

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Thursday, 21 May 2009, at 17:20

President: Mr N.S. DE SILVA (Sri Lanka)

SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE

Jeudi 21 mai 2009, 17h20

Président : M. N.S. DE SILVA (Sri Lanka)

1. AWARDS DISTINCTIONS

The PRESIDENT:

The Health Assembly is called to order. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, we shall now proceed with 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, the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion and the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Fund. I have much pleasure in welcoming among us the distinguished winners of these prestigious prizes.

I am also very pleased to greet: representing the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, Mr Yohei Sasakawa, President of the Nippon Foundation and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for the Elimination of Leprosy and Professor Kenzo Kiikuni, Chairman of the Board of the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation; His Excellency, Obaid Salem Saeed Al Zaabi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other Specialized Agencies at Geneva, representing the founder of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation; and Dr Al-Saif, Assistant Under-Secretary for Public Affairs of the Ministry of Health of Kuwait, representing the State of Kuwait.

I greet Dr Park Jong-wha, President of the Korean Foundation for International Health Care, representing the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health. I also have great pleasure in welcoming here at the Assembly, Mrs Reiko Kaburaki-Lee, the widow of the late Director-General, Dr Lee Jong-wook.

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

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we shall start 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. I invite Mr Yohei Sasakawa to address the Health Assembly on behalf of the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation. Mr Sasakawa, you have the floor.

Mr SASAKAWA (Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation):

Mr President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to be able to speak on the 25th anniversary of the Sasakawa Health Prize. With the recent outbreak of the new type of influenza, this is a busy time for WHO. I commend all concerned under the leadership of the Director-General and I am most grateful to WHO for ensuring that this prize-winning ceremony could be held.

The Sasakawa Health Prize was established in 1984 and embodies the WHO's principle of "health for all". The right to health – along with the right to eat and to have an education – is a basic human right. But above all, health is vital to the enjoyment of all other rights. Primary health care is a particularly important sector because it reaches so many people. It addresses the fundamental causes of ill health.

The Sasakawa Health Prize recognizes the achievements of individuals or groups active in the field of primary health care. This year's winner is Dr Amal Abdurrahman Al Jowder of Bahrain. Dr Amal Al Jowder started her career as a family doctor at the East Riffa Health Centre in Bahrain in 1985, later moving to the Ministry of Health. Her career has spanned almost the entire history of the Sasakawa Health Prize.

I should like to single out two reasons why Dr Amal Al Jowder deserves praise: First, she attaches great importance to seeing that people receive proper health information. She has worked hard to see that this information is broadcast via television and radio. Spreading knowledge about health is vital for disease prevention and early diagnosis. For this, the cooperation of the media is essential. This is something I know about from my work as a WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Elimination of Leprosy. In leprosy, social stigma and the discrimination it causes are still prevalent. To eradicate this stigma, it is very important to work with the media, publicizing the true facts about the disease.

The second reason for which Dr Al Jowder is to be commended is for the way she has fostered links with other ministries and other sectors. She doesn't confine herself to the health ministry but cooperates with other health experts, municipalities, regional centres and schools to promote primary health care. This is what it takes to see that social change reaches every part of the community. Beginning with the media, there needs to be cooperation with every sector of society, including nongovernmental organizations, schools and businesses.

One of the unique aspects of the Sasakawa Health Prize is that the prize money is to be used to further the recipient's work. I understand that Dr Al Jowder intends to invest the money in two buses: an education bus and a sports bus. Both of these buses will tour remote areas of the country, reaching the people living there with health information and basic sports equipment. My congratulations to Dr Amal Al Jowder, and may her work go from strength to strength. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr Sasakawa. It is with pleasure that I announce that the 2009 Sasakawa Health Prize has been awarded to Dr Amal Al Jowder, Acting Director of the Health Promotion Directorate, Bahrain. Dr Al Jowder is a dedicated leader and an outstanding professional in the field of health promotion. She has spearheaded many initiatives at community level and in the ministry, building a reliable information network formed through the collaboration among health specialists, representatives from social centres, municipalities, clubs and local schools. The Sasakawa Prize will enable her to set up two new activities: an education bus delivering information materials, and a sports bus distributing basic sports equipment, which will tour remote areas of the country, providing services to geographically disadvantaged population groups. It is now my privilege to present the Sasakawa Health Prize to Dr Amal Al Jowder.

