

Draft Terms of Reference Science Planning Group on Human Health and Wellbeing in the Urban Environment

Goal: To provide a science plan that the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific can use to enhance fundamental science, promote research on the science of urban health and well-being, in Asia and the Pacific, and promote the use of that science for the benefit of the people of the region.

The Terms of Reference for the Science Planning Group on Human Health and Wellbeing in the Urban Environment are as follows:

1. To review and analyze the current status of research, training and development needs in urban health and well-being in Asia and the Pacific, including case histories.
2. To assess the interests of the ICSU Scientific Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies and Joint Initiatives in the science of urban health and well-being, particularly in the region.
3. To formulate a set of immediate, medium- and long-term objectives for work on the science of urban health and well-being and contribute towards the objectives of the ICSU Strategic Plan of 2006-11 taking note of prior and ongoing initiatives by ICSU internationally.
4. To suggest major areas of research and development which will enhance the role of the science of urban health and well-being in sustainable development of societies in Asia and the Pacific.
5. To examine capacity building and training activities that would enable broad dissemination and application of the results of research on the science of urban health and well-being in Asia and the Pacific.
6. To identify ways by which the results of the research in the priority themes can be made more meaningful and more available to decision- and policy-makers and other development stakeholders in the region.
7. Outline a Draft Science Plan on Human Health and Wellbeing in the Urban Environment to the ICSU Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific by August 2010.
8. **After consideration of the draft outline plan by the ICSU RCAP in August, produce a final plan for approval by November 2010 and publication in January 2011.**

Basic Criteria for the Science Plan on Human Health and Wellbeing in the Urban Environment

- be regional (relevant to more than one country) and interdisciplinary;
- build on the synergies between existing activities and interests of the ICSU membership;
- add value to other ongoing or planned activities;
- fulfill a unique niche that other regional initiatives do not address;
- incorporate links with pertinent international bodies and/or networks outside the ICSU family, as necessary;
- generate new scientific insights of significant relevance to health (and other) policies, with the policy audience(s) clearly defined at the outset;
- focus primarily on population health/disease prevention and promotion of health and wellbeing rather than medical treatment and cures;
- fit within the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the broader agenda of science for sustainable development.

Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development