



Newsletter 4



هفتاد و نهمین نشست منطقه‌ای مجمع جهانی سلامت

7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
KISH ISLAND, I.R. IRAN | 29-30 April 2019

Newsletter 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Kish Island - April 2019



7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting Ends, Celebrates Achievements



- Participation of Students, Most Visible Achievement of Kish Meeting



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- Iranian Student Project Wins Panel Award



- Marathon Competition

7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting Ends, Celebrates Achievements



The 7th World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting came to a close in Kish Island, a visa-free tourist resort in the Persian Gulf, on Tuesday 30 April 2019 after three days of intensive discussions and activities that organizers deem highly beneficial for Iran and the world.

The event, held at Kish International Convention Center, was hosted by Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). The event gathering had started on 28 April 2019 with what became the first-ever Student Pre-Event in the WHS 10-year history.

The one-day Student Pre-Event had brought more than 100 Iranian and international students to Kish Island where they exchanged ideas on regional and global health issues with veteran global experts.

The student gathering was a new initiative proposed by TUMS with the goal of creating

a student network and coaching the future global leaders in the health sector.

TUMS is the only member of the M8 Alliance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. TUMS has been a member of the M8 Alliance since 2016.

The M8 Alliance is a unique network of 25 leading international academic health centers, universities and research institutions based in 18 different countries. The M8 Alliance acts as an academic think-tank for WHS (worldhealthsummit.org).

The World Health Summit (WHS) is the annual conference of the M8 Alliance.

The M8 Alliance Student Network promotes collaboration among a large group of academic institutions committed to improving glob-



al health. Working together with economic decision-makers, its primary goal is to develop science-based solutions to health challenges all over the world.

After a successful one-day student gathering, the main WHS Regional Meeting began on Monday 29 April 2019. Iranian and international dignitaries, scientists, academics and students attended the event.

During the three days, more than three dozen panels were held around the six major WHS themes, namely "Health in Uncertain Situations", "Global Health in a Transitional World", "Sustainable Health Development," "Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health", "Planetary Health", and "Medical Education."

Kish Meeting Achievements

Dr. Amirhossein Takian, Secretary of the 7th WHS Regional Meeting elaborated on the achievements of the Kish meeting.

"First there is the scientific dimension," he told the Newsletter on the sidelines of the closing ceremony, pointing out that 180 speeches, 29 panels and four plenaries were organized that discussed the main health issues on the national, regional and global scale.

What needs to be done now, the academic said, is to put together everything the regional meeting yielded and transform it into actionable proposals.

Dr. Takian said a thorough re-



ported as an Iranian initiative, as a unique and major achievement.

"This whole gathering shows us that we can have an impact on the global scale and contribute to global health policymaking. We wish to propose that some



port will be devised by TUMS within the next few months that will be made public and sent to the Iranian government with the ultimate goal of improving health across Iran, especially universal health care. The scientist pointed out that the second benefit of the gathering was that it allowed hundreds of the best Iranian medical sciences students to spend time and confer with some of the top local and international health figures.

"This boosted the students' confidence and provided them with great role models to follow," he insisted.

Dr. Takian referred to the WHS Student Network, formed and

of the new innovations we had during this event also be put on the agenda of the next meetings," he proposed.

Last but surely not least, Dr. Takian pointed out what an achievement it was to host dozens of top scientific figures and groups of brilliant students from around the world under difficult conditions and restrictions by unilateral U.S. sanctions.

Travel restrictions imposed by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump _ as part of a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran _ prohibited some American scientists that had wished to participate in the Kish meeting.



The closing ceremony celebrated a distinguished student project that was selected by a panel of experts out of a shortlist of six that had itself been handpicked by TUMS from a long list of 44 projects.



Uganda's Makerere University,

Next President of WHS Regional Meeting 2020 Charles Ibingira Rukambura, Principal of Uganda's Makerere University took to the stage, declaring that his university will host the next WHS Regional Meeting 27 and 28 April 2020 in Kampala.