**Amid applause, the President handed the Sasakawa Health Prize to Dr Amal Al Jowder.
Le Président remet le Prix Sasakawa pour la Santé au Dr Amal Al Jowder. (Applaudissements)**

Dr AL JOWDER:

الدكتورة أمل الجودر (البحرين):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم،
السيد الرئيس، السيدة المديرة العامة لمنظمة الصحة العالمية، الدكتورة مارغريت تشان، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، الضيوف الكرام، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،
إنه لمن دواعي سروري وفخري أن أقف أمامكم أيها الحشد المتميز، ممتنة لله عز وجل قبل كل شيء على توفيقني لهذا الأمر وشاكرة للمجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية في دورته الرابعة والعشرين بعد المائة لمنحي هذه الجائزة. والشكر موصول للسيد ساساكاوا سفير النوايا الحسنة لمكافحة الجذام. أيها الحفل الكريم، كان العمل في مجال التنمية الصحية وما زال بالنسبة لي رسالة حياة، ووسيلة أنقرب بها لله عز وجل. فلم انظر لعملي قط على أنه مجرد وظيفة كما كانت التنمية الصحية هدفاً وطلاً لازمني طوال مسيرتي المهنية بدءاً من أول وظيفة عملت بها كطبيبة عائلة حديثة التخرج تحلم بتطبيق كل ما تعلمته في دراستها حول علاقة طبيب العائلة بمرضاه ثم عندما ترقيت كطبيبة مسؤولة حيث شكلت أول لجنة مشتركة من المركز الصحي وممثلي قطاعات المجتمع في عام ١٩٨٨ بحس بديهي عفوي. فلم أكن، ساعتها، أعرف ما مشاركة المجتمع أو ما تعني التعبئة الاجتماعية ثم رئيسة لقسم التنقيف الصحي منذ عام ١٩٩٢ ساهمت بشكل كبير في نشر الثقافة الصحية. ولم يكن عملي في التنمية الصحية مقتصرًا على وظيفتي الحكومية قط، بل امتد ليشمل كل عمل تطوعي مع عدة جمعيات أهلية. بل وحتى خلال خوضي للانتخابات البرلمانية لعضوية مجلس النواب في عام ٢٠٠٦، كانت استراتيجيات ميثاق أوتواو لتعزيز الصحة أحد محاور برنامجي الانتخابي.

أيها الحفل الكريم، لعله من البديهي والمنطقي أن أسعى اليوم في مواصلة هذا المشوار الذي قطعته على نفسي، فأنا الآن أكثر قوة وأكثر علماً وخبرة من خلال عملي الرسمي في رئاسة إدارة تعزيز الصحة بالوزارة ومن خلال عضوية مجلس إدارة الاتحاد النسائي البحريني ومجلس إدارة جمعية الهلال الأحمر البحريني ورئيسة للجنة الاستشارية لجمعية أطفال وشباب المستقبل، فمن خلال تلك المناصب أكون في علاقة متواصلة مع كل فئات المجتمع من النساء والأطفال والشباب من الجنسين.

أيها الحفل الكريم، من المؤكد أن فوزي بهذه الجائزة الرفيعة المستوى، أمرٌ أثلج صدري وبلا شك هو ثمرة تعب لرحلة دامت ربع قرن، ولا أذيع سرا لو قلت إنني سعدت بها أيما سعادة ولكن فوزي الحقيقي هو حب الناس وتقديرهم لي، ذلك الحب الذي رأيته في عيونهم وسمعته من خلال أحاديثهم، وشعرت به في عدة مواقف كدعمهم لي أثناء الانتخابات النيابية وبعد الإعلان عن حصول هذه الجائزة.

ختاماً، أقدم بالشكر الجزيل لسعادة وزير الصحة، الدكتور فيصل بن يعقوب الحمر والشكر موصول لجميع من عمل معي من داخل وزارة الصحة وخارجها إذ شكلنا مع بعضنا البعض فرق عمل وخلايا نحل ولولاهم لما كنت أقف هنا اليوم.

كما أهدي هذه الجائزة إلى روعي والديّ الكريمين وإلى جميع أفراد عائلتي عائلة الجودر العزيزة ولقيادتنا الرشيدة متمثلة في ملكنا المفدى ورئيس وزرائه الموقر وولي عهده الأمين، ولصاحبة السمو الشيخة سبيكة بنت إبراهيم الخليفة، رئيسة المجلس الأعلى للمرأة صانعة نهضة المرأة البحرينية الحديثة، ولكل شعب البحرين الحبيب ولكل من يقيم على ترابها الغالي والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

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

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now proceed with the presentation of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize, which is awarded to a person or persons, an institution or institutions or a nongovernmental organization or organizations that has or have made an outstanding contribution to health development.

The members of the Executive Board Selection Panel felt that more than one candidate merited the Prize and therefore decided that the Prize should be shared between two candidates. It is my pleasure to announce that the 2009 United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize has been awarded jointly to the Integrated Perinatal Care Project, KK Women's and Children's Hospital in Singapore and to the Georgian Respiratory Association.

The KK Women's and Children's Hospital was founded in 1924 and is the largest medical facility in Singapore. The Integrated Perinatal Care Project has contributed significantly to bridging the gap between knowledge and practice with a strong research element. Among its many achievements it has achieved a notable decrease in maternal mortality, has patented and implemented new health-care delivery methods.

The Georgian Respiratory Association was established in 2004 with the aim of developing and promoting respiratory medicine in Georgia. It has produced guidelines on the management of respiratory diseases. It has promoted the continued medical education, through, among other initiatives, the organization of scientific meetings, and the publishing of the *Georgian Respiratory Journal* for medical specialists, insuring that also those in remote areas can have access to the latest medical information and techniques.

