-reviewed, relevant, scientific reviews on issues related to infectious diseases of poverty
- open access resource, freely available to be copied, modified and redistributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Licence
- designed to answer questions relevant to policy makers, their technical advisers, research institutions in disease-endemic countries, researchers and the agencies that fund them.



TropIKA.net: fostering collaboration and dialogue



Analysis, priority needs and gaps

- Diseases and Thematic Reference Groups, focus including **social research and health systems**
- 120 International Experts
- Assessment of research and control needs
- Discussions with Global Fund on operations research
- Discussions with **Malaria R&D Group**

Think Tank



Sharing essential
knowledge with health
researchers
and policy makers

TropIKA think tank

Communities of Practices
(CoPs)

Disease Reference Groups

Thematic Reference Groups

Global Fund OR/IR Group

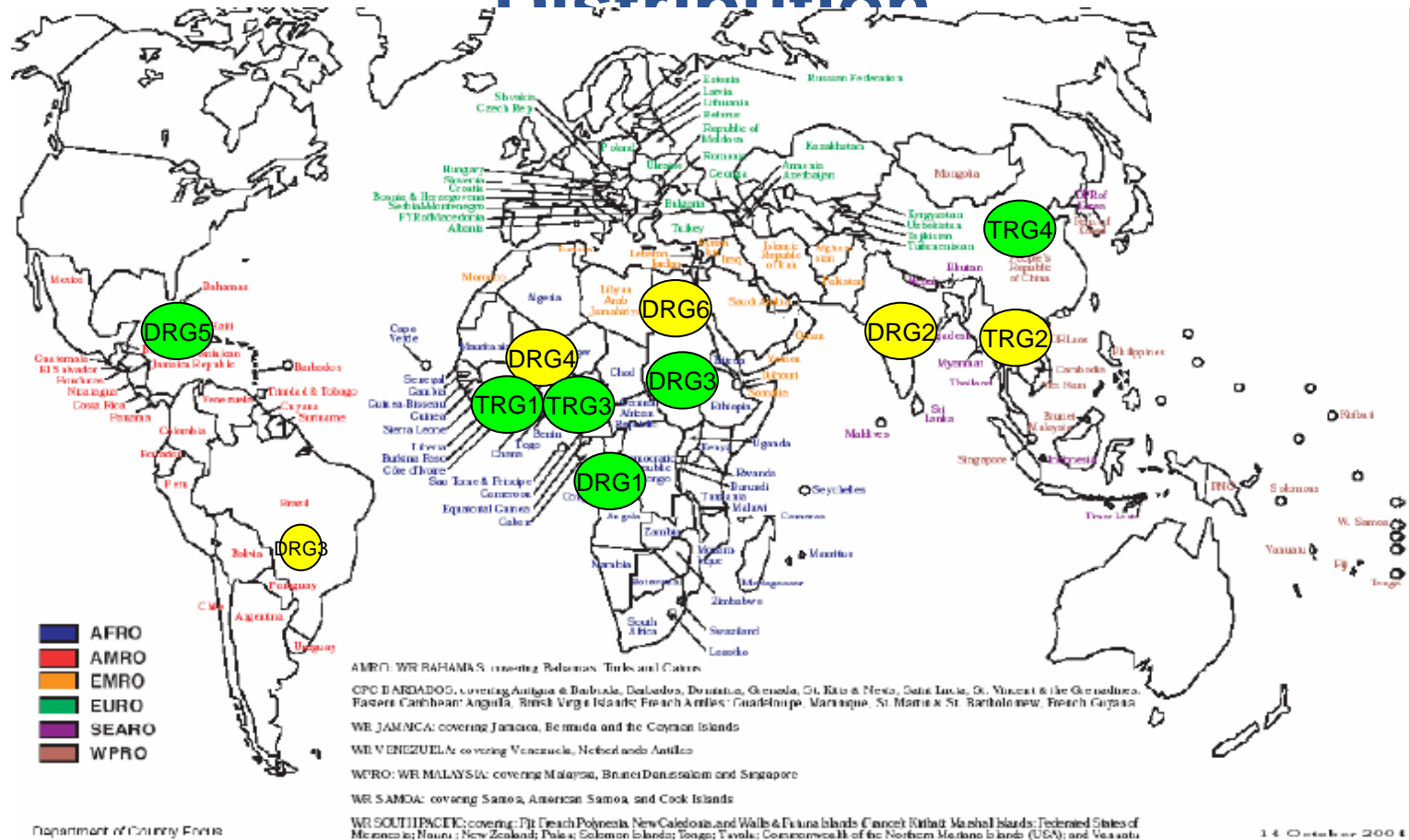


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10 Disease-specific and Thematic Reference Groups (DRG/TRG) - Global Distribution