"I accept this huge responsibility with great humility," Ibingira told the audience.

Sanctions Will Never Be Restricted by Sanctions

Detlev Ganten, WHS Founding President, used his time on the stage of the closing ceremony to make concise but sharp remarks that drew rounds of applause from the audience.

"Science will never be restricted by any kind of politics or sanctions," he declared, adding that he believes students should be given an ever-increasing role in the health sector.

"Health has to be the indicator of the wealth of a country, not economy," the scientist opined.

Iranian Student Project Wins Panel Award

The closing ceremony celebrated a distinguished student project that was selected by a panel of experts out of a shortlist of six that had itself been handpicked by TUMS from a long list of 44 projects.

Professor Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the Global Health Center, chaired the panel and named the winner student Helia Ashourizadeh. Her project, REDXIR, focuses on HIV/AIDS related discrimination in healthcare.

REDXIR, according to Kickbusch, was selected to be of the highest quality and chosen the winner unanimously. It's a modern educational project aiming to change the attitude of healthcare profession students' attitude and behavior to provide a discrimination-free generation of future healthcare providers.

Ashourizadeh, a student of Shahid Beheshti Medical University in Tehran, is leader of this campaign, which is implemented through an on-line platform in which several HIV-related activities are defined for students to do.

These missions affect the attitude of students toward people living with HIV and also their knowledge about different aspects of HIV/AIDS.

"We found it fascinating with what a wide range of timely subjects were covered by the student projects which goes to show just how much students are on top of modern-day issues," Kickbusch said.

First Statement by WHS Student Network

The WHS Student Network issued its very first official statement, which was read aloud at the closing ceremony.

The statement said the network commits to always remember and honor its responsibilities toward global health and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and contribute as best as possible to the M8 Alliance and the future WHS gatherings.

It also pledged the network's commitment to continuously plan for the development of the network in line with contributing to global health goals.







TEHRAN UNIVERSITY
OF
MEDICAL SCIENCES



TUMS Chancellor Professor Abbasali Karimi: Participation of Young Students, Most Visible Achievement of Kish Meeting

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) is the largest and the highest-ranked medical university in Iran.

Most scholars and researchers have called TUMS Iran's most distinguished university in medical sciences and a pioneer in research in Iran with a noticeable lead over its peer universities.

TUMS (www.tums.ac.ir), located adjacent to the main University of Tehran campus, was founded as part of Dar ol-Fonoon (Institute of Higher Education) in 1851.

Dar ol-Fonoon was the first modern university and advanced institution of higher learning in Iran (formerly known as Persia). It was founded by Amir Kabir, a prime minister under Nasereddin Shah of the Qajar Dynasty. It was later developed and expanded its mission over the next hundred years, eventually becoming the University of Tehran.

That means the first modern center of medical training in Iran – then named School of Medicine – was absorbed into the University of Tehran in 1934.

Following the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, medical schools and departments associated with medical fields were separated from the Ministry of Higher



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Education in 1986 under a parliamentary legislation and were taken under the administration and jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education.

That's to say, since 1986, all Tehran University schools specializing in medical sciences have carried on their activities independently as Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS).

In an interview with the Newsletter, TUMS Chancellor Professor Abbasali Karimi elaborated on the university's future plans and the achievements of the 7th World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting in Kish Island.

Here's the full text of our interview with Dr. Karimi:

What makes TUMS different from other Iranian or international universities? What has been TUMS's biggest achievement in the last four decades?

TUMS is the biggest medical training institution and the symbol of medical and health education in Iran.

It trains over 12,500 students in approximately 290 undergraduate, graduate and non-degree (short-course) programs.

The university has 11 faculties, operates 16 teaching hospitals, is equipped with over 44 libraries, and publishes 58 journals, some in collaboration with academic societies.

As Iran's oldest university of medical sciences with 170 years of experience, TUMS has 105 research centers. Many national, regional and international research projects are carried out at TUMS every year. We have 2,500 resident and fellowship students, which is a great asset.



Every year, thousands of TUMS-related articles are published, which is a big advantage for the university.