Now I have the pleasure of inviting His Excellency, Obaid Salem Saeed Al Zaabi representing the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation, to address the Health Assembly.

السيد عبيد سالم الزعبي (مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة):

Mr AL ZAABI (United Arab Emirates Health Foundation):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم،

السيد رئيس جمعية الصحة العالمية، سيادة الدكتورة مارغريت تشان، المدير العام لمنظمة الصحة العالمية، أصحاب المعالي وزراء الصحة، أصحاب السعادة أعضاء الوفود وممثلي المنظمات المشاركة، السيدات والسادة،

باسم مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة، يطيب لي أن أتقدم إليكم جميعاً بخالص التهاني بمناسبة الاحتفال السنوي الذي تنظمه منظمة الصحة العالمية لتكريم الأطباء والعلماء والمؤسسات ممن يسهمون في إثراء العمل الصحي، وتعزيز دور المنظمة الرائد في المحافظة على صحة وسلامة الإنسان. كما أغتنم هذه المناسبة لأتقدم بجزيل الشكر والامتنان للمجلس التنفيذي للمنظمة للجهود الطيبة التي يبذلها جميع أعضائه بالإعداد لتكريم الفائزين بهذه الجائزة.

السيدات والسادة، إن جائزة مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة، جاءت وفقاً لمبادرة كريمة من الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان مؤسس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة رحمه الله، ومجسدة لثقة وإيمان دولة الإمارات 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 وزراء وحاكم دبي رعاه الله، وإخوانهما أصحاب السمو حكام الإمارات حفظهم الله لتعزيز ودعم العمل النبيل لمنظمة الصحة العالمية في كافة بلدان العالم.

إن انطلاق مبادرة الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان لجائزة مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة في ١٨ أيار/ مايو ١٩٩٣، إنما أتى قناعة من قيادتنا الرشيدة بدور العلماء والعاملين في هذا المجال على تطوير العطاء للبشرية جمعاء. وجسدت هذه القناعة من خلال أكبر مؤسسة صحية في العالم والمظلة الكبرى لتطوير العلم والعطاء الصحي منظمنا جميعاً منظمة الصحة العالمية حيث منحت أول جائزة في أيار/ مايو ١٩٩٤.

السيدات والسادة، إنه يشرفني من هذا المقام وبموافقة المجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية أن أعلن عن منح جائزة مؤسسة الإمارات العربية المتحدة للصحة لهذا العام مناصفة إلى كل من مستشفى النساء والأطفال كيك كيه في سنغافورة وجمعية الأمراض الصدرية في جورجيا.

أما مستشفى النساء والأطفال كيك كيه الذي أسس عام ١٩٢٤ فيعتبر أكبر مؤسسة صحية في سنغافورة وكان له موقع ريادي في توفير الرعاية الصحية التخصصية لهاتين الشريحتين الهامتين من السكان

حيث ساهمت هذه المؤسسة في إيجاد تواصل وثيق بين المعرفة المبنية على البحوث العلمية وبين الممارسات المهنية.

أما جمعية الأمراض الصدرية في جورجيا فقد تأسست عام ٢٠٠٤ بهدف تعزيز مكافحة الأمراض الصدرية وتعتبر أول جمعية في جورجيا تمكنت من تطوير نظام مدعوم بدليل وطني لتدريب الأطباء في المناطق النائية. وتبوءت الجمعية الريادة في إطلاق مشروع رصد الأمراض الصدرية المزمنة على مستوى الرعاية الصحية الأولية.

السيدات والسادة، إن دولة الإمارات تتطلع إلى حث العلماء والباحثين والمؤسسات العلمية والمنظمات والجمعيات ذات النفع العام في جميع أنحاء العالم على بذل المزيد من الجهد لمواكبة التطورات المتصاعدة التي يشهدها عالمنا اليوم وذلك للتوصل إلى أساليب أكثر فعالية للتغلب على المشكلات والتحديات الصحية. وأخيراً لا يسعني إلا أن أتوجه لجمعكم الكريم هذا بالشكر والتقدير وبالتهنئة القلبية للفائزين بجائزة هذا العام، كماؤكد مرة أخرى مواصلة سعيينا في تقديم ما من شأنه أن يعود بالخير على البشرية جمعاء. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. It is now my privilege to present the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize to Associate Professor Tan Kok Hian, Team Leader of the Integrated Perinatal Care Project.

Amid applause, the President handed the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize to Dr TAN Kok Hian.

Le Président remet le Prix de la Fondation des Émirats arabes unis pour la Santé au Dr TAN Kok Hian. (Applaudissements)

Dr TAN Kok Hian (KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore):

Mr President, Director-General, honourable ministers, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore is pleased and honoured that our Integrated Perinatal Care Project has been awarded the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize. This Prize is awarded to a person, institution or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to health development. We, the KK Women's and Children's Hospital Perinatal Team, thank the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation selection panel and the Executive Board of WHO for selecting our project as worthy of this prestigious Prize.

