Handover Ceremony at the Ministry of Health

Dr. Fahrettin Koca, the new Health Minister

Deputy Health Ministers

Prof. Dr. Muhammet Güven
Dr. Şuayip Birinci
Halil ELDEMİR
Prof. Dr. Emine Ağ Meşe
Health Journal of Foreign Affairs and EU
IN AUGUST EDITION

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Having been appointed as Turkey’s new Health Minister, Dr. Fahrettin Koca took over the position from his predecessor Dr. Ahmet Demircan who carried out this duty for around a year with success. Health Minister Koca said that “We will talk little but work a lot.”

Members of press showed great interest in the ceremony held at the Bilkent Campus of the Ministry of Health. During his speech at the handover ceremony, Dr. Ahmet Demircan said that “I am handing over the flag to my distinguished colleague, Dr. Fahrettin Koca, feeling very pleased and satisfied for making effort to carry out this duty in the best way. It is a great honor for me to hand over the position to the first health minister of the new system. I would like to thank to all my work friends and members of the health cycle for providing me any and all support while carrying out this duty, and I salute each of them with respect.”

“I also would like to express my gratitude to the President and Prime Minister for appointing me as the Health Minister, and to dear Turkish citizens for supporting me” added Dr. Ahmet Demircan and left the floor to Dr. Fahrettin Koca.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca saluted Ahmet Demircan and all participants of the ceremony and stated that he will make effort to carry out the assigned position in the best possible way.

Dr. Koca added that “I feel honored and pleased for taking over this position, assigned by President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, from my colleague Ahmet Demircan. I hope that we will further develop the health conditions of both our citizens and healthcare staff by working together. In addition to the patient satisfaction, providing satisfaction of the staff will be our priority.”

Health Minister Koca thanked to all participants expressing his wish to talk little but work a lot.

Dr. Demircan was seen off from the Ministry following the ceremony.
Prof. Dr. Muhammet GÜVEN

Having been appointed as Deputy Health Minister with the Presidential Decree of 1 July 2018 and no 2018/27, Prof. Dr. Muhammet GÜVEN was born in Konya in 1966. He graduated from Ankara University Medical School in 1989, and he completed his specialization trainings in the field of Internal Diseases at Erciyes University Medical School in 1995 and in the field of Intensive Care in 2011. He became an Associate Professor in 2006 and Professor in 2006 at Erciyes University. He worked as Supervisor of Quality Assurance Unit in 2001, Head of Intensive Care Department between 2014-2018, Head of Internal Medicine Department between 2006-2008, Deputy Chief Physician between 2005-2008, Chief Physician between 2008-2010 and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in 2010.

Married with five children, Prof. Dr. Muhammet Güven can speak English, French and Spanish.

Dr. Şuayip BİRİNCİ

Having been appointed as Deputy Health Minister with the Presidential Decree of 1 July 2018 and no 2018/27, Dr. Şuayip BİRİNCİ was born in Rize in 1973. He completed his primary and secondary education in Rize and Trabzon. He graduated from Ondokuz Mayis University, Faculty of Medicine in 1998. He practiced in various health centers, 112 Emergency Service and Rize Public Hospital until 2001. He worked as a physician in various public institutions in Istanbul in 2001. He served as the Deputy Medical Director of Ümraniye Training and Research Hospital from 2005 to 2009 and Deputy Provincial Health Director of Istanbul between 2009 and 2012. He was appointed as the General Secretary of Istanbul Northern Anatolia Public Hospitals Authority in November 2012. Working as the Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health since May 2014, Dr. Birinci was appointed as Deputy Minister of Health in August 2018. Birinci completed the master’s program on Hospital and Health Facility Management in 2010 and another master’s program on Leadership and Global Entrepreneurship in 2013. Currently, he is engaged in PhD studies on Management of Health Institutions. Birinci’s primary interests are in health technologies, health informatics, communication technologies, and managing with IT. He designed and successfully launched several public e-health projects at regional and national level.
Halil ELDEMİR

