**Oregonians Come Together to Reduce Global Poverty**

Portland, November 13, 2017 -- Oregon-based organizations with a focus on international development are gathering in Portland this week to discuss their contributions to the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Goals, a global call to action focused on ending all forms of poverty while protecting the planet.

The conference, hosted by GlobalPDX, brings together its member organizations and other interested parties to learn, network and collaborate on programs in developing countries that can help achieve the 17 SDGs ratified by the United Nations in January 2016.

“GlobalPDX members serve communities in more than 100 countries through a variety of programs – from health care to energy infrastructure,” said Evan Thomas, GlobalPDX Director and Associate Professor at the OSHU-PSU School of Public Health. “The sectors of our members are diverse. Yet just like the SDGs themselves, the work is interconnected. We look forward to the opportunities for collaboration this conference can help build to combat global poverty.”

A small group of organizations launched GlobalPDX in February 2017 to meet a growing demand for an organized network to support Oregonians’ global efforts and interests. Founding members are Green Empowerment, Portland State University, Oregon Health Sciences University, Mercy Corps and Medical Teams International. The network now has more than 50 members.

The November 17 conference features keynote speaker Martha Newsome, CEO of Medical Teams International based in Tigard. The closing plenary, “Working Across Silos,” will include panelists from Portland State University, Green Empowerment, Oregon Zoo, Oregon State University College of Forestry, and World Forestry Center to discuss the importance of partnership and working across sectors to effect change in Borneo.

The conference will be held from 12:30 to 5:30 at Portland State University’s Maseeh College of Engineering on the PSU campus.

For more information on [Global PDX](http://www.globalpdx.org/)

For more information on [Sustainable Development Goals](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/)

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