The KK Women's and Children's Hospital started in 1858 as a public hospital and celebrated its 150th anniversary last year. The hospital became a free maternity hospital in 1924 and was the busiest maternity hospital in the world in the 1950s and 1960s. The KK Women's and Children's Hospital helped Singapore to significantly reduce maternal mortality (by 100 times) from 760 per 100 000 births in 1930 to seven per 100 000 births in 1987 and the perinatal mortality from above 50 per 1000 births in the 1940s to less than five per 1000 births in the 1990s.

For the last two decades, KK Women's and Children's Hospital has strived to be a health-care leader for women and children. In line with this, the Integrated Perinatal Care Project was initiated in 1994 to further improve maternal and perinatal care. The KK Women's and Children's Hospital Perinatal Team is a multidisciplinary team that operates in a well-coordinated manner, in close collaboration with midwives, medical officers, obstetricians, anaesthetists, physicians, neonatologists and paediatric surgeons. Our team not only focuses on knowledge generation through internal surveys but also ensures ongoing enhancement of various protocols, development of new health-care delivery methods and formation of strong partnerships with other research-oriented local and regional organizations. We strongly emphasize the knowledge-translation process to improve care. By effective bridging the gap between knowledge and practice, our team has been able to deliver state-of-the-art evidence-based care to our patients in a timely and efficient manner.

Since its inception, the Integrated Perinatal Care Project has helped to establish our hospital as an international centre of excellence in perinatal care and a national referral centre. We take great

pride in our patient care and our consistent record of having one of the lowest maternal mortality and eclampsia rates for a tertiary hospital in the world. Perinatal and neonatal mortality rates were further reduced to very low levels.

The success of the Integrated Perinatal Care Project was pivoted on the effective team efforts among various disciplines in maternal and perinatal care. Thus, for our KK Women's and Children's Hospital Perinatal Team, this award is a recognition of our collective team effort and spirit. This award is also a recognition of our hospital's century-old efforts in the pursuit of better maternal and perinatal care. Finally, it is a strong endorsement of the national and worldwide collaborative effort in improving maternal care, which our hospital is actively engaging in. We look forward to continue our contributions in improving maternal care, which is one of the Millennium Development Goals.

This award will spur us on to work harder and even better. The KK Women's and Children's Hospital Perinatal Team will be donating the Prize money to our perinatal training fund to train more junior staff in perinatal care. We would like to thank WHO and everyone here for the privilege and honour of receiving this Prize at this Sixty-second World Health Assembly in Geneva. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Professor Tan. It is now my privilege to present the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize to Mr Ivane Chkhaidze, President of the Georgian Respiratory Association.

Amid applause, the President handed the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize to Mr Ivane Chkhaidze.

Le Président remet le Prix de la Fondation des Émirats arabes unis pour la Santé à M. Ivane Chkhaidze. (Applaudissements)

Dr CHKHAIDZE (Georgian Respiratory Association):

Distinguished Director-General, distinguished President, distinguished delegates, I would like to thank the Director-General for inviting us to be part of this important Sixty-second World Health Assembly. It is a great honour to receive the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation award. This recognition will bring tremendous joy and encouragement to all members of the Georgian Respiratory Association.

This is truly a celebration for our Association, a celebration of the contributions of our members in health promotion, But it is not only our Association's award. It belongs to many others who helped us to realize our plans: the Ministry of Health of Georgia, the WHO country office, the State Medical University, the managers of medical facilities, and many others.

The Georgian Respiratory Association is very young. It was established in 2004 and it was very hard in the beginning: no one knew us, no sponsors were interested in collaborating with us, but we were very persistent and motivated. We did not have enough money to rent appropriate conference facilities so our first regional conferences, over 300 kilometers from our capital, were held in cold uncomfortable halls, sometimes in an old theatre, sometimes in a huge opera house. But among our 400 participants, no one complained, no one left the conference. They listened to our speakers for six to eight hours without even a single coffee break. They wanted new information, they wanted to learn more, and we are really grateful for their patience.

It was the doctors from the distant hospitals and outpatient clinics who encouraged us not to give up and we moved forward. We launched the *Georgian Respiratory Journal* that was distributed to our members; we created the first Georgian guidelines in respiratory medicine; we started the training of family physicians and doctors in primary health care facilities; we signed an agreement with WHO and started the WHO Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Diseases programme in Georgia. In 2007 we organized the first international congress of the Georgian Respiratory Association and, with the assistance of the European Respiratory Society conducted its school seminar in Georgia, which was a great success. It was our first congress with European accreditation and top European speakers. It was a crucial moment and we became friends with almost everyone. Our last regional

meetings have been held in comfortable hotel conference rooms with crowded exhibits and appropriate coffee breaks. At our first congress only 15 companies were interested in support and collaboration; today we have about 30 offers to cooperate in our second International Congress in 2010.

