

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING**

**Thursday, 22 May 2008, at 17:15**

**President:** Dr L. RAMSAMMY (Guyana)

**SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**

**Jeudi 22 mai 2008, 17h15**

**Président :** Dr L. RAMSAMMY (Guyana)

**AWARDS  
DISTINCTIONS**

The PRESIDENT:

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The Health Assembly is called to order. The sixth plenary is now in session. We shall now proceed with agenda item 7, Awards.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we are assembled here today for the presentation of prizes awarded by the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation and the State of Kuwait.

I have much pleasure this afternoon in welcoming among us the distinguished winners of these prestigious prizes. The winners are here with us this afternoon and shortly you will be introduced to them. I am very pleased on behalf of all of us, to greet Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, and Professor Kenzo Kiikuni, both representing the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation. We also greet His Excellency Mr Humaid Mohamed Al Qutami, Minister of Health of the United Arab Emirates, representing the Founder of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation, and Dr Ali Al-Saif, Assistant Under-Secretary for Public Health Affairs of the Ministry of Health of Kuwait, representing the State of Kuwait.

**Presentation of the Sasakawa Health Prize  
Remise du Prix Sasakawa pour la Santé**

The PRESIDENT:

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we shall start this afternoon's proceedings with the presentation of the Sasakawa Health Prize. This Prize is awarded every year to individuals or institutions for outstanding innovative work in health development, and aims at encouraging the further development of such work.

Before I invite Mr Yohei Sasakawa to address the Health Assembly on behalf of the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Sixty-first World Health Assembly, to congratulate Mr Sasakawa on his renewed appointment as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and wish him every success in his work for the elimination of leprosy. Mr Sasakawa, we congratulate you and we ask you to take the floor at this time.

Mr SASAKAWA (Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation):

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the Sasakawa Health Prize was established in 1984 in response to the WHO's "health for all" initiative, and to the Declaration of Alma-Ata, which affirmed primary health care as the principal approach for achieving health for all. As you know, this is the sixtieth anniversary of WHO and the thirtieth anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration.

In defining the meaning of health, the Constitution of the World Health Organization states that health is not just the absence of disease, but complete physical, mental and social well-being. This year's Sasakawa Prize-winner is especially concerned with the social well-being of those it serves. As introduced earlier, MORHAN, or the Movement for the Reintegration of People Affected by Hansen's disease, is a nongovernmental organization headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Hansen's disease, or leprosy, is one of the world's oldest diseases. In addition to its medical aspect, it has a social aspect – namely, the discrimination suffered by the people it affects. For those diagnosed with leprosy, the consequences can include separation from family, loss of home and even of their own name. They are denied their dignity and fundamental human rights. Today, leprosy is completely curable. Nevertheless people are still discriminated against, even after they are cured. Because of the social stigma, it can be hard for them to return to a normal life.

It was to tackle the issue of stigma and discrimination and to lower the barriers of prejudice that MORHAN was founded in 1981 by Mr Francisco A.V. Nunes. Mr Nunes, himself a person affected by leprosy, was an elementary school teacher, a poet and a songwriter. MORHAN's activities include a free telephone counselling service called TELEHANSEN and nationwide leprosy awareness campaigns conducted through the media. It relies on large numbers of volunteers to carry out its work. Involving volunteers was the idea of Mr Nunes, who believed that the only way to overcome prejudice and discrimination was by mobilizing volunteers who were not affected by leprosy. He had the right idea. Promoting social well-being requires the efforts of all members of society. But this is not easy. Too often in life, we are concerned only for the well-being of our loved ones, and are indifferent to the plight of others. Only when we embrace the problems faced by others as our problems too, will "health for all" prevail. For this to happen, we need to change our mindsets, which an organization such as MORHAN is helping us to do.

I would like to congratulate MORHAN on winning the Sasakawa Prize and I sincerely hope that this award will help it to strengthen its activities in Brazil. Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the members of the WHO selection committee for recognizing MORHAN as a worthy winner. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Mr Sasakawa, and again I would like to congratulate you on behalf of the Health Assembly for your reappointment as Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination.

