



Environment and health in Africa (Climate and vector-borne diseases) Symposium March 29 2013

*A symposium at the 4th Annual
East African Community Health & Scientific Conference,
Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda March 27-29 2013 (www.rbc.gov.rw)*

Avoidable environmental health related mortality is currently thought to be responsible for an estimated 2.4 million deaths in Africa each year. Climate is a component of environment. Relationships between climate and health in Africa, and indeed in many parts of the world, remain poorly studied and are often overlooked. This is despite the fact that readily accessible, high quality climate data can be extremely useful to health planners, as they can help understand current distributions of some diseases – notably those involving a biological vector - and are fundamental to the accurate forecasting of future outbreaks. Moreover, an understanding of links between climate, societal changes and health can help in the prediction of the health impacts of climate change. Improved adaptive capacity is one potential outcome: a second is a firmer basis for quantifying the health costs of future climate change. This Symposium, one of four at the forthcoming 4th Annual East African Community Health & Scientific Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, brings together researchers at the cutting edge of efforts to understand the relationships between health and environment, and in particular links between climate and vector-borne diseases, in Africa. The Symposium is jointly coordinated by members of the **HEALTHY FUTURES** (<http://www.healthyfutures.eu>) and **QWeCI** (<http://www.liv.ac.uk/qweci>) research projects.

The 4th Annual Health & Scientific Conference targets eastern African health priorities and opportunities in a changing world. Spread over three days, the Conference programme comprises four sub-themes (Maternal and Child Health, Non Communicable Diseases and Trauma, Health Systems Strengthening, and Quality of Health Care) and four symposia (HIV and AIDS, Integrated disease surveillance and disaster preparedness, Environment and health in Africa, and Tobacco control). The conference proceedings will be compiled and published in the first issue of the newly established *East African Journal of Health Research*.

Those interested in presenting their research at a symposium on **links between climate and vector-borne diseases in Africa** at the Health and Scientific Conference please complete an abstract submission form and email to David Taylor at david.taylor@nus.edu.sg **on or before** November 30 2012. Abstract submission forms are available from David Taylor at the same address