The United Arab Emirates Health Foundation award increases the determination of our members. We hope to work more and share our knowledge and experience with more doctors. We believe that they have a right to learn more. The Georgian Respiratory Association will continue to make our voices heard, for medical professionals, for policy-makers. And this award will help us to be heard more loudly and more clearly and we are very grateful for this opportunity. Thank you very much.

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

The PRESIDENT:

We will now proceed with the presentation of the 2009 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 Executive Board Selection Panel felt that more than one candidate merited the Prize, and therefore decided that the Prize should be shared between two candidates. It is my pleasure to announce that the 2009 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion has been awarded jointly to Dr Shaikha Salim Al Arrayed and to the National Centre for Workplace Health Promotion, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland. Dr Al Arrayed is head of the Genetic Department in the Salmaniya Medical Complex and of the National Committee for Control of Hereditary Diseases, Bahrain. Over the past 25 years, she has made a significant contribution to health research, training and health-care services. She has implemented the country's hereditary blood diseases control programme, which has achieved a 60% to 70% reduction in the prevalence among newborns and has considerably reduced the rate of consanguinity. The programme that she has spearheaded, which is the first in the region, has been used as a model in other regions.

The National Centre for Workplace Health Promotion was established in 1996 and is responsible for the development and coordination of activities of the National Network for Workplace Health Promotion in Poland. Among its various achievements is the launch in 2002 of a new area of research into the needs of older employees. Its work is recognized internationally and has received many positive reviews from the competent bodies. I shall now invite Dr Al-Saif to address the Health Assembly on behalf of the State of Kuwait.

الدكتور علي يوسف السيف (مؤسسة دولة الكويت لتعزيز الصحة):

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

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم،

السيد رئيس جمعية الصحة العالمية، السيدة المديرية العامة لمنظمة الصحة العالمية، أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، أعضاء الوفود، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،

أود، في البداية، أن أهنئكم سيادة الرئيس على اختياركم رئيساً لجمعية الصحة العالمية الثانية والستين، كما أهنئ نواب الرئيس وأتمنى للجمعية كل النجاح. ويسعدني، باسمي وباسم مؤسسة دولة الكويت لتعزيز الصحة، أن أرحب بكم في هذا الحفل الكريم لمنح جائزة دولة الكويت في مجال الأبحاث لتعزيز الصحة.

سيادة الرئيس، لقد أولى حضرة صاحب السمو أمير دولة الكويت الشيخ صباح الأحمد جابر الصباح حفظه الله ورعاه، اهتماماً كبيراً بالخدمات الصحية بدولة الكويت، وقدم الدعم للعديد من نشاطات منظمة الصحة العالمية في العديد من مجالات مكافحة الأمراض في العالم، ومن أجل ذلك بادرت دولة الكويت بإنشاء هذه الجائزة في منظمة الصحة العالمية عام ٢٠٠٤ لتشجيع الأطباء والعلماء والباحثين لإجراء الأبحاث في هذا المجال العام. وإننا على يقين بأن هذه الجائزة سوف تساهم في دعم الأبحاث في مجال تعزيز الصحة في مكافحة أمراض العصر وتحسين الخدمات الصحية في العالم من خلال تقليل كثير من أمراض العصر مثل

أمراض القلب والشرابين ومرض السرطان والسكري والأمراض النفسية وأمراض المناطق المدارية وغيرها من الأمراض التي تؤثر على الوضع الصحي العالمي.

سيادة الرئيس، يسعدني أن أعلم هذا الحفل الكريم بأن مؤسسة دولة الكويت لتعزيز الصحة والمجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية قد وافقا في شهر كانون الثاني/يناير عام ٢٠٠٩ على منح جائزة مؤسسة دولة الكويت في مجال الأبحاث لتعزيز الصحة لكل من الدكتورة شيخة سليم العريض من البحرين والمركز الوطني لتعزيز الصحة معهد نوفل للطب المهني في بولندا.

لقد تم منح الجائزة للدكتورة شيخة سليم العريض من مملكة البحرين، وهي رئيسة قسم الوراثة في مركز السليمانية الطبي في البحرين نظراً لمساهماتها في الأبحاث والتدريب والخدمات الطبية في مجال الأمراض الوراثية. ولقد قامت خلال الأعوام الخمسة والعشرين الماضية بوضع برنامج للوقاية من أمراض الدم. كما قامت بدور كبير في مجال التوعية بخصوص الأمراض الوراثية.

كما تم منح الجائزة الثانية للمركز الوطني لتعزيز الصحة في بولندا نظراً لدوره الكبير في مجال طب المجتمع ودوره في وضع الاستراتيجيات وإجراء الأبحاث في هذا المجال ورصد ومكافحة التدخين وإصدار الكتيبات والمراجع، كما قام المركز بعمل أبحاث تحليلية الوضع لتعزيز الصحة في بولندا.

وفي نهاية كلمتي أود أن أهنئ الفائزين بهذه الجائزة وأشكر المدير العام الدكتورة مارغريت تشان وجميع العاملين معها على جهودهم في هذا المجال.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Dr Al-Saif. It is with great pleasure that I now present the 2009 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion to Dr Shaikha Salim Al Arrayed.

