

Conference

Markets for Pharmaceuticals and the Health of Developing Nations

co-organized by [ARQADE](#) and [IDEI](#) (University of Toulouse)

and [WBI](#) (the World Bank Group)

December 5-6, 2003

Infectious diseases are responsible for half of mortality in developing countries. HIV, TB and malaria alone kill more than 5 million people and cause over 300 million illnesses each year. These deaths occur primarily among the poorest people, who do not have access to the drugs and infrastructure necessary for prevention and cure. Patents on pharmaceuticals are often viewed as a leading reason for the restricted access of poor countries to vital drugs. While patents play a central role, other important factors are research and production systems, export regulations, as well as local distribution and prescription conditions. One major problem is that pharmaceuticals are highly expensive to create and to develop. Furthermore, when priced at their average cost of production, they remain out of reach for most citizens of poor countries. In the absence of public policy, infected people of poor countries are hence left with traditional or counterfeit medicine. Counterfeit medicine and pharmaceutical black markets represent another major threat to public health in developing countries. Governments of poor countries need to strengthen their safety monitoring and to participate actively in prevention and care of infectious diseases. Improving the health status of the poor requires concerted action among governments of developing countries, international donors and pharmaceutical companies.

The aim of the conference is to bring together economists, lawyers and policy-makers to discuss solutions to the limited availability of pharmaceuticals in the poorest countries. Theoretical and empirical contributions on industrial organization, competition policy, intellectual property rights, regulation and health economics in developing countries are welcome.

Scientific committee:

E. Auriol, JP Azam, C. Crampes, J. Crémer, A. Estache, JJ Laffont, J. Tirole

Papers should be submitted to pharmdev@cict.fr. **The deadline is August 31, 2003.**

<http://www.idei.asso.fr/>, <http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/>, <http://www.univ-tlse1.fr/ARQADE/>