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TRAVELLING SEMINAR ON QUALITY CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAVELLING SEMINAR ON QUALITY CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS

by

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The World to-day is characterized by the most rapid change that has ever occured in the history of civilization. Pharmacy as a profession is making rapid strides forward and gaining recognition and influence as it progresses, but it is not sufficiently strong in its national and Governmental service. Many of the mechanical duties of the pharmacist can readily be carried out by sub-professionals in view of the shortage of pharmaceutical manpower in many countries of this Region.

We are gathered here to-day and for the following few days to take an inventory of what happened in the past and what is expected in the future of pharmacy as a whole, to thresh out amongst ourselves and to review briefly the existing patterns of organization and operation of pharmaceutical services in general and the problems of quality control of pharmaceutical preparations in particular.

Never was this task more urgent than today when drugs appear on the market almost too quickly to learn their names to say nothing about distinguishing which are the drugs which have different proprietary names.

We have amongst us here leading pharmaceutical specialists and government pharmacists from twenty countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, who have subscribed to this activity, to discuss how best to control the quality of drugs and medicaments locally manufactured or imported into their countries.

During the last few years, problems relating to good manufacturing practices and the quality control of pharmaceutical preparations have been emphasized more and more. These problems have been recognized by the World Health Assembly in that it invited Governments of the member States and the Director-General of the World Health Organization to take the necessary action. Governments have been invited to subject drugs to adequate control.

Purpose of the Seminar

1. To review briefly existing patterns of organization and operation of pharmaceutical services.
2. To review the general situation regarding quality control of pharmaceutical substances in countries of the Region.
3. To discuss the organization, administration and technical operation of quality control services:
    - 3.1 At central level
    - 3.2 At intermediate level
    - 3.3 At factory level
4. To discuss required special services:
    - 4.1 Control laboratories
    - 4.2 National reference laboratories
    - 4.3 Regional reference laboratories
    - 4.4 Inspection services
5. To discuss staffing of services and qualifications of personnel required:
    - 5.1 Technical personnel
    - 5.2 Auxiliary personnel and technicians
    - 5.3 Administrative personnel
6. To discuss education and training of personnel for control services including required training programmes and institutions.
7. To discuss legal requirements for organized systems of quality control services.
8. To make recommendations as to principles and procedures to be followed to strengthen and furgher develop pharmaceutical services and in particular quality control services in countries of the Region.

You are all invited to talk freely and present any problems you may wish the Seminar to tackle. However in view of the shortage of discussion time, it is requested that the presentation of the papers should take the minimum time possible not to exceed 10 minutes leaving the major part for discussions and exchanging views.