Amid applause, the President handed the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion to Dr Shaikha Al Arrayed.

Le Président remet le Prix de l'État du Koweït pour la Recherche en Promotion de la Santé au Dr Shaikha Al Arrayed. (Applaudissements)

Dr AL ARRAYED:

President, Director-General Dr Chan, respected delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to receive the prestigious Kuwait Award for research in health promotion. I am very grateful to the Executive Board of the World Health Organization for granting me this award. I am a Bahraini physician with a PhD in genetics. My life has been dedicated to protecting children from the chronic effect of genetic diseases and reducing the suffering. That is why I organized and directed the campaign to control genetic diseases in Bahrain in the 1984–2009 period. The goals of this campaign were to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases and to improve the standard of management of our patients suffering from these diseases in Bahrain. The prevention strategy depends on health education, screening and counselling. A comprehensive health education programme has been launched to increase public awareness of the disease and method of avoiding them. The screening for haemoglobinopathies – including sickle-cell disease and thalassaemia – was undertaken in the following population categories: antenatal mothers, premarital couples, newborns and school students, followed by family counselling. The campaign was supported by both the policy-makers and the community.

These efforts over more than 25 years have had a tremendous effect in reducing the prevalence of genetic blood diseases among the newborn in Bahrain, so that in 1984 the incidence of sickle-cell disease among newborns reduced from 20 per 1000 in 1984 to seven per 1000 with 70% decline today. The consanguinity rate also declined gradually due to increased awareness about genetic diseases. The total consanguinity rate in 1990 was 49% compared with 20% with 66% decline in 2007. During this

campaign, we addressed the ethical, legal and social issues such as equity, informed consent, privacy, confidentiality and prevention of stigmatization and discrimination.

I have received many awards including the Kingdom Competence of Order of First Degree from His Highness, the King of Bahrain, Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa. I was also among the 100 women nominees for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. As for membership I am the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Genomics and Biotechnology Network, a member of the WHO Human Genetics Expert Advisory Panel as well as a member of many international, regional and local genetic societies and organizations. As for social activities, I am a founding member and President of the Bahrain National Heredity Blood Diseases Society. I have published more than 60 papers in peer review journals and many books in English and Arabic about genetics. I have also contributed to many national projects such as establishing a cytogenetic laboratory, a molecular laboratory, premarital counselling services, student-screening services and birth defects register. I also contributed to WHO publications, both as coauthor and as reviewer.

In summary, we were able to reduce the incidence of sickle-cell disease in our country by 70% and protect thousands of babies from acquiring the disease. During this period, the prevalence of cousin marriages also declined. We expect that this should reduce the prevalence of other genetic diseases such as metabolic and neurological diseases. We are regarded as a model in fighting genetic diseases and our continuous aim is to eradicate these diseases from our country.

Finally, I would like to thank WHO, the State of Kuwait for giving me this Award and to thank my family, the Minister of Health in Bahrain and the Government of Bahrain for their support and encouragement. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Madam. It is now my pleasure to present the 2009 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion to Professor Konrad Rydzyński, Director of the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine.

Amid applause, the President handed the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion to Professor Konrad Rydzyński.

Le Président remet le Prix de l'État du Koweït pour la Recherche en Promotion de la Santé au Professeur Konrad Rydzyński. (Applaudissements)

Professor RYDZYŃSKI (Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine):

Mr President, Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, I feel truly honoured to have joined this prestigious gathering at the Sixty-second World Health Assembly. It is my pleasure to represent the National Centre of Workplace Health Promotion at the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine in Lodz, Poland, as a winner of the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion.

The National Centre of Workplace Health Promotion is headed by Dr Elzbieta Korzeniowska, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my cordial gratitude to her and her entire team for their outstanding performance. Health promotion is an important multidisciplinary area of modern public health that is focusing on improving human health along with traditional medicine based on technologically advanced procedures and pharmaceutical therapy. Its main task is to empower people to pursue the best potential health. In other words, health promotion is a concept emphasizing the fact that for good health we need a lot more than just effective medical services, well-trained doctors and nurses or modern equipment and medications.

Although this notion has already been well-established in the political domain, it still lacks proper support and attention when it comes to its practical implementation in many communities. The National Centre of Workplace Health Promotion, at the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, is active in a very specific area of health promotion regarding the working population. It is an important target group, whose needs and relevance with respect to health promotion are often underestimated, especially when compared with respective activities for children, adolescents or high-risk groups for

particular diseases. It is essential to regard workplace health promotion as a notion broader than that of traditional occupational medicine or occupational health and safety, since the working population is an invaluable capital of any nation and a source of social and economic growth and prosperity, especially in the Asian world. The National Centre of Workplace Health Promotion contributes to developing knowledge in the area of workplace health as an effective implementation of health promotion which requires evidence-based practice and a sound, scientific foundation. Therefore, in day-to-day activities, the Centre carries out research projects that are focused on a wide range of actions for health promotion in workplaces and assessment of the facts and their practical implementation. This in turn forms the ground for developing guidelines and recommendations as well as the methodology and knowhow necessary to put the concepts into practice in a flexible and effective way. The research strategies of the Centre concern various fields of interest. These range from the health-related beliefs and behaviours of workers to the employers' attitudes towards health promotion and practical activities in the enterprises, to the major workplace-related and more general organizational, legal and economic principles and the determinants of health promotion.

