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Health Minister of Palestine Dr. Jawad Awad visited Turkey

Health Minister of Palestine Dr. Jawad Awad, accompanied by Director General of Financial Affairs Abdelkarim Hamadneh, visited Turkey on 29-31 May 2018 and had a bilateral meeting with the Turkish Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan on 30 May 2018. On this occasion, “Protocol Between The Government of The Republic of Turkey and the Government of the State of Palestine on Establishment, Joint Operation and Transfer of the Gaza Palestine -Turkey Friendship Hospital & on Provision of Medical Specialization Training in Turkey For The Palestinian Citizens” concerning joint operation of Gaza Palestine-Turkey Friendship Hospital for which construction activities were started in 2011 upon instruction of the President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and completed in 2017 was signed on 30 May 2018 in Ankara by the Turkish Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan and Palestinian Health Minister Dr. Jawad Awad.
Deputy Health Minister of Ukraine Dr. Ulana Suprun visited Turkey on 2-4 May 2018 within the framework of a working visit organized by the World Bank. For the guest Minister, a presentation was made about Psychiatry and Tobacco Control by the General Directorate of Public Health, Medicine Tracking System and Legislation by the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency, Performance-based Payment System and Public Procurements by the General Directorate of Public Hospitals and PPP Projects and Service Procurements by the General Directorate of Health Investments, and the delegation paid a visit to SAKOM. The guest Minister has a bilateral meeting with the Turkish Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan on 4 May 2018.
Culture, Tourism and Information Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sultanbek Cumagilov visited the Turkish Health Minister Dr. Ahmet Demircan on 17 May 2018. During the meeting, the parties exchanged opinions on support of Turkey for Kyrgyzstan, promotion of the hospitals in Turkey, development of trade between the two countries and involvement of the Kyrgyz investors in the indigenization of the medicines and medical equipment.
Deputy Health Minister Ahmet Baha Öğütken received Chair of Executive Board of Hitachi Health Unit and representatives of the relevant departments provided some clarification. At the end of the meeting, it was decided that representatives of the Hitachi firm would prepare a road map and submit it to the Turkish Ministry of Health, which, in return, would examine the prepared road map and proceed as the case required.

Deputy Health Minister Ahmet Baha Öğütken received Chair of Executive Board of Hitachi Health Unit and the accompanying delegation on 4 May 2018. During the meeting, the Hitachi firm provided information about their activities and plans for Turkey and their departments that wished to take part in the laboratory services under PPP projects,
The 71st session of the World Health Assembly, which is the highest decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO) and gathers the highest-level health directors, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to discuss the current health problems of the world, convened in Geneva, Switzerland on 21-26 May 2018. Every year, the Assembly convened with a different theme, which was “Health for All: Commit to Universal Health Coverage” this year. A delegation headed by the Undersecretary Prof. Dr. Eyüp Gümüş attended the Assembly on behalf of Turkey.

At the technical committees of the Assembly, such issues as preparedness and response in public health, transition process after the polio eradication, access to vaccines and medicines, effect of environment on health, physical activity, digital health, assistive technologies and maternal, child and adolescent health. Furthermore 13th General Program of Work (GPW 13), Five-Year Global Plan on Implementation of International Health Regulations, WHO Global Internship Program and Global Physical Activity Plans of Action were adopted.

“Decision on Improvement of Health Conditions on the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem and Golan”, which was also among the items of the Assembly, was adopted by the UN member states on 23 May 2018. During the meetings, UN Permeant Representative of Turkey Naci Koru represented Turkey and also a speech was delivered concerning this agenda item.
Turkey-Uzbekistan Joint Health Week

Turkey-Uzbekistan Joint Health Week was organized in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 26 April – 6 May 2018 within the scope of the humanitarian aid activities of the Turkish Ministry of Health.

Doctors and other allied healthcare staff in the fields of pediatric surgery, otorhinolaryngology, plastic surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, urology, pediatric cardiology, pediatric cardiovascular surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, radiology and anesthesia and reanimation took part in this event.

During the health week, operations that could not be performed for various reasons were made and theoretical and practical capacity development trainings were provided for the Uzbekistan healthcare professionals.

Details on the Health Week are available in the Special Supplement.
Training of Health Services in the times of Emergencies and Disasters for the Sudanese Healthcare Professionals

Training was organized for 30 Sudanese Healthcare Professionals concerning Health Services in the times of Emergencies and Disasters on 2-11 May 2018 at Izmir Urla.

Mohammed Danjuma, Program Manager of Presidential Committee on the North-East Initiative (PCNI), and Doris Yaro, Representative of GABA-SAWA NGO visited the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs

During the meeting, the parties talked about the provision of medical equipment for rehabilitation of the health facilities which were damaged due to internal conflicts in the northeast of Nigeria and execution of a cooperation agreement in the field of health.