I'm proud to say that most deans of medical universities, scientists and health experts across Iran have been trained at TUMS.

The top 100 students chosen every year through the National Exam, known as "University Concours," find their way into TUMS. This is one of many privileges making TUMS different from other universities and giving it a prime national and global status.



Talented students and skilled experts are TUMS's greatest asset. TUMS has a big share in production of science.

What about international students? How many international students study at TUMS? What are TUMS future plans?

TUMS students come from across Iran and the world, representing diverse experiences, backgrounds and cultures.

About 7 percent of TUMS students are foreign students. Currently, nearly 800 international students from 45 countries are studying at TUMS. We are planning to increase international admis-

sions in the coming years. The plan is to increase the current 7 percent to 20 percent.

International students studying at TUMS are ambassadors of Iran. They learn Farsi at the same time. They see the realities of Iran and talk about it when they return home.

How would you describe TUMS's relationship with international academic centers and universities? What are your plans to expand scientific exchanges with international universities?

One of the responsibilities of universities, including TUMS, is to expand its international contacts with credible global scientific centers.

It's meaningless not to have global contacts. Of course, unilateral U.S. sanctions against Iran also affect scientific cooperation. It's an attack

Our contacts with American universities are limited. However, the fact is that science has no limits. It has borders. Nobody can stop global scientific contacts or bring it to zero.

against science and global scientific cooperation.

Some American scientists and health experts were unable to attend the 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Kish because of those sanctions and pressures by the U.S. government.

However, the Kish meeting provided an opportunity to convey the concern of global scientists about cruel unilateral American sanctions.

Does TUMS have contacts with American universities?



Yes, it does. We have academic contacts with U.S. universities.

Under President Donald Trump, it has become difficult. Our contacts with American universities are limited. However, the fact is that science has no limits. It has borders. Nobody can stop global scientific contacts or bring it to zero.

What motivated TUMS to host the 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Kish?

My predecessor Dr. Ali Jafarian had established contacts with the M8 Alliance. In 2016, TUMS became a full member of the group.

After assuming the position of TUMS chancellor, I delegated the responsibility to Dr. Jafarian to pursue the plan.

Through his efforts, the World Health Summit (WHS) accepted our proposal to host the 7th Regional Meeting in Iran. Professor Jafarian was successful in making arrangements to organize the WHS Regional Meeting 2019 in Kish Island. These meetings help TUMS expand its existing contacts with the outside world and establish new contacts with international academic centers.

The Kish meeting opens a window for exchange of scientific achievements and provides insights on finding new answers to the persistent global health challenges.

What was the most visible achievement of the WHS Regional Meeting in Kish?

Young medical and health students, both Iranian and international students studying at TUMS, played a prominent role in this conference. Their active participation is the most visible achievement of this meeting.

The Student Pre-event was a proposal put forward by TUMS. It was fortunately welcomed.

Young students are the future leaders of the global health. Investing on the talented youth and young skilled students is a wise decision. Fortunately, this was done at Kish meeting.

Students got the chance to meet prominent global health leaders and exchange thoughts and ideas with them and learn from them at the



same time.

TUMS and the National University of Singapore (NUS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday 29 April 2019 to exchange scientific, academic and technical information and appropriate academic materials. How does it help TUMS to promote its relationship with international universities?

The MoU does help TUMS to expand its global contacts. We have already signed MoUs with various universities around the globe in the field of public health.

We also have very close and cordial contacts with universities in Iraq. TUMS is considering opening a branch in Iraq.

What has TUMS done to fill the gap between university and industry?

We are directly linked to the people and the related medical and health industries. Our graduates go to hospitals after completing training programs and start work or begin carrying out research at scientific centers.

TUMS has also taken great strides in reducing the gap between university and industry.

We are in the process of establishing a giant science and technology park. It will be an exclusively TUMS park covering 8 hectares of land in south Tehran. TUMS Science and Technology Park is now under construction.

The 8th World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting will be hosted by Uganda's Makerere University on 27 and 28 April 2020.