It is with pleasure that I announce that the 2008 Sasakawa Health Prize has been awarded to the Movement for the Reintegration of People Affected by Hansen's disease (MORHAN) of Brazil. The Movement has been an important partner of the Brazilian Ministry of Health in the struggle against leprosy (Hansen's disease), which still persists in Brazil today. It is an independent community initiative and not governmental, and is the main stakeholder in the prevention, detection and treatment of the disease, and in the social reintegration of this special disability group. It is now my privilege to present the Sasakawa Health Prize to Mr Cristiano Cláudio Torres, who will receive it on behalf of MORHAN. Mr Cristiano Cláudio Torres will be speaking in Portuguese which will be translated into French and then translated into other languages, so I ask you to indulge us with your patience; there will be a slight delay in the interpretation.

**Amid applause, the President handed the Sasakawa Health Prize to Mr Torres.**

**Le Président remet le Prix Sasakawa pour la Santé à M. Torres. (Applaudissements)**

Mr TORRES (*interpretation from the Portuguese*):<sup>1</sup>

*Bonjour*, my name is Cristiano Torres and I was born in a leprosy colony hospital. When I was eight years old, I was affected by Hansen's disease and so was compelled to be isolated in the same colony. At present, I am the national Vice-Coordinator of MORHAN, which is a movement for the reintegration of persons affected by Hansen's disease. I am here today with our national Coordinator, Artur Custodio, to represent the hundreds of people who work voluntarily for MORHAN. In all of MORHAN's 27-year history, we have never had such an important and prestigious award.

The history of the MORHAN movement has been marked by innovation, creativity in actions and especially by our continuous fight for the rights of the thousands of people who fall ill with leprosy in our country. We have often had to take either a stance against the Government, or to act in parallel with its efforts. At present, the MORHAN movement is an important partner of the Brazilian Government. Our movement has been described as one of the most important actors in the move to create a universal health-care programme, Brazil's public health system. This has provided an opportunity for people to take action if they are affected by Hansen's disease, as well as for people with disabilities and other population groups who had also found themselves excluded. This has also affected laws and public policies.

The elimination of Hansen's disease cannot be rooted simply in the death of the bacillus or the end of the disease; we have to ensure the physical, mental and social well-being of people affected by leprosy in Brazil, and of course, the world. We have to put an end to the prejudice that is prevalent.

We would like to thank WHO for the Sasakawa Health Prize. We would also like to thank Ambassador Sasakawa, who is fighting against prejudice, violation of human rights and discrimination against Hansen's disease patients and their relatives. We are very proud to be able to contribute to health and peace throughout the world. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, *obrigado*, Mr Cristiano Cláudio Torres, and once again we express our congratulations to the Movement for the Reintegration of People Affected by Hansen's disease. I know we are all looking forward to the day, soon, when Hansen's disease will be another of the diseases that have been eliminated. We also thank the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation for making this Prize possible.

**Presentation of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize  
Remise du Prix de la Fondation des Emirats arabes unis pour la Santé**

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now proceed with the presentation of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize. The United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize is awarded to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to health development. It is my pleasure to announce that the 2008 United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize has been awarded to the Children's Cancer Hospital in Egypt. The Hospital diagnoses and treats paediatric cancer in all stages of the disease, conducts research, and trains professionals at all levels. It is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for training, clinical and management systems, and maintains a strong alliance with the National Cancer Institute of Egypt.

I now have pleasure in inviting His Excellency Mr Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami, representing the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation, to address the Health Assembly.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Rule 89 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.

Mr AL QUTAMI (United Arab Emirates Health Foundation):

الدكتور حميد محمد القطامي (مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم،

سعادة رئيس جمعية الصحة العالمية، سعادة الدكتورة مارغريت تشان المديرية العامة لمنظمة الصحة العالمية، أصحاب المعالي وزراء الصحة، أصحاب السعادة أعضاء الوفود وممثلي المنظمات المشاركة، السيدات والسادة، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، يشرفني أن أرحب بكم جميعاً، باسم مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة، في هذا الاحتفال السنوي الذي تنظمه منظمة الصحة العالمية لتكريم الأطباء والعلماء والمؤسسات والشخصيات العالمية التي أسهمت في إثراء العمل الصحي وتعزيز دور المنظمة الرائد في المحافظة على صحة وسلامة الإنسان. كما أغتنم هذه المناسبة لأقدم بجزيل الشكر والامتنان للمجلس التنفيذي للمنظمة للجهود الطيبة التي يبذلها جميع أعضائه في الإعداد لتكريم الفائزين بهذه الجائزة.

السيدات والسادة، إن جائزة مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة جاءت مجسدة ثقة وإيمان دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة بقيادة صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان رئيس الدولة حفظه الله وأخيه صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي حفظهم الله وإخوانهم وأصحاب السمو حكام الإمارات لتعزيز ودعم العمل النبيل لمنظمة الصحة العالمية في كافة بلدان العالم حتى أصبحت الصحة والسلامة حقاً في متناول الجميع.

