

A new perspective for improving Finnish health care

Conference for experts and opinion leaders, 2 October 2008

Presentation of speakers



Photo: © Sitra, photographer
Aki Paavola

Esko Aho

President, Sitra

Esko Aho, M.Sc., has had a long and prominent career in the service of Finnish society. Aho was Finland's Prime Minister between 1991–1995, during which time Finland came out of a deep economic recession and took the historic decision to become a member of the European Union. After running for the presidency in 2000, Aho left for Harvard University in the US to lecture for a year, and became a private operator in the consultancy sector. Esko Aho was appointed President of Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund, on 1 July 2004. He will take up a new post with Nokia on 1 November 2008.

During Aho's long career, he has held board and other high-level positions in over thirty organisations. In addition, he is also a member of the Club de Madrid organisation, the Science and Technology in Society forum (STS) and the InterAction Council. Esko Aho headed the working group tasked with submitting proposals to the EU Commission on actions to improve European competitiveness in the fields of science and technology. The work resulted in the publication in January 2006 of the report *Creating an Innovative Europe*.



Photo: City of Vantaa

Timo Aronkytö

Senior Medical Officer, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Timo Aronkytö, Lic.Med., MBA, has worked as a physician and chief physician in primary health care and special health care. Since 2007, he has been managing the health services of the City of Vantaa. In autumn 2008, he took a year's leave of absence from this position and currently works as Senior Medical Officer at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

Timo Aronkytö is finalising a doctoral thesis at the University of Kuopio on organisational culture and management. Aronkytö is renowned for his ability to initiate debate and for his boldness in reforming the tendering process for health services.



Heikki Hakala

Editor-in-Chief, Etelä-Suomen Sanomat

First Vice President of the Finnish Diabetes Association
 Editor-in-Chief of Etelä-Suomen Sanomat since 1996
 Head of Information, Taxpayers' Association of Finland, 1995–1996
 Editor-in-Chief, Lehdistön Sanomapalvelu, 1993–1995
 Managing Editor of Sanomaprint's special magazines and business publications, 1989–1992
 Publications Manager, Satakunnan Kirjateollisuus, 1986–1989
 Editor for Kauppalehti 1983–1986
 Editor for Savon Sanomat 1980–1983.



Photo: © Sitra, photographer Sami Kulju

Hannu Hanhijärvi

Executive Director, Sitra, lecturer in toxicology

Hannu Hanhijärvi, D.D.S., Executive Director of Sitra's Health Care Programme since 2004.
 Director, Life Sciences portfolio, Sitra, 1998–2004
 Vice President of R&D for Leaf Group's international operations and director in charge of quality assurance and control, Holland, 1996–1998
 Vice President of R&D, Pharmaceuticals, Huhtamäki Oy, 1986–1996
 Lasby Visiting Professor Biochemistry Program, University of Minnesota, 1980–1981
 Researcher in pharmacology and toxicology, and professor holding several positions in the universities of Kuopio and Turku, 1970–1984.



Photo: Lehtikuva Oy, Prime Minister's Office

Mari Kiviniemi

Minister of Public Administration and Local Government

Mari Kiviniemi, M.Sc., Minister of Public Administration and Local Government since 19.4.2007.
 Deputy Party Leader, Member of Parliament, Centre Party
 Minister in the Ministry of the Interior, 19.4.2007–31.12.2007
 Minister for Foreign Trade and Development and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, 2.9.2005–3.3.2006
 Deputy Party Leader, Centre Party, since 2003
 Member of Parliament since 1995
 Parliamentary Supervisory Council of the Bank of Finland, 2004–2005, Chairperson 2006–2007
 Sitra's Supervisory Board, 2003–2005.



Petri Peltonen

Director General, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Head of the Innovation Department

Petri Peltonen, M.Sc., Lic. Tech., is Head of the Innovation Department of the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, which was established on 1 January 2008. He is responsible for Finland's national technology and innovation policy.

Peltonen is a member of the Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland and is the Chairman of the Board of Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation. He also contributes to several international policy fora including the EU's Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST).

Peltonen worked for Tekes between 1996–2006, latterly as Executive Director and as a member of Tekes' management team. From Tekes, he moved to the Ministry of Trade and Industry as Head of the Technology Department.



Michael E. Porter

Bishop William Lawrence University Professor, Harvard Business School

Michael E. Porter is a leading authority on competitive strategy. His fields of research are the competitiveness of nations and regions, economic development and the social application of the principles of competition in, for example, health care, environmental issues and corporate social responsibility.