Makerere University Principal Professor Charles Ibingira will be the President of the 8th World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Kampala, Uganda.

In an interview with the Newsletter, Ibingira elaborated on the achievements of the 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Kish Island, his takeaways from the Kish meeting and his university's plans for the next Regional Meeting in Uganda.

Here's the full text of our interview with Dr. Ibingira:

Uganda's Makerere University Professor Charles Ibingira:

A Lot of Knowledge and Experience Shared at Kish Regional Meeting



What were your main take-aways from the 7th WHS Regional Meeting in Kish Island? Did you see anything here that would help you organize next year's meeting?

Definitely yes. I learned a lot here from the way this conference was organized. There are things we should do that were done here as well. One of them is promoting tourism. Secondly, we should also have a student meeting because it is very important so that the youth in Africa can also use the opportunity.

I think the meetings here are very well-attended, especially during the second day. So, we have to find ways to make sure that our meetings will also have enough audiences. We intend to make sure that we secure attendance from the M8 Alliance members and other international players.

Does this meeting have any impact on the readiness and preparedness to tackle the main health issues of the 21st century?

I think so because we discussed the main challenges of the current times and also the



future. The meetings looked at the issues very carefully and thoroughly and I think if their results are considered and reviewed, they can give direction to future efforts.

We made a lot of progress. We had a lot of dialogue with the experts. A lot of knowledge and experience was shared.

You spoke of how this event promoted tourism in Kish Island. Did you personally go on the sightseeing tour of the island?

Yes. This island is very beautiful. I went to a number of its historical sites and other important places. I also visited the beach which was very beautiful. Once I go home I intend to come back here some other time and spend some quality leisure time here. I will also encourage others to come.

I personally didn't have any trouble travelling to Iran. Nevertheless, I hope that sanctions and other limitations are soon lifted and everyone can come here freely.

Initially in my country they asked me to have a visa, but I eventually managed to come here without obtaining a visa since this is a free trade zone. There was no need for a visa to visit Kish

Island.

Lastly, I would like to appreciate my colleagues, the organizers of the gathering, because they did a wonderful job. They did a great job organizing this meeting, taking care of us and making sure we are comfortable throughout the journey.

I would like to thank them, but I would also like to invite them to travel to Uganda next year.

What is your vision for next year's conference? Please take us through what you are

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planning for the 8th World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Uganda.

We are thinking about the major themes. We are going to tackle health issues and challenges mainly in Africa, but also in other poor and middle to lower income countries.

Most of these issues deal with the youth. Most of the population in Africa is young. You'll find that almost 50 percent of the population is consisted of the youth. So, we will mostly be tackling issues dealing with the youth, which are very wide and range from nutrition and education to employment and many more.

We are also going to tackle the issue of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which are becoming an epidemic now and responsible for killing most of our people.

For a long time, the health systems in Africa have been focused on communicable diseases and most funding has been focused on HIV, malaria and the likes.

But now the NCDs have become a serious threat and the governments in Africa are trying to shift or at least balance the flow of funding to accommodate both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

We shall also focus on other health issues that affect Africa, particularly climate change.

We will also look at a number of other issues that we think, if discussed, will influence policymakers in Africa to have a



shift in policy and spend much more on health than they are doing at the moment.

So, our plan is to make sure we involve African leadership. We will invite a number of presidents and health ministers. We will also involve the academia, the public and various industries. But we shall also involve our global partners to come up with diverse ideas to tackle health challenges in Africa and beyond.

Most importantly, we want to see policies take place globally that contribute to narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor and inequality.

At the moment, in poor countries, you see too many problems and very limited funding. So, we want to see what actual solutions can be achieved globally to address the existing disparities as we move toward health for all and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Apart from the meeting, Uganda is a very beautiful country with many tourist attractions. So, we encourage everyone to come and enjoy the hospitality as well.

The cost of living in Uganda is extremely low and we have great cuisine. So, I think everyone who comes for the meeting will find the place very interesting and their stay very enjoyable.

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Marathon Competition





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