Mohammed Danjuma, Program Manager of Presidential Committee on the North-East Initiative (PCNI), and Doris Yaro, Representative of GABA-SAWA NGO visited the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs on 8 May 2018 and had a meeting with Director-General Dr. Selami Kılıç.
Russian Federation Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights and Human Health (Rospotrebnadzor) visited Turkey

Within the framework of “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Tourism Health and Prevention of Communicable Diseases” between the Republic of Turkey and Russian Federation, a 5-person delegation – experts of epidemiology, virology and other fields working at Russian Federation Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights and Human Health (Rospotrebnadzor) visited Turkey on 14-17 May 2018, and had several meetings with the officials of the Turkish Ministry of Health and representatives of tourism sector in Ankara and Antalya. The delegation received information about the prevention and protection measures for the general public health and health of the Russian tourists in Antalya. For this purpose, they conducted examinations at 8 hotels in various regions of Antalya. At the end of the 4-day visit, Head of Delegation and Head of Communicable and Parasite Diseases Department Natalia Frolova stated that public health activities of Turkey were on the high level and very effective, the latest technology was used at the hospitals and laboratories, which were welcomed and found very pleasing. Director-General of Public Health Dr. Hüseyin İltür accompanied the delegation throughout their visit and stated that the meetings were very productive and activities of the Ministry and private sector were shared with the delegation based on transparency and all foreign tourists can have very good times in their holidays with inner peace. During the meetings, supervision of potable and pool waters, hygiene measures of the hotels and trainings of the Ministry for the tourism personnel along the 2018 season were discussed.

HIMSS Euroasia 2018 Preparatory Meeting

Coordinated by the General Directorate of Health Information Systems, the “HIMSS Eurasia ’18” will take place in Istanbul on 25-27 October 2018 in cooperation with the universities, private hospitals, SSI and similar organizations and with the participation of health authorities of the regional countries.

In addition to the meeting where the best IT practices and innovation-based solutions will be discussed, there will be organized the Health IT Expo which aims to bring together the health directors and health info professionals of the advances applications in the field of digital hospital, e-health, smart systems in health and new technologies.

With the scope of the preparations of HIMSS Eurasia 2018 meeting, an evaluation meeting was held on 9 May 2018 with the participation of the officials from the General Directorate of Health Information Systems and General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs.

35th Term Customs Union Joint Committee Meeting

35th Term Customs Union Joint Committee Meeting was held on 16-17 May 2018 at the Ministry of Economics. Issues regarding medicine, cosmetic products and medical equipment were discussed during the meeting where the officials from the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs and Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency were present.
Foreign Healthcare Professionals with Ongoing Training in Turkey
Training programs of the foreign healthcare staff who are receiving training as observers in the affiliated training and research hospitals of the Ministry are ongoing under bilateral agreements. Within the framework of such programs, a total of 118 foreign healthcare staff received training as of 31 May 2018.
Training of 2 foreign healthcare staff is ongoing at the Research and Training Hospitals affiliated to the Ministry of Health.

G20 2nd Health Working Group Meeting
G20 2nd Health Working Group Meeting took place on 17-18 May 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. During the meeting, "Health systems strengthening" and "Response of health systems to disasters, catastrophes and epidemics" were discussed and draft G20 Health Ministers Declaration was prepared.

Jean Monnet Scholarship Program Information Meeting
Written exam of the 2018-2019 Jean Monnet Scholarship Program was completed on 20 May 2018 and the assessment of the exams started as of 23 May 2018. In this regard, an introduction and training meeting was organized at the Central Finance and Tender Department on 23 May 2018 and General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs attended this meeting on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

25th Session of the Standing Committee of WHO Regional Committee for Europe
25th Session of the Standing Committee of WHO Regional Committee for Europe was held on 19 May 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.
A delegation headed by the Standing Committee Member and President of the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency Dr. Hakkı Gürsoz attended the meeting. Head of Department from the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs was also present at the meeting.

Long-Term Cooperation Consultation Meeting with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Representatives of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation visited Turkey on 2 May 2018 in order to discuss the long-term cooperation areas. General Directorate of Public Health and General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs attended the meeting organized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, project proposals of the relevant organizations were discussed with the representatives of the foundation.

143rd Session of the WHO Executive Board
143rd Session of the WHO Executive Board – the highest decision-making organ of the WHO- took place on 28-29 May 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. During the executive board meeting, the items that will be discussed at the World Health Assembly are determined and evaluated; issues submitted by the Program, Budget and Administration Committee are decided and working areas of the organization are directed. Deputy Director-General of Public Health Dr. Bekir Keskinkılıç attended the meeting together with a delegation on behalf of Turkey.

Treatment of Foreign Patients in Turkey
As per "Article 14 of the Basic Law on Health Services no 3359" 79 patients and as per Bilateral Agreements and Protocols 435 patients – 541 foreign patients in total - were treated in Turkey as of 31 May 2018.
Before and after meals, on coming home from the outside, #WashYourHands