Professor Porter is popularly known as the father of modern strategic theory, and in various surveys and studies, Porter has been ranked as one of the world's most influential thinkers in the field of business management and competitive advantage.

Porter is the Bishop William Lawrence Professor at Harvard Business School, which is the highest professional accolade that can be granted to a member of Harvard's scientific community. In 2001, Harvard Business School and Harvard University jointly set up the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, which aims to apply and extend the research undertaken by Professor Porter.

Porter has published 17 books and over 125 articles. In 1969, he received a B.S.E. from Princeton University and in 1971 an MBA from Harvard Business School. He gained his doctorate in 1973 from Harvard University.



Pekka Puska

Director General, National Public Health Institute of Finland

Pekka Puska, M.D., M.Pol.Sc., has been Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Finland, KTL, since the end of 2003, prior to which he worked for the Institute as a research professor and head of department, beginning in 1977. He was also the Institute's temporary Director General from October 2000 until February 2001, when he transferred to Geneva to become Director for Noncommunicable Diseases Prevention and Health Promotion at the WHO.

Professor Puska has hundreds of scientific publications on public health to his name, along with a large number of popular books and articles. Pekka Puska has held a considerable number of expert and board positions both in Finland and abroad. Professor Puska is currently Vice-President of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), President-elect of the World Heart Foundation (2009–2010), and Vice Chair of the Governing Council of the WHO International Agency for Cancer Research (IARC).



Photo: Lehtikuva Oy, Prime Minister's Office

Paula Risikko

Minister of Health and Social Services

Paula Risikko, D.H.Sc., Minister of Health and Social Services since 19 April 2007 to the present.

Minister at the Ministry of the Environment, 19.4.2007–31.12.2007

Vice Chair of the National Coalition Party, 2004–2008

Member of Parliament, National Coalition Party, 2003 to the present

Parliamentary Trustee, Social Insurance Institution of Finland, 2006–2007

National Advisory Board on Health Care Ethics (ETENE), 2006–2007

Advisory Committee on Mental Health Policy, 2005–2007

Finnish Diabetes Association, Member of the Executive Board, 2006–2007.



Photo: Sarri Kukkonen

Marita Ruohonen

Executive Director, Finnish Association for Mental Health

Marita Ruohonen, M.Sc., Executive Director of the Finnish Association for Mental Health since 2006.

Managing Director, Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, 1992–2006

Training programme designer/Assistant Manager, Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health, 1986–1992

Director, Vantaa Training and Working Centre for the Mentally Handicapped, 1980–1986

Various board positions in NGOs and the Tapiola Group.



Raimo Sailas

Chairman of the Sitra's Board of Directors, Permanent State Secretary

Raimo Sailas, M.Sc. (Econ.), has worked in various posts within the Ministry of Finance since 1971, except during 1984–1985 when he was Deputy Managing Director of the Regional Development Fund of Finland and in 1995 when he worked for six months as Secretary of State for the Prime Minister's Office. He has been Permanent Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance since 1 October 1995.

Raimo Sailas is a member of numerous boards, and is, among others, Chairman of Sitra's Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mint of Finland, a member of the Board of Directors of the Finnish Association for Local Culture and Heritage, a member of the Board of Directors of Biomedicum Helsinki Foundation, and Chairman of the Council of the Work Efficiency Institute.



Juha Teperi

Programme Director, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Juha Teperi, M.D., Ph.D., is a medical doctor and expert in health care. On his return from the University of London in 1997, he worked in several management positions in Stakes, the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health. In August 2007, he moved to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health to head the national innovation programme in social welfare and health care services, which was set out in the Government Programme. Juha Teperi has published extensively on health care methods, health services and health policy.



Photo: Lehtikuva Oy, Prime Minister's Office

Matti Vanhanen

Prime Minister

Matti Vanhanen, M.Sc., Prime Minister since 24 June 2003 to the present
Party Leader, Member of Parliament, Finnish Centre Party
Minister of Defence, 17.4.2003–24.6.2003

Centre Party, Member of the party's Board of Directors 1980–1983,
Deputy Party Leader 200–2003, Party Leader 2003 to the present
Centre Party, Party Delegation, Member and Deputy Member, 1976–2000
Member of Parliament since 1991

Parliamentary Grand Committee, Chair 2000–2001
Centre Party, parliamentary group, Vice chair 1994–2001
Parliamentary Environment Committee, Vice Chair 1991–1995
European Convention on the Future of the European Union,
Representative of Parliament 2002–2003.