Another broad area of the Centre's research covers the health determinants that are crucial from the perspective of health promotion. This includes stress, tobacco smoking, alcohol abuse and the use of health care or health protection services. Such studies have been carried out for several years, making it possible to define the changes and time trends. The outcomes of the Centre's activities are disseminated in Poland as well as shared with other parties interested in workplace health promotion via well-established international corroboration. I do encourage all of you to contact us and cooperate.

We would like to once again thank the Executive Board of WHO and the founders of the State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion for granting us this prestigious award as well as for recognizing the importance of this particular area of public health: workplace health promotion. Thank you very much for your attention.

Presentation of the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health Remise du Prix Dr LEE Jong-wook pour la Santé publique

The PRESIDENT:

We will now proceed with the presentation of the 2009 Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health. This is the first year this prize has been bestowed.

The Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health was established in 2008 and is awarded to one or more persons, institutions, governmental or nongovernmental organizations that have made an outstanding contribution in the following areas: research into and prevention, treatment and control of HIV/AIDS; research into and control of communicable diseases; or control of neglected tropical diseases. It is my pleasure to announce that the 2009 Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health has been awarded to the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Centre of Georgia. The Research Centre is well regarded for its achievements in diagnostics, treatment and control of infectious diseases and has pioneered work in the region on HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis, notably in research and their treatment, prevention and control. It has introduced universal coverage of antiretroviral treatment and services or the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The Centre played a crucial role in the country's pioneering adoption of a law on HIV/AIDS prevention in 1995 and the development of a national strategy plan on HIV/AIDS completed in 2002 and a national Tuberculosis-HIV/AIDS strategic plan for 2007–2011. I shall now invite Dr Park Jong-wha, President of the Korean Foundation for International Healthcare to address the Health Assembly on behalf of the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Fund.

Dr PARK Jong-wha (Korean Foundation for International Healthcare):

Distinguished chief delegates and delegations from Member States and awardees, and, today especially, the awardee from Georgia, last but not least, Mrs Reiko Kubaraki Lee. Dr Lee Jong-wook left us, but we did not send him away. We would still like to have him in our midst. He is not here in body but he remains here, as far as I know, in spirit, in his vision for the future orientation of WHO.

The Korean Foundation for International Healthcare, of which I am President has named a memorial fund after Dr Lee Jong-wook. We in Korea decided to accompany Dr Lee Jong-wook when he was Director-General in whatever he was doing for public health in the name of WHO. We want to continue to accompany him, even though he is here only in spirit and mind, with an award: the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Award for Public Health.

You know him better than I do; you have lived with him for longer than I did. I can explain much about him, his personality, his work. You have experienced what he tried to do as Director-General. I can share with you some of the reasons why we have established and why we are sponsoring the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Award. First, Dr Lee Jong-wook was a man of integrity; integrity in that he cared so much for people in need. He passionately cared for people, a caring passion. Secondly, in his capacity he shared his personal, technical and professional resources with organizations and institutions all over the world wherever and whenever necessary. He believed in the wisdom of sharing. Thirdly, he dared to do; when he thought it was right, in the right place and the right time he pushed forward very courageously as he did with the establishment of the JW Lee Centre for Strategic Health Operations (SHOC). I say he was, and still is, a man of daring and courage. We in the Foundation want to support the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Centre of Georgia with WHO so that this institution will remember his caring, sharing, daring mission in Georgia. His name will be remembered, but we are people, human beings, we cannot live on past legacies alone; they are very important, but we still need to live for the future, with vision, and with future programmes in mind. Dr Lee Jong-wook was a man of vision, I think. His vision still lives, remains alive. We would like to follow him to accompany him in his vision to eradicate and eliminate diseases, all kinds of diseases from this world. He tried to establish and build a world without diseases. This vision will come to life when we try to do it together and when we try our best. Dare we try to do our best in Korea and all over the world, to live with the whole of humanity in the spirit of Dr Lee Jong-wook and his strong vision for the future.

We can only imagine this kind of world existing a long time in the future. We can make it come true a little at a time. We can make a first part of such a world come true. Our strong hope is that the Research Centre of Georgia makes a small but very significant first example of a world without disease, in Georgia and central Asia, to be shared by us. What Dr Lee Jong-wook would say to you is, let us think globally, to build a world without diseases. Let us cooperate regionally. Let us act locally, to build this world. The whole world is ours. We are the world. We are the regions, we are the local communities. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Dr Park. It is with great pleasure that I present the 2009 Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health to Dr Shota Gogichaishvili, Executive Director, Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Centre of Georgia.

Amid applause, the President handed the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health to Dr Shota Gogichaishvili.

