**Short Biography - Dr Shenglan Tang**

Dr Tang is working as Scientist at UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), based in Geneva, and also Reader in International Health at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK. He has over twenty years experiences of undertaking research related to health systems reform, disease control and maternal and child health in China and other developing countries with financial support from European Union, World Bank, WHO, Department for International Development of British Government, and published over 60 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters internationally and over 40 papers in Chinese. He used to teach under- and post-graduate students at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and former Shanghai Medical University. His other experiences include consultancy services provided to many international organizations and national governments in the areas of health policy development and primary health care.

Dr Tang is Fellow of Faculty of Public Health, UK, and has honourable appointments from a number of leading universities in mainland China and Chinese University of Hong Kong. He serves as Associate Editor of BMC Health Services Research, editorial board member of Health Policy and Planning and Chinese Journal of Health Policy, and Editorial Adviser to Bulletin of WHO. Dr Tang graduated from former Shanghai Medical University in 1985 and obtained Masters of Science in Epidemiology from former Shanghai Medical University in 1988 and MPH from University of Washington in 1992, and PhD from Sussex University in 1999.

**Seminar on**

**Health Systems Research from a Global Perspective: Needs, Gap and Challenges**

Health systems research has been described as "the brains of the health system" and it is argued that small investments in research can inform policy in ways that drive success and avoid failures. The seminar will discuss the definition and scope of health systems research. It will illustrate the importance of health systems research in strengthening national health systems and improving the health of population, particularly the poor. It will analyse the needs and gaps of health systems research with special reference to low and middle income countries. The seminar will end with talking about challenges of leadership, funding, capacity and methodology facing the field of health systems research, and a way forward.