أما في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة فقد قامت وزارة الصحة بانتهاج الاستراتيجيات المستقبلية الواعدة، ومن أهم معالمها تطوير برامج شاملة لمكافحة الأمراض المعدية والمزمنة على حد سواء حيث كان إصدار دليل السجل السرطاني الوطني الذي يعتبر جزءاً لا يتجزأ من استراتيجية الترصد الوبائي للأمراض المزمنة. كما أن استحداث الدليل الوطني للترصد الوبائي المبني على الأدلة والبراهين يأتي استجابة لمواجهة التحديات الصحية الجديدة التي تتمثل في معاودة ظهور بعض الأمراض المعدية وأمراض مستجدة أخرى كالسارس وأنفلونزا الطيور وغيرها. وقد حققت دولة الإمارات، بانتهاجها للاستراتيجيات، الكثير من الإنجازات كان أهمها استئصال مرض شلل الأطفال والإشهاد بخلو الإمارات من مرض الملاريا.

السيدات والسادة، إنه إذ يشرفني أن أعلن من هذا المقام اختيار مؤسسة مستشفى أمراض أورام الأطفال في القاهرة بجمهورية مصر العربية لنيل جائزة مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة لهذا العام، فإن ذلك ينبع من اقتناع تام بما تقوم به هذه المؤسسة من أعمال جليلة وخيرة. فالعطاء السخي الذي تكرمت به سمو الشبيخة فاطمة بنت مبارك أم الإمارات لهذه المؤسسة والمساهمة الكبيرة للسيدة الأولى لجمهورية مصر العربية السيدة سوزان مبارك، كانت من أهم العوامل التي ساهمت في إنشاء وتطوير هذه المؤسسة حتى أصبحت توفر رعاية شاملة ذات مستوى رفيع ومميز للكثير من الأطفال المصابين بالسرطان ودون تمييز بسبب الجنس أو الدين أو الحالة الاجتماعية.

السيدات والسادة، إن دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة بإسهامها في منح جائزة الإمارات للصحة تتطلع إلى حث العلماء والباحثين والمؤسسات العلمية والمنظمات والجمعيات ذات النفع العام في جميع أنحاء العالم على بذل المزيد من الجهد لمواكبة التطورات المتسارعة التي شهدها عالمنا اليوم والتوصل إلى أساليب أكثر فعالية للتغلب على المشاكل الصحية التي كانت نتاجاً لها وأدت إلى معاناة كبيرة في العديد من دول العالم. وأخيراً لا يسعني إلا أن أتوجه إلى جمعكم الكريم بالشكر والتقدير وبالتهنئة القلبية لمستشفى مؤسسة أورام الأطفال في مصر الفائز بجائزة هذا العام، كما أؤكد مرة أخرى على مواصلة سعينا في تقديم كل ما من شأنه أن يعود بالخير على البشرية جمعاء.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Mr Humaid Mohamed Al Qutami, Minister of Health of the United Arab Emirates.

It is now my pleasure to present the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize to Mrs Ola Zacki Ghabbour, General Secretary of the Children's Cancer Hospital, who will receive the Prize on behalf of the Hospital.

**Amid applause, the President handed the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize to Mrs Ghabbour.**

**Le Président remet le Prix de la Fondation des Emirats arabes unis pour la Santé à Mme Ghabbour. (Applaudissements)**

Mrs GHABBOUR: (

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Mrs Mubarak, the First Lady of Egypt and President of the Children's Cancer Hospital Foundation, it is a great honour and privilege to be standing here today before your prestigious Health Assembly in order to receive the 2008 United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize, awarded to the Children's Cancer Hospital in Egypt. As the General Secretary of the Children's Cancer Hospital Foundation, and on behalf of the children and the hospital family, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for this very valuable award.

The hospital started operation on 7 July 2007, providing excellent treatment and health-care services, free of charge regardless of race, creed or ability to pay, to children suffering from cancer, not only from Egypt but also from other Arab nations, the Middle East, Africa and from all over the world. The opening represented a milestone on the road towards the completion of a comprehensive health-care project undertaken by an Egyptian nongovernmental organization, the Children's Cancer Hospital Foundation, whose Board of trustees is honoured to have the First Lady of Egypt, Mrs Mubarak, as President of the Board. Mrs Mubarak has provided valuable and continuous support all through the different phases of the development of the project and she was instrumental in its completion and ongoing operations.