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TDR Think Tank on TropIKA.net

- TDR Think Tank Initiative
 - analysis of issues
 - dynamic interdisciplinary global dialogue between expert reference groups, the research community, policy makers, funding institutions and civil society.
 - innovative ideas
 - facilitate consensus building on research priorities in infectious diseases of poverty
 - translation of research findings into innovative public health interventions.
- Consists of expert groups (DRGs/TRGs) and external partners working in CoP
- Setting up of secured collaborative workspaces and public "evidence hubs" on TropIKA.net



(Proposed scenario)



Global Biennial Report on Infectious Diseases of Poverty 2010

Global Report on Infectious Diseases Research 2010



*Prepared and disseminated by
TDR*

- Compilation of Reference Groups Reports
- Reviewed and endorsed by stakeholders at National, Regional and Global levels
- Technical Document for Stakeholders consultations and agenda setting

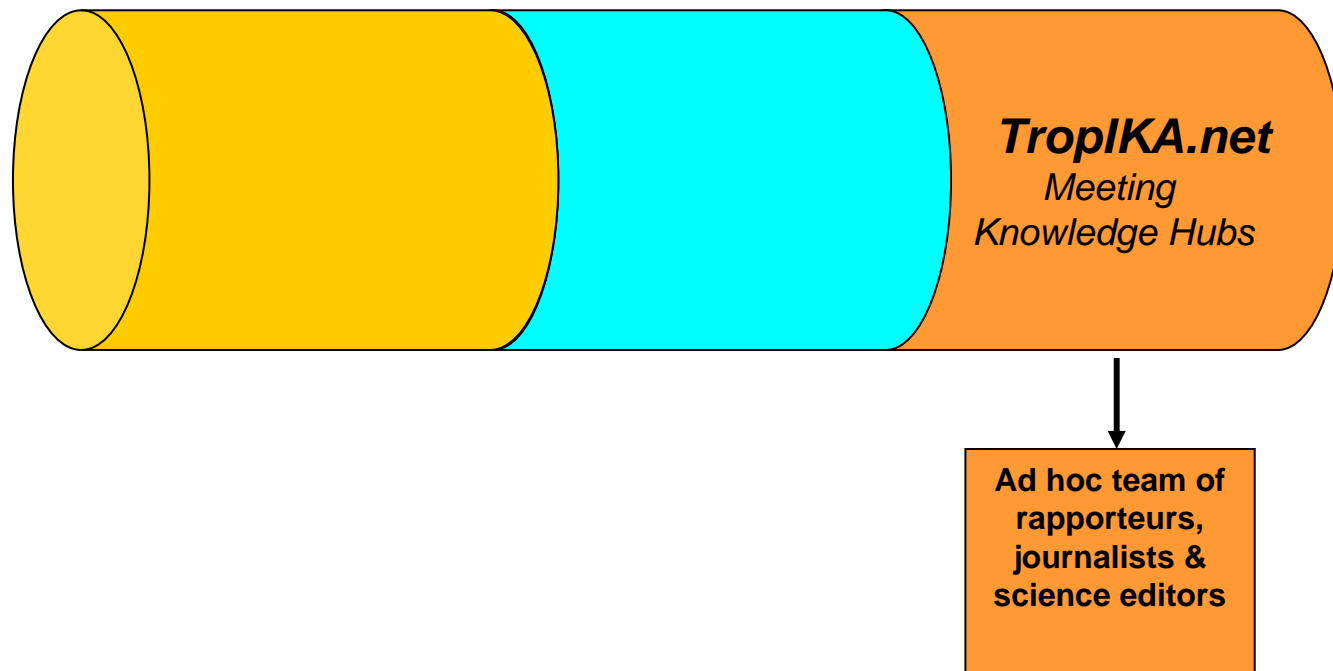


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TropIKA: enhancing effectiveness of large health research meetings



