

## MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

**“Reaching Men to Improve Reproductive Health for All: A Global Conference on Best Practices for Gender and Men in Reproductive Health”** was held in Dulles, Virginia, September 2003. CATALYST sponsored nine participants from Egypt, India, Pakistan and Peru to attend this Conference. Najima Lalji, CATALYST/Pakistan said, “After attending this conference I am personally convinced that in order to achieve improvement in maternal and child health, we need to involve men. They should be involved in mobilizing women in the community, in order to improve their health seeking behavior and decision-making ability.”

For the first time, CATALYST hosted its own booth, disseminated all of the current CATALYST materials and provided information on where we work globally at the **American Public Health Association’s Annual Conference (APHA)** held in San Francisco, California, Nov. 2003. USAID invited CATALYST to have a booth next to them for next year’s APHA Conference. Diane Bushley, Program Officer, reported on the LAC/PAC workshop in Peru to the PAC Consortium. Also, Diane and Claire Gooding from CATALYST presented to the PAC communications task force.

**CATALYST sponsored The LAC Regional Workshop** held in October 2003. The three-day workshop was a follow-up to the LAC/PAC Conference held in Bolivia in September 2002 and was a collaborative effort on the part of CATALYST/Washington and the CATALYST/Peru office. The 35 participants included two delegates from each country (Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru). The presentations and working sessions on current trends in PAC:

- PAC as a Safe Motherhood issue
- Integration of HIV/AIDS into PAC services
- Advocacy for PAC services
- Community postabortion care programs

The group visited two local hospitals and each country team created an action plan for the coming year.

The CATALYST panel presentation on Optimal Birth Spacing, “New Research Shows Strong Association Between Longer Birth Intervals and Improved Maternal and Child Health,” was presented at the **FIGO International Conference** in November 2003 in Santiago, Chile. Graciela Salvador-Davila (Senior Reproductive Health Advisor) and Suzanne Brockman (Program Officer) co-moderated the panel. This was an excellent opportunity to inform private sector providers from around the world about the health benefits of Optimal Birth Spacing. This conference was sponsored in part by Wyeth International, as part of CATALYST’s Commercial Partnerships with pharmaceutical companies.

CATALYST was represented at the Interagency Group for **Safe Motherhood-sponsored Asia Regional Conference "Saving Women's Lives: The Health Impact of Unsafe Abortion"** held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September 2003. Diane Bushley delivered a presentation based on operations research conducted by CATALYST and the Population Council on the postabortion care program in Bolivia and distributed copies of the PAC Consortium newsletter to delegations from 11 countries, as well as to representatives from a variety of donor organizations.

On December 4, 2003 CATALYST participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Symposium on Corporate Social Responsibility held by **PERU 2021** in Lima, Peru. Denise Harrison, Sr. Advisor and Sean MacDonald, Consultant, Commercial Sector, presented findings on a CATALYST/Peru 2021 study designed to determine the health status of Peruvian employees and the responsiveness of employers to meet the health needs of their employees, especially regarding RH.

In response to the presentation, The CATALYST team met with over 18 corporations, NGOs, industrial organizations, CSR groups and insurance companies.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**ANE Conference** coming March 29 - April 2, 2004 in Cairo, Egypt. This four day regional conference sponsored by the CATALYST Consortium will highlight innovative strategies and evidence based best practices in FP/RH services in the ANE region. Participants will include policy makers, MOH officials, NGO representatives and USAID PHN officers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, India, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, Sudan, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

The fifth **OBSI Champions Meeting** will be held in early February 2004 in Washington, DC.

## COUNTRY UPDATES

**BOLIVIA:** Kiyomi Tsuyuki has joined the CATALYST/Bolivia office as the new Michigan Fellow. Welcome Kiyomi!

**EGYPT:** Congratulations to Damianos Odeh and the entire TAHSEEN team. USAID presented some CATALYST sponsored activities that have been implemented by TAHSEEN in Egypt, at a high level GH bureau wide review. CATALYST/TAHSEEN adapted eight evidence-based best practices in reproductive health, which generated great interest and positive feedback from USAID.

**INDIA:** CATALYST/CEDPA has awarded two subgrants to Prayatn and CSI (Child Survival India) in New Delhi to implement the better life options program and to develop sustainability plans for these activities.

**PERU:** As part of the USAID Peru mission strategic focus on improving quality by upgrading pre-services training of health professionals, Milka Dinev, Country Rep CATALYST/Peru, and Mariel León, Accreditation Advisor, and Washington, DC led a delegation of deans from 12 medical schools in Peru on a study tour in Philadelphia, PA.

**YEMEN:** we are proud to announce that CATALYST has opened an office in Yemen and we are currently recruiting for Chief of Party and office staff. Jack Thomas, consultant, is in Yemen coordinating with USAID/Yemen to finalize our RH/MCH work program.

## PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

Shale Ahmed, Exec. Dir. of the Bandu Social Welfare Society, with technical assistance from Shivananda Khan, Exec. Dir. of Naz Foundation International, Sharful Islam Khan, PhD. Candidate in Anthropology, Edith Cowan Univ., Perth, Australia, as well as Research Fellow at the Social & Behavioral Science Unit, ICDDR, B, and Paula Hollerbach, Evaluation Officer at CATALYST, collaborated on a study examining the formulation of sexual and reproductive health behaviors among young men in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The “**Adolescent Reproductive Health Manual: A Training Guide for Managers**” has been officially launched and is currently available on the CATALYST website: [www.rhcatalyst.org](http://www.rhcatalyst.org)

The September 2003 issue of **PAC...In Action** was distributed to consortium members and their partners around the world.

## TAKE NOTE

Congratulations to Milka Dinev and Sonia Odria and the entire PERU team in addition to Reynaldo Pareja, Sr. Advisor, BCC, for the Award presented by AED to CATALYST/Peru for their YES!! Kiosks. Among 16 entrants, only four projects received awards to conduct future work on HIV/AIDS prevention and education.

Congratulations to the entire CATALYST team for the great review received during USAID’s Results Review meeting in November.