

# *path* TODAY

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

## Celebrating PATH's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### *A Milestone and A Mandate*

**P**ATH was launched 20 years ago on the belief that the quality of life for millions of people, especially women and children in developing countries, could be improved through the use of appropriate health technologies. In 1977, PATH's focus on identifying technologies and methods to address developing countries' health needs was an idea whose time had come.

Twenty years later, PATH's track record of 800 projects in 85 countries has made the organization a recognized leader in international health and family planning. More important, these projects have brought healthier lives to millions of people. Through technologies and technical assistance, PATH has helped improve child survival, promote family planning, and reduce widespread communicable diseases, including AIDS. PATH's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a milestone to celebrate—and an occasion to reaffirm our mission of improving health worldwide. Enormous needs still exist, and PATH has solutions to offer.



## Meet PATH's Board

### *International Leadership Reflects Global Mission*

**P**ATH is fortunate to have board members of international stature leading the organization into its third decade. These individuals have expertise in a variety of disciplines and share a commitment to PATH's mission of improving health worldwide.

Five board members represent developing countries. PATH's current board chair, **Dr. Peter Sumbung** is vice chair of the agency that oversees all government family planning services in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country. In 1997, Peter was awarded one of Indonesia's highest national medals for outstanding service to his country.



Dr. Peter Sumbung



Dr. Horacio Croxatto



Ms. Mufaweza Khan



Dr. Jane Mutambirwa

**Dr. Horacio Croxatto**, secretary of PATH's board, is co-founder and president of the Chilean Institute of Reproductive Medicine. Horacio recently was made a member of the Latin American Academy of Sciences in recognition of his contributions as a researcher, professor, and author. **Ms. Mufaweza Khan** is executive director of Concerned Women for Family Planning which serves low-income women throughout Bangladesh. In 1990, Mufaweza was awarded

the Margaret Sanger Award from Planned Parenthood. **Dr. Jane Mutambirwa** is a medical anthropologist and nurse midwife who teaches behavioral science at the University of Zimbabwe Medical School. Jane's international work includes consulting for the Population Council and World Bank. **Ms. Ajarie Visessiri**, a member of PATH's Finance Committee, has degrees in pharmacy and business and extensive experience in

*Continued on page 2*

## From the President

In 1997, PATH celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We look back with pride on two decades of accomplishments. Since 1977, PATH has carried out more than 800 projects in 85 countries. In the process, PATH has gained international recognition for its unique role in health and family planning.

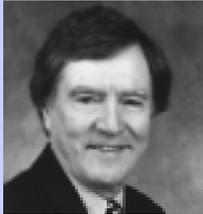
Looking ahead, PATH's mission remains the same: to improve health, especially the health of women and children in developing countries. New strategies will increase our effectiveness. These strategies were developed through an 18-month, organization-wide planning process and include expanding PATH's presence to as many as five new locations in the next five years, making organizational changes, and pursuing new directions in fundraising.

Implementation of the plan is already underway. PATH's newest affiliate is in India. A project office just opened in Vietnam.

We celebrate PATH's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with deep appreciation for the past support of colleagues and donors. We look forward to sharing news of PATH's activities with you in the future.

Sincerely,

**Gordon Perkin**  
President



Dr. Gordon W. Perkin

## Newsbytes

 **Getting the word out on emergency contraception...** 55,000 copies of PATH's resource packet on emergency contraception have been distributed to health care providers across the U.S. PATH is one of several organizations leading a national campaign to make this important contraceptive option more widely available to women. The packet, which includes guidelines for providers and sample client education materials, was developed with funding from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Internationally, PATH is working on emergency contraception programs in a number of developing countries with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, for Compton Foundation, and other donors.

 **Financing health enterprises...** The latest loan disbursed through PATH's *Fund For Technology Transfer* will help a small, family-owned salt manufacturer in Ecuador install equipment to replace and upgrade the plant's iodization process. Fortifying salt with dietary iodine helps prevent iodine deficiency, the most common cause of preventable mental retardation worldwide. The Fund serves as an affordable source of financing and technical assistance for income-generating health and family planning projects. Since 1981, the Fund has lent over \$6 million to small- and mid-sized businesses primarily in developing countries.

*Continued from page 1*



Ms. Ajarie Visessiri



Dr. Gordon Duncan



Ms. Julia Rea



Mr. Lee Lott

Thailand's banking and business sectors. Ajarie's international links include leadership roles in the Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Thailand Business Association of Canada.

Three board members from the U.S. serve on PATH's Finance Committee. **Dr. Gordon Duncan** has extensive experience in the international pharmaceutical industry and a doctorate in reproductive biology. **Ms. Julia Rea**, who holds an MBA degree, brings international banking expertise

to the board, gained in part from several years as loan officer for PATH's Fund for Technology Transfer. **Mr. Lee Lott** is a Seattle-based CPA whose technical accounting skills and audit knowledge have guided PATH for many years.