Knowledge Hubs to support Ministerial Meetings and Health Forum

Enhancing Stakeholders Preparation, Participation, Contributions and 'follow up' on Large Health Forums

**A proposal for Knowledge Sharing and Management
for the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health,
Bamako 2008
by**



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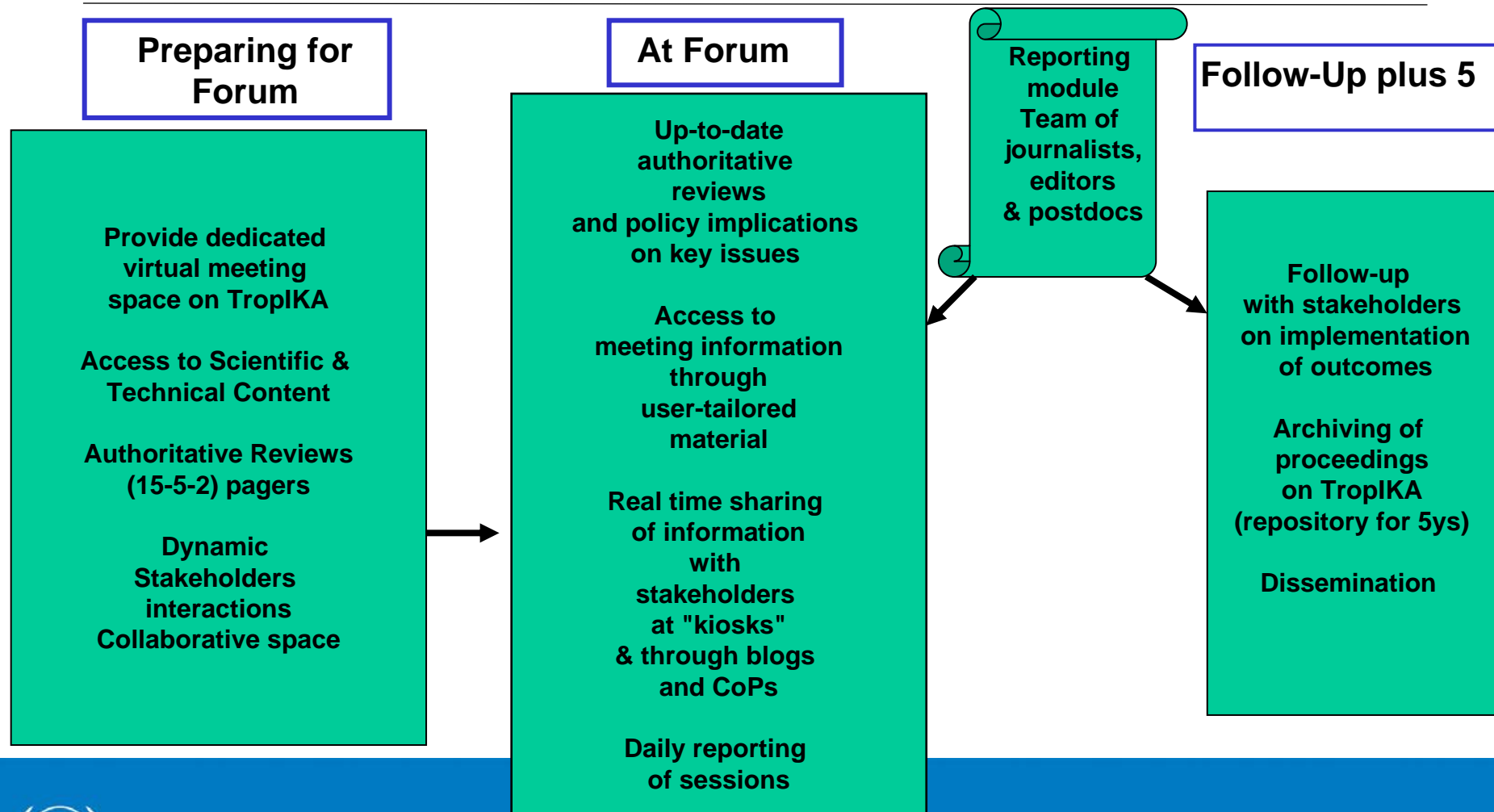