Le Président remet le Prix Dr LEE Jong-wook pour la Santé publique au Dr Shota Gogichaisvili. (Applaudissements)

Dr GOGICHAISHVILI (Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Centre, Georgia):

Your excellency, Director-General, Mr President, Dr Park, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, let me greet you and thank WHO for the opportunity to visit Geneva and participate at this important forum. Georgia is a small, newly-independent country with an ancient history that has chosen a pathway to democracy and freedom. Like other countries with young democracies, Georgia is experiencing difficult times, facing challenges regarding its economic situation. For that reason, we are especially proud and grateful to be this year's awardee of the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize. We realize that such success would not have been achieved without the strong

political commitment and explicit leadership of the Georgian Government and health-care officials. WHO's contribution was especially noteworthy in the creation of a modern-type health-care system in Georgia. International partnerships with leading medical centres from Europe and the United States of America should also be considered. This acknowledgement will definitely encourage us to make further progress in the field of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases in Georgia.

In general, being awarded any WHO prizes is extremely honourable in itself, but the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize is exceptionally valuable. It is worth mentioning that our Centre is the first winner of this Prize. We honour Dr Lee Jong-wook as a person, dedicated to his work, unfalteringly committed to attain "the highest possible level of health" for all people. Born in the Republic of Korea, he became a world leader in public health. He tackled every challenge with passion, dedication and professionalism. Dr Lee's contribution in the development of global health is enormously significant.

Lastly, let us assure you that we will do our best to be a worthy partner of WHO and the Dr LEE Memorial Foundation.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Sir. I would like to make an announcement regarding the Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship. This fellowship was established in 1991 with funds provided by the Italian Government to honour the memory of Professor Francesco Pocchiari, former Director-General of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome. The Fellowship was awarded in 2008 to Dr Uranchimeg Davaatseren from Mongolia and to Dr Intesar Alsaïdi from Yemen. I would now like to draw your attention to document A62/41, containing amendments to the statutes governing the Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation, for your information.

This concludes our consideration of item 7 of our agenda. I would now like to request that delegates remain seated for a few moments while the Director-General and I bid farewell to our guests. Thank you.

2. EXECUTIVE BOARD: ELECTION CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF: ÉLECTION

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now consider item 6, Executive Board: election. I draw your attention to the list of 12 members, contained in document A62/49, drawn up by the General Committee in accordance with Rule 100 of the Rules of Procedure. In the General Committee's opinion, these 12 members would provide, if elected, a balanced distribution of the Board as a whole. These members are, in the English alphabetical order: Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Japan, Serbia, Somalia and Syrian Arab Republic.

Is the Health Assembly prepared, in accordance with Rule 78 of the Rules of Procedure, to elect these 12 members as proposed by the General Committee? I see no objection. I therefore declare the 12 members elected.

This election will be duly recorded in the records of the Health Assembly. May I take this opportunity to invite members to pay due regard to the provisions of Article 24 of the Constitution when appointing a person to serve on the Executive Board.

3. REPORTS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES (continued)¹
RAPPORTS DES COMMISSIONS PRINCIPALES (suite)¹

The PRESIDENT :

We can now proceed to agenda item 8, Reports of the main committees.

First report of Committee B
Premier rapport de la Commission B

Now we will consider the draft first report of Committee B. This is contained in document A62/50. Please disregard the word “Draft” as the Committee approved the report without amendments.

The report contains seven resolutions, which I will read one at a time. First, there is the resolution entitled “Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”.

Is the Health Assembly ready to adopt this resolution?

Mr HOHMAN (United States of America):

Thank you, Mr President. I would like the official records of this session to reflect that this resolution was adopted in the committee by a recorded vote and is not a consensus text. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

This will be recorded. I see no objection. The resolution is therefore adopted.

The second resolution for your consideration is entitled “Unaudited interim financial report on the accounts of WHO for 2008”. Is the Health Assembly ready to adopt this resolution? I see no objection. It is so adopted.

The third resolution for your consideration is entitled “Status of collection of assessed contributions, including Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution”. Is the Health Assembly ready to adopt this resolution? I see no objection. It is so adopted.

The fourth resolution for your consideration is entitled “Scale of assessments 2010–2011”. Is the Health Assembly ready to adopt this resolution? I see no objection. It is so adopted.

The fifth resolution for your consideration is entitled “Amendments to the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules”. Is the Health Assembly ready to adopt this resolution? I see no objection. It is so adopted.

The sixth resolution for your consideration is entitled “Amendments to Staff Regulations”. Is the Health Assembly ready to adopt this resolution? I see no objection. It is so adopted.

The seventh resolution for your consideration is entitled “Salaries of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General”. Is the Health Assembly ready to adopt this resolution? I see no objection. It is so adopted.

The resolutions are therefore adopted and the first report of Committee B is therefore approved. This completes our work for today. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 18:35.
La session est levée à 18h35.

¹ See reports of committees in document WHA/62/2009/REC/3.

¹ Voir les rapports des commissions dans le document WHA/62/2009/REC/3.