

RC64 bulletin

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President of Pakistan at 64th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean

For the first time in Regional Committee history, the opening of the 64th Session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean was attended by the president of the host country, Pakistan, reflecting the importance of health on the national and global agenda.

In his opening speech, H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of Pakistan called on the international community, and especially the regional countries, to cooperate to address the health challenges faced so that a comprehensive strategy can be devised to control the spread of infectious diseases and other public health threats.

Dr Mahmoud Fikri, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean commended the tireless effort of both governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan, who are striving to create a polio-free world.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, said that the world expects WHO to keep the world safe, improve health, and serve the vulnerable, adding that during his visit to Yemen in July 2017, he was inspired and proud to see the difference that WHO and partners are making in responding to the cholera outbreak.

H. E. Ms Saira Afzal Tarar, Federal Minister of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, noted that there is a wealth of global and local knowledge in the region to benefit from, and that we must employ innovation to ensure equity in access to health services.

Over the next three days, from 10–12 October, ministers of health and their representatives will discuss important public health priorities for countries of the Region. More than 250 public health leaders and experts are also attending the meeting, including representatives of national, regional and international organizations.



Photos from the Pre-RC sessions

Subjects discussed at the pre-RC technical meetings included private sector engagement for advancing universal health coverage; developing national capacity for research and research ethics to improve decision-making for health; Good Governance for Medicines programme in the Region; implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC); and integrated surveillance for communicable diseases. The outcome of the meetings will be presented to the Regional Committee for endorsement of any recommendations

Photos can be accessed on the RC64 Flickr account at the following link: [flickr.com/photos/whoemrorc64/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/whoemrorc64/)





Dr Slim Slama (pictured right)

WHO's emergency health kit for noncommunicable diseases

Watch an interview with Dr Slim Slama, WHO medical officer in the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, about WHO's new emergency health kit for noncommunicable diseases at [youtube.com/c/WHOEMR](https://www.youtube.com/c/WHOEMR).



Inauguration of the UAE-PAP Photo Exhibition

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Mahmoud Fikri inaugurated a photo exhibition by United Arab Emirates' Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE-PAP) dedicated to Pakistan's polio eradication efforts. The United Arab Emirates has played a pivotal role in supporting Pakistan's polio eradication efforts and has contributed significantly to the turnaround seen in

Pakistan since 2014. In 2016, thanks to their financial support, amounting to USD 18.4 million, more than 10.6 million children across

Pakistan's highest risk districts were vaccinated in each of the 3 phases of the campaign supported by the UAE-PAP.



The many colours of Pakistan

Pakistan's Minister of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination hosted an extravagant evening at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts with a dinner and cultural showcase especially curated for the participants of the 64th session of the Regional Committee.

Guests were treated to the many colourful folklore dances from all over Pakistan's diverse provinces, including the Kalash Valley, Sindh, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Punjab. They also enjoyed the moving melodies and vibrant rhythms of traditional instruments like the bamboo flute, sitar, rabab and dhole. This was followed by an open-air buffet dinner, culminating in an evening of gracious hospitality.



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