All meeting participants are not equal

- Participants often poorly prepared & lack access to information useful in contributing to discussions on the agenda
- Outcomes are thus driven by few prepared with interest in the agenda
- Resulting in poor follow up and implementation by those who need the commitment but were not involved



TropIKA's 'Knowledge hub' model



TropIKA.net Knowledge Hubs to support Ministerial Meetings and Health Forums



- Piloting of the concept at meeting of the Global Forum for Health Research (Forum 11), Beijing, 2007
- Implementation at the Algiers Ministerial Conference on Research for Health in the African Region, June 2008 with UNESCO-MOST and WHO/AFRO
- Joint TDR/UNESCO-MOST Proposal to use TropIKA and participate at Bamako 2008 Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health



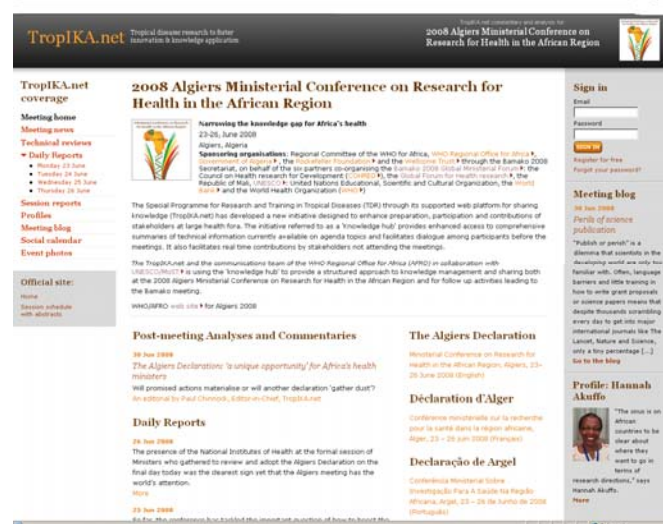
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Algiers Ministerial Conference on Research for Health in the African Region

- A regional preparation for the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health to be held in Bamako, Mali, November 2008
- *Outcome:* A common position of African countries: **Algiers Declaration** signed by representatives of 26 African countries
- To use the 'knowledge hub' to provide a structured approach to knowledge management and sharing before, during and after the Ministerial conference.
- Proposal implemented in collaboration with:
 - UNESCO/ MOST
 - Communication team at the WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO)
 - Organising Committee of Algiers Ministerial Conference



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They said...

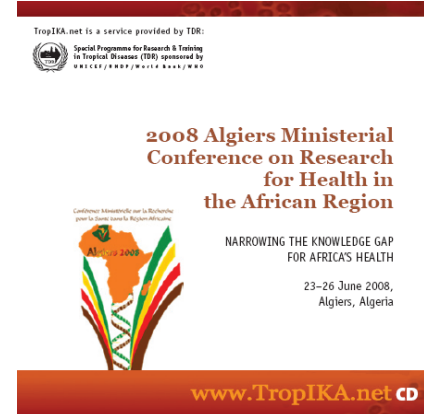
- *"It is doing its job to enhance networking among South-South countries and link them up with facilitation that can gain from northern countries. The daily reports have enabled thousands of those not here in Algiers to share the experience of what we've been going through. TropIKA is a great idea!"*



Dr Uford Inyang,
National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research &
Development, Nigeria



Post meeting dissemination



- **CD-ROM** with all contributions from the TropIKA Algiers Knowledge Hub
- Distribution through UNESCO/MOST to Ministers of Education and Ministers of Science and Technology
- Distribution through AFRO to WHO Representatives and Ministers of Health and their advisors in the African Region



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Building up partnerships with *TropIKA.net*

- BIREME/PAHO/WHO
- Regional offices of WHO
- 11 WHO Country Offices
- Global Forum for Health Research
- UNESCO/MoST
- COHRED
- US National Library of Medicine
- WHO Library (HINARI)
- PLoS and SciELO journals
- Researchers and Institutions through the TropIKA journals clubs and direct interactions



TropIKA.net interviews Dr Elias Zerhouni, director of NIH



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Thank you

The TropIKA.net Team



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