The Children's Cancer Hospital is a unique project. It is a symbol of what Egyptians can achieve when they work together for a common and noble cause. Moreover, this project testifies to the social reform movement nurtured by Mrs Mubarak. This hospital is a dream come true, thanks to the generous contribution of all Egyptians, the private sector, governmental authorities, and loyal and faithful friends from all over the world.

The Children's Cancer Hospital in Egypt is a state-of-the-art health-care facility with a current capacity of 180 beds, expandable to 360 beds, for inpatients. It has the most up-to-date diagnostics, including computerized tomography scan, clinical pharmacy, laboratory and surgical departments, and six operating rooms. The outpatient clinic accommodates 300 patients daily. The hospital also features intensive care, bone marrow transplant and medical specialization units for long-term treatment and follow-up. The day-care unit can provide treatment for 400 patients daily. The facility's architectural design is elegantly child- and user-friendly, creating a joyful, hope-inspiring, cosy atmosphere, while being cost-effective to operate and maintain, and applying strict quality- and infection-control measures. The dedicated team of professionals at the hospital is concerned with the overall well-being of sick children. As such, besides offering treatment and comprehensive care, we also provide children and their families with the necessary social, psychological and educational support needed all the way through hospitalization and beyond.

At the Children's Cancer Hospital, we have implemented benchmark standards for hospital planning, design, construction, innovative technology and leadership practices. This will ensure the delivery of world-class health-care services and standards to our dear children whom we serve. Additionally, the Children's Cancer Hospital is planning to share the knowledge acquired through practice and research by establishing a satellite system to seek the implementation of international standards of paediatric oncology health-care and treatment protocols in Egypt.

Last, but not least, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Executive Board of WHO and the United Arab Emirates Foundation for their trust and support. It is truly an encouragement and a driving force for us on the road to achieving our mission and our vision. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Mrs Ghabbour. We again congratulate the Children's Cancer Hospital of Egypt and also again thank the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation for making this Prize possible. See, I told you dreams can come true: we have another example of dreams becoming reality!

**Presentation of the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion**  
**Remise du Prix de l'Etat du Koweït pour la Recherche en Promotion de la Santé**

The PRESIDENT:

We will now proceed with the presentation of the 2008 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion. The Prize is awarded to a person or persons, institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to research in health promotion. The members of the Foundation Selection Panel felt that more than one candidate merited the Prize, and therefore decided that the Prize should be shared between two candidates this year.

It is my pleasure to announce that the 2008 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion has been awarded to Dr Zaza Metreveli and Dr Chuon Chantopheas. Dr Chuon Chantopheas is Deputy Head of the Technical Bureau of the National Laboratory for Drug and Food Quality Control in Cambodia and has played a leading role in her country in raising awareness about the consequences of food-borne diseases, a major cause of ill-health in Cambodia. She is indeed recognized as an expert in this field both nationally and internationally. Dr Zaza Metreveli is the Chief of the Department of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care Medicine and Critical Care Medicine at the Gudushauri National Medical Centre in Tbilisi, Georgia. He is recognized for providing specific training in critical care and emergency medicine for large numbers of emergency workers and the police, and has successfully involved the community and community services in emergency preparedness.

I shall now invite Dr Ali Al-Saif to address the Health Assembly on behalf of the State of Kuwait.

Dr AL-SAIF (State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation):

الدكتور علي السيف (مؤسسة دولة الكويت لتعزيز الصحة):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم،

معالي رئيس جمعية الصحة العالمية، معالي المديرة العامة لمنظمة الصحة العالمية، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، حضرات الأخوة والأخوات، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،  
في البداية أود أن أهنئكم معالي الرئيس لاختياركم رئيساً لجمعية الصحة العالمية الحادية والستين، كما أهنئ نواب الرئيس وأتمنى لهذه الجمعية كل النجاح. ويسعدني، باسمي وباسم مؤسسة دولة الكويت لتعزيز الصحة، أن أرحب بكم في هذا الحفل الكريم لمنح جائزة دولة الكويت لبحوث تعزيز الصحة. كما أشكر منظمة الصحة العالمية والعاملين فيها على جهودهم لوضع النظام الأساسي لهذه الجائزة والذي تم إقراره من قبل المجلس التنفيذي عام 2004.

