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FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

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UITNODIGING

Voor de openbare verdediging van het
doctoraatsproefschrift van

Bart JACOBS

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U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de
openbare verdediging van het proefschrift
van

Bart JACOBS

**'Enabling the rural poor access to
health services through innovative
health interventions in Cambodia'**

Situering van het proefschrift

These days a limited range of low-cost effective preventive and curative health interventions can potentially reduce morbidity and mortality in developing countries to a considerable extent. However, access to such services is constrained for the poor due to various barriers that exist at both the supply- and demand side. Situated in a health district in southeast Cambodia, this thesis provides an overview of various financial and non-monetary interventions that can address - alone or in combination - specific dimensions and aspects of access barriers to health services. The thesis provides evaluations of demand side interventions - community participation and management of social health protection schemes by community members - as well as supply side interventions such as exemptions from user fees and performance management. The latter was employed as a tool to sustain a high level of service delivery during transition of management authority. These complementary studies indicate the requirement to concurrently implement various interventions to enable the poor access to health services at minimal costs to them. In Cambodia, many such interventions can be successfully managed by existing social networks although there is a need to concurrently reinforce the health system.

Curriculum Vitae

Bart Jacobs is a Belgian born in February 1967. He obtained a Master degree in Health Planning and Development at Swansea University and an additional Master degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Health Systems Management. He was Honorary Research fellow at the Centre for Development Studies at Swansea University for the period 2006-11. Currently he resides in Laos where he works as an advisor on health financing and social health protection since 2007. Before that, he resided for six years in Kirivong, Cambodia, at the border with Vietnam, where he was in charge of managing the health services on behalf of the government and where the studies making up his thesis took place. He also worked in the Philippines, East Africa and the former Soviet Union as a researcher, consultant and manager on a wide variety of health projects, including TB control, blood safety, STD/HIV control and social marketing. Since 2009 he worked partly on his thesis at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp. He published 18 papers inventoried in PUBMED (16 as first author and one as a letter) and 3 other ones (2 as first author). He is reviewer for several journals.

Op **vrijdag 23 september 2011**
om **16 uur** in auditorium **auditorium 1** van de
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