

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (IFEH)

10th World Congress – May 2008 in Brisbane, Australia

The Brisbane Charter

The need to make explicit the link between environment and health is now more important than ever, given the pressing environmental health challenges emerging from climate change, globalization, international trade, urbanization, industrialization and environmental degradation. Environmental health has evolved from the fundamental practice of combating disease and providing health infrastructure to encompass the wide range of physical, social, cultural, economic and environmental determinants of health – this century has significant global and local challenges.

Environmental Health (EH) is both a philosophy and a practice. Congress participants acknowledge the basic human right to health and environmental stewardship, and support the following guiding principles for change: environmental sustainability and biodiversity; respect for cultural diversity and the rights of all people; professional ethics and responsibilities; intergenerational and social equity; and international collaboration and partnerships.

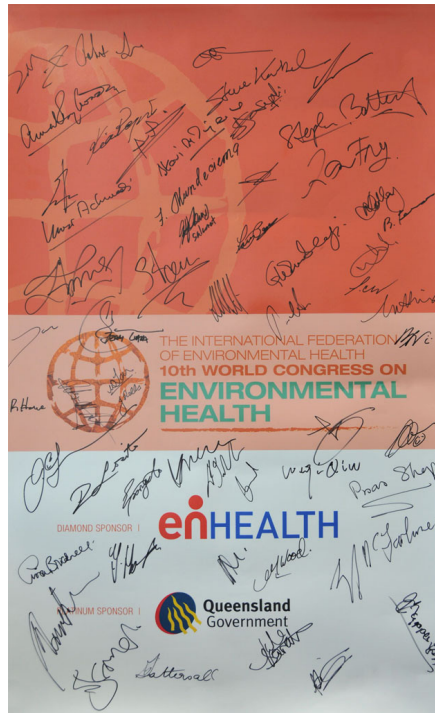
The Brisbane Charter is supported by international frameworks and reports relevant to our congress outcomes. These include Agenda 21, WHO: the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, the Earth Charter, the Bangkok Charter, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reports and the recent United Nations Framework for Climate Change Congress (UNFCCC): Bali Roadmap.

The 10th IFEH World Congress in Brisbane focused on a *sustainable future for environmental health*, exploring six key global and local challenges: Climate Change and Environmental Health; Urbanization and Healthy Settings for Sustainability; Indigenous Health and Disease Control; Environmental Health Management; Major Incident and Risk Management; and Capacity Building.

The Congress resolved that an urgent response is required. **WE MUST ACT** to implement appropriate solutions in partnership with governments, industry and communities:

- Develop innovative approaches to the effects of climate change on public health and promote environmental health evidence-based decision making within the political and public consciousness
- Engage communities in environmental health action to improve the quality of life of all citizens
- Address environmental health issues associated with urbanisation and the natural and built environments by implementing integrated planning approaches and impact assessments
- Support disadvantaged communities and the needs of Indigenous peoples in their struggle to improve population health and community infrastructure standards
- Promote and engage environmental health practitioners in global, regional, national and local emergency and disaster management responses
- Adopt internationally recognised educational competencies and provide a 'toolbox' capacity building approach for environmental health practice
- Continue to develop, implement and evaluate environmental health regulatory frameworks to achieve best practice compliance
- Achieve the highest standard of continuing professional development for practitioners

The Congress made a commitment to focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation processes and the important environmental health needs and well-being of children...our future.



Dr Peter Davey, Congress Chair

.....supported and signed by Congress participants in the 10th IFEH World Congress Closing Ceremony on 15 May 2008.....