معالي الرئيس، لقد اهتمت دولة الكويت بموضوع تعزيز الصحة لما لهذا الموضوع من أهمية في مكافحة الأمراض التي تنتشر في وقتنا الحاضر وفي رفع مستوى الخدمات الصحية التي تقدم إلى الصحة والمرضى ومن أجل ذلك بادرت دولة الكويت إلى إنشاء هذه الجائزة في منظمة الصحة العالمية لتشجيع الأطباء والعلماء لإجراء الأبحاث في هذا المجال الهام. وأنني على يقين بأن هذه الجائزة سوف تساهم في دعم بحوث تعزيز الصحة لمكافحة أمراض الأسر وتحسين الخدمات الصحية في العالم من خلال تقليل كثير من الأمراض مثل أمراض القلب والشرابيين ومرض السرطان ومرض السكر والأمراض النفسية والأمراض الغذائية وغيرها من الأمراض التي تؤثر على الوضع الصحي العالمي. ونظراً للدور البارز الذي تضطلع به

منظمة الصحة العالمية في النهوض بنظم الصحة العالمية وتعزيزها فقد قامت بلادي بتقديم الدعم المادي للعديد من مشاريع المنظمة في شتى المجالات حيث ساهمت في إنشاء مبنى المكتب الإقليمي لشرق المتوسط بالقاهرة، وإنشاء جائزة مكافحة أمراض القلب والسرطان والسكري في إقليم شرق المتوسط كما ساهمت في تأسيس غرفة الطوارئ للمقر الرئيسي في منظمة الصحة العالمية في جنيف. وأسهمت دولة الكويت في حملة القضاء على مرض شلل الأطفال نظراً لأهمية كل العالم فيما يتعلق بهذا المرض الخطير، بالإضافة إلى تقديم مساهمة طوعية استثنائية واستجابة للمناشدة التي أطلقتها منظمة الصحة العالمية. ويسعدني إعلام هذا الحفل الكريم بأن مؤسسة دولة الكويت لتعزيز الصحة والمجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية قد وافق في شهر كانون الثاني/ يناير من هذا العام خلال اجتماعات المجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية على منح جائزة مؤسسة دولة الكويت لبحوث تعزيز الصحة لكل من الدكتور زازا مترفلي من جورجيا والدكتورة تشون تشانتوفيز من كمبوديا.

والدكتور زازا مترفلي هو مدير إدارة التخدير والعناية الطبية المركزة في مركز غوغوشاوري الوطني في مدينة تبليسي في جورجيا. ولقد قام الدكتور زازا مترفلي بجهود كبيرة من أجل الإنشاء وتبدير خدمات الطب والطوارئ وطب التخدير وتوفير هذه الخدمة الهامة للمحتاجين في جورجيا. كما كان له دور في إشراك المجتمع في خدمات الطب والطوارئ وتبدير مختلف رعاية المجتمع في هذا المجال وقام أيضاً بدور كبير في مجال الخدمات الصحية في حالة الكوارث. أما الدكتورة تشون تشانتوفيز وهي نائبة مدير الإدارة الفنية في معهد مراقبة جودة الأدوية والأغذية في وزارة الصحة في كمبوديا، فقد قامت بجهود كبيرة في مجال التوعية لمكافحة الأمراض التي تنتقل عن طريق الأغذية. وقامت أيضاً بإجراء الكثير من الأبحاث للتعرف على المواد الضارة في الأغذية، ومن ثم، وضعت إرشادات وطنية بخصوص المواد الكيميائية والميكروبية في الأغذية وذلك للتوعية والتدريب في هذا المجال وقامت بإصدار كتيب في هذا الخصوص. وتهدف الدكتورة تشون إلى توعية المجتمعات الريفية لتناول الأغذية السليمة من أجل تقليل الإصابة بالأمراض التي تنتقل عن طريق الأغذية. وفي نهاية كلمتي، باسم دولة الكويت، أودّ أن أهنيء الفائزين بهذه الجائزة وأشكر منظمة الصحة العالمية على جهودها.

والسلام عيكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Dr Al-Saif. Since there are two winners, we will do this twice. First, it is my pleasure to present the 2008 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion to Dr Chuon Chantopheas.