PATH's president, **Dr. Gordon Perkin**, is an ex officio member of the board and serves on the Finance Committee. Prior to cofounding PATH in 1977, Gordon worked in several developing countries for the Ford Foundation.

## Project Profile

# Giving Children a “Healthy Start”

*PATH's Indonesian Program Is A Model For Improving Child Survival*

**I**t will be a few years before Wahyu Nusantaraaji realizes the auspicious circumstances of his birth. Born on February 4, 1997, in a small village on Lombok, an island in Indonesia's archipelago, Wahyu Nusantaraaji was chosen by President Suharto from almost 9,000 babies born that day as Indonesia's official 200 millionth citizen.

The newborn's chances for reaching an age to enjoy his celebrity reflect another part of his good fortune. While Lombok is a short ferry ride from the tourist mecca of Bali, tourist amenities are remote from the experience of most Lombok villagers. Infant mortality rates are among the highest in Indonesia. But thanks to the *Healthy Start for Child Survival* program operating in his village, Wahyu Nusantaraaji's chances of survival are greatly improved.

PATH and the Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research have assisted the Ministry of Health in managing the *Healthy Start* program on Lombok. The program's novel approach focuses on delivering preventive health care in the home using a team of village midwives and traditional birth attendants (TBAs). With most births occurring at home and a cultural practice of not taking newborns outside for 40 days, a home-based system is key to providing safe birth and health care for mothers and infants in the critical first weeks of life.



*Indonesia's 200 millionth baby*

The *Healthy Start* program teaches TBAs about prenatal care and safe birth practices. An efficient reporting system alerts midwives to make a home visit within days of birth. During home visits, newborns receive polio and hepatitis B vaccines while postpartum women receive tetanus toxoid vaccine and micronutrient supplements along with guidance on breastfeeding and infant care. These interventions have contributed to a significant decrease in infant mortality in project areas.

Endorsement of the *Healthy Start* approach occurred recently when the Indonesian government adopted a national policy of at-birth hepatitis B vaccination to cover over 4.5 million babies annually. Hepatitis B is a highly infectious disease that causes as much as 80% of the world's liver cancer. In Indonesia, many babies are

*Continued on page 4*

## PATH Worldwide

*PATH's nine offices around the world oversee programs both in-country and regionally. Local staff carry out activities in culturally sensitive ways. Highlights from a few sites:*

**PATH Philippines'** role in assisting local organizations to promote AIDS awareness, particularly among high-risk populations, received high marks from outside evaluators, who recommended additional funding for the program through the year 2000.

**PATH Thailand** is producing "AIDS Talk" — a nationwide radio show targeting low-income youth and adults. The 90-minute magazine format show airs weekly.

**PATH Kenya** and **PATH Washington, D.C.**, are working to eradicate female genital mutilation in Kenya by promoting alternative rites of passage. Week-long ceremonies that include family life education and gift-giving have so far ushered about 200 girls to womanhood without circumcision and offer a model for other communities to follow.

**PATH Ukraine's** mass immunization effort against adult diphtheria has had dramatic effect: by late 1996 incidence of the disease had dropped to fewer than 150 cases per month, one-third the number recorded a year earlier. Just getting underway is a \$3.8 million USAID-funded project to improve breast cancer services, with emphasis on services for those exposed to radiation due to the Chernobyl accident.

*Continued from page 3*

infected at birth. The new Indonesian policy not only will significantly decrease transmission at birth but also can be the springboard for timely delivery of other health interventions to mothers and infants.

Now in its fourth year, the *Healthy Start for Child Survival* program has received funding from the U.S. and Australian governments. On Lombok, where the program originated, more than 80% of pregnant and postpartum women have received services since the program began, and the program now extends to the islands of Bali and Sumbawa. With project funding coming to an end, activities are being continued with local and regional health budgets.

As a *Healthy Start* baby, little Wahyu Nusantaraaji—whose name was chosen by President Suharto and means a valuable revelation for Indonesia—embodies the goal of giving all of Indonesia's youngest citizens a "healthy start" in life.

## ***Focus on Technology***

### **UniJect™ Makes Injections Easier, Safer**

One of PATH's technologies is aiding broad-based immunization efforts in Indonesia and elsewhere. UniJect™ is an injection device designed by PATH in Seattle which was successfully field tested through the *Healthy Start* program. Pre-filled with a single dose of vaccine, UniJect™ was found to be easier for midwives to use than traditional larger syringes and better accepted by mothers. There is less vaccine wastage than occurs with multi-dose vials, and since it is non-reusable, UniJect™ also reduces the risk of spreading blood-borne viruses such as HIV/AIDS. Becton Dickinson and Company, a global supplier of syringes, is licensed to manufacture UniJect™.



### **We'd Like to Hear From You**

What are your particular interests in international health?... Would you like a copy of PATH's Annual Report?... Are you interested in attending "briefings" on specific PATH programs?... Would you like to learn more about how you can support PATH's work?... Contact Suzanne Tripp, *path* TODAY editor and Director of Development. We'd be happy to hear from you.

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Gordon W. Perkin, M.D.

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