

## Copenhagen Consensus in Kenya Rewards Innovative Malnutrition Research

### Prize Goes to Vitamin A Research; Second Conference in New York Next Week

**November 3, 2009 – Government officials, NGOs, private sector representatives and researchers gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, to examine cost-effective solutions and innovative approaches to solve the problem of malnutrition.**

The audience voted to award a prize of DKK 25000 to Shawn Baker, Vice President & Regional Director for Africa, Helen Keller International, for his groundbreaking research on “Vitamin A supplementation for child survival in sub-Saharan Africa: successes, challenges and next steps”. The prize was donated by Denmark-based company Gumlink.

In receiving his prize, Mr. Baker said, “This prize and conference are hugely encouraging and demonstrate the importance of working together to identify, highlight and implement effective solutions to the challenges of malnutrition.”

The conference was opened by the Kenyan First Lady Mrs. Ida Odinga, and Ambassador of Denmark to Nairobi Mr. Bo Jensen, and attracted malnutrition practitioners, researchers, government officials and NGOs from East Africa and beyond.

In addition to creating a forum for rewarding innovative research, the Copenhagen Consensus Center launched its series of Best Practice Papers showing how governments can concretely respond to the problems of malnutrition.

Ms Terri Wefwafwa, Head of Nutrition Division in the Kenyan Ministry of Health and Sanitation, said: “The Copenhagen Consensus conference is very important because it highlights the scientific and economic breakthroughs that are invaluable to those of us at the frontline of responding to this problem.”

First Lady Mrs. Ida Odinga said: “Solving malnutrition is vital for East Africa and for the world. I am delighted that Kenya has hosted the Copenhagen Consensus conference, which puts a focus on innovation and collaboration to confront this challenge.”

# Press release



Copenhagen Consensus Center director Bjørn Lomborg said: “Last year at Copenhagen Consensus 2008, Nobel Laureates ranked malnutrition investments as the best way to spend money helping the world. It has been amazing and hugely encouraging how many groups and organizations have paid heed to that finding, and asked for more information about the next steps. This conference, and the Best Practice Papers, now provide policy-makers with a clear and practical guide to making breakthroughs against the scourge of malnutrition.”

The Nairobi conference will be followed by a second conference in New York next week, designed to further highlight innovative research, help put malnutrition on the political agenda, and to underscore the importance of partnerships between governments, donors, and innovative think-tanks like the Copenhagen Consensus Center.

## **New York Conference Details**

The New York conference will take place at Danny Kaye lobby, UNICEF House in New York, from 13.00 pm to 17.40 pm. To schedule interviews, or to arrange to attend the conference, please contact Katja Johansen, email: [kj.ccc@cbs.dk](mailto:kj.ccc@cbs.dk) or phone: (+45) 3815 2253.

## **Further Information**

The Copenhagen Consensus Center is a think-tank based at the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. Its goal is to promote the use of sound economic science in public policy development. The Center’s Director is Dr Bjorn Lomborg, author of *Skeptical Environmentalist* and *Cool It*. For more information, please visit the website [www.copenhagenconsensus.com](http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com)