**Amid applause, the President handed the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion to Dr Chuon Chantopheas.**

**Le Président remet le Prix de l'Etat du Koweït pour la Recherche en Promotion de la Santé au Dr Chuon Chantopheas. (Applaudissements)**

Dr CHUON CHANTOPHEAS:

Honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour today to receive the award of the State of Kuwait for Research and Health Promotion 2008 for outstanding contribution to health development. I am grateful to WHO for arranging this competition in order to allow health staff institutions and organizations from various countries throughout the world to show their competence and their hard work. I am grateful to the State of Kuwait for their contribution to health development by sharing some money to encourage competitors who not only fulfil their duty in their country but also show their work by writing it and sending it here.

Ladies and gentlemen, because of WHO my country, Cambodia, can resolve a lot of health problems. I apologize for not mentioning here all the activities concerning the fields of medicine and many others. I would like to draw your attention only to the problem of food sanitation, which is rather complicated in my country. Four ministries are involved in food sanitation: the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy is responsible for formulation of standards; the Ministry of Commerce is in charge

of food inspection; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is responsible for fish products; and the Ministry of Health is in charge of the food safety of the consumer. However, there is an overlap between these ministries and WHO helps to resolve health problems wherever they arise. In addition, the Ministry of Health has conducted a survey on 3-monochloropropane-1,2 diol in soya sauce supported by WHO. The result was shown to the minister in the ministry concerned with WHO acting as observer. The Ministry of Industry then launched a workshop encouraging our medium and small enterprises to change their method of soya sauce production; because of the WHO support the overlap decreased and we can coordinate meetings between these ministries. Recently I was informed by a person in charge of nutrition and food at WHO that the WHO Regional Office was very interested in 3-monochloropropane-1,2 diol in soya sauce in poor countries like Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. Therefore, WHO wished to organize a workshop in the concerned countries with the authorities concerned so that, after the workshop, the participants could share their experience. First, WHO acts as a key organization wherever there are health problems. Finally I express the wish that rich countries should offer more and more support to WHO. Thank you for your attention.

The PRESIDENT:

We thank Dr Chantopheas and we again congratulate her on winning the 2008 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion. We now invite the other winner of the 2008 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion. I will now present the Prize to Dr Zaza Metreveli.

**Amid applause, the President handed the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion to Dr Zaza Metreveli.**

**Le Président remet le Prix de l'Etat du Koweït pour la Recherche en Promotion de la Santé au Dr Zaza Metreveli. (Applaudissements)**

Dr METREVELI:

*Kaba dona wuda basona wu gamaz jerbets.* Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to be here at this tribune and I want to thank you for awarding me the State of Kuwait Prize for Research and Health Promotion for 2008. For me, granting this Prize means recognition of the efforts which Georgian society has undertaken to address these issues. Georgia has a rich culture and very old history; however, Russian occupation has seriously damaged the country's prospects for development and growth. The health-care system is no exception and it has inherited a lot of undesirable problems. We have tried to define priorities in conformity with state health policy. The spheres of interest are: critical care medicines; disaster and emergency medicine; anaesthesiology and industrial therapy. During the period 1991 to 1994 while the country was driven to extremity, equipped medical brigades were created and sent to the numerous areas of human terror and catastrophe, where I, too, took an active part. In 1994 in one of the clinics I set up an emergency department. I opened the same department in 1997 and a scientific and practical centre for thermal injuries and plastic surgery. Up to 2003 I was one of the organizers of several programmes such as: a common referral system, which is critical under emergency conditions; a project to develop tele-medicine in Georgia; prevention of trauma programmes; the improvement of readiness and reaction during nuclear accidents in Georgia with support from IAEA; a remote medical location for emergency doctors and nurses and a teaching programme in emergency and medical care for school children. In 2003 I started working in the Gudushauri Medical Centre where, under my efforts, the emergency department critical care unit and recovery room was established.

In 2005, together with like-minded colleagues, I founded the Georgia Society of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. In 2005, under my guidance, a project on management of critical and emergency medicine was developed. In 2007, under the Georgia Society of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, and with my participation too, a hospital emergency care and teaching programme was created for physicians, nurses and rescuers. Being recognized by a world democratic institution such as WHO is a great honour for Georgia and, in addition, the award is very



motivating for our local health care organizations, and is proof that we are taking the right direction and once more indicates that our foreign friends are ready to give us their help and support. Once again I want to thank you and believe that soon another representative of Georgia will be similarly honoured. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, and again congratulations, Dr Metreveli. We also want to again thank the State of Kuwait for making this Prize possible. We also thank all of our guests for gracing us with their presence this afternoon. This brings us to the completion of item 7 of the Agenda.

**The meeting rose at 18:10.**  
**La séance est levée à 18h10.**