The Public Health Foundation of India and the Health Economics Association of India (HEAI) will co-host a two day conference on **Universal Health Coverage (UHC, 11-12th April, 2012)** followed by a one day **Post-Conference symposium (13th April, 2012)** involving several technical sessions on health economics.

As you may be aware, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) has been functioning as Secretariat to the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) appointed by the Government of India in October 2010. The expert group was provided with the mandate of developing a framework for providing easily accessible and affordable health care to all Indians. The HLEG officially submitted its report to the Planning Commission of India in November, 2011. There is a clearly articulated governmental intent to increase the public financing of health to 2.5% of India’s GDP, during the course of the 12th Plan, with the Prime Minister officially requesting the Ministry of Health to work with the Planning Commission in implementing UHC for India during this period.

As crucial a next step in advancing the agenda of UHC in India and as part of a larger dissemination strategy in advocating the recommendations of the report, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Health Economics Association of India (HEAI) are jointly organizing a two-day National Conference on **Universal Health Coverage: Advancing the Agenda and Addressing the Challenges during 11-12th April, 2012.** The conference would discuss and deliberate the key recommendations of the HLEG report along with identifying specific concerns and addressing implementation issues that could be a challenge when UHC is rolled out in the country. The report is under consideration at the highest level of the government and therefore critical areas of implementation challenges need to be identified and addressed.

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