Having been appointed as Deputy Health Minister with the Presidential Decree of 1 July 2018 and no 2018/27, Halil Eldemir was born in Ankara on 20 June 1973. He graduated from Selçuk University Faculty of Engineering-Architecture. He worked as Executive Board Member of Chamber of Civil Engineers/Bursa Branch and Chair of Executive Board of Alumni of Bursa Imam-Hatip Schools. He was elected as Member of Parliament from AK Party in the 26th term. Eldemir is married with 4 children.

Prof. Dr. Emine Alp Meşe

Having been appointed as Deputy Health Minister with the Presidential Decree of 1 July 2018 and no 2018/27, Prof. Dr. Emine Alp Meşe completed her specialization training in medicine at Erciyes University Faculty of Medicine in 2002 and became an Infectious Diseases Specialist. She earned the title of Assistant Professor in 2004, Associate Professor in 2006 and Professor in 2011. She completed her post-doctoral researches in Netherland in 2010. She made various studies in the field of hospital infections and infection control. She lectured about central nervous system diseases, gastroenteritis, HIV/AIDS and pneumonia. She worked as Infection Diseases Specialist at Erciyes University Faculty of Medicine Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Department as of 2002. She worked as Deputy Chief Physician between 2010-2016, Dean between 2016-2018 and appointed as Deputy Rector in 2018. She is a member of European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Turkish Society of Hospital Infections and Control, Turkish Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and Turkey Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Specialist Association. Prof. Dr. Emine Alp Meşe has many publications.
Prime Minister of Niger Brigi Rafini Visited Turkey

Prime Minister of Niger Brigi Rafini, who visited Turkey to attend the Presidential Government System ceremony, visited the Nigerian patient Seyni Tahirou treated at Ankara Training and Research Hospital for kidney failure on 09 July 2018, together with Deputy Undersecretary of the Health Ministry Dr. Doğan Ünal, Director-General of EU and Foreign Affairs Dr. Selami Kılıç and Chief Physician of Atatürk Training and Research Hospital.
The initiative led by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISDF) to fight avoidable blindness in various countries of the Islamic World is becoming even more comprehensive with the contributions of the Turkish Ministry of Health. Without remaining insensitive to the health problems of the Islamic geography and trying to help all oppressed geographies, the Turkish Ministry of Health took on the leadership of the thematic area ‘Health Systems Strengthening’ and keeps working in this area. Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey intensifies her activities in such areas as emergency health services, infection control and intensive care trainings, exchange of knowledge and experience, and has taken action, once again, under the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness to improve the lives of people with a small touch.

During the first generation of the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB) between 2008 and 2015, 50,000 cataract operations were performed in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Guinea, Mali and Niger.

During the second generation of the project between 2018 and 2022, Turkey took an initiative and guided development of the project to cover more countries and more people.

Within the framework of AFAB covering 12 Muslim countries in Africa (Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Gina Bissau, Mauritania, Mali, Mozambique, Comoros, Niger and Togo), non-governmental organizations, charity organizations and means of the Ministry of Turkey will be deployed in order to carry out cataract operations and provide free eyeglasses with the financing support of the Islamic Development Bank.

The project also includes training of 100 healthcare professionals per year at the affiliated hospitals of the Turkish Ministry of Health.

In order to clarify the roadmap of the project and start the concrete activities, a delegation of IDB and ISFD visited Turkey on 19-20 July 2018 and held technical meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Health, public organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The opening meetings were held at SESRIC headquarter on 19 July. The inaugural speeches were delivered by IDB Regional Director Saleh Jelassi, SESRIC Director-General Ambassador Musa Kulakkikaya and Director-General of EU and Foreign Affairs Dr. Selami Kılıç. In order constitute a legal basis for the project, a protocol will be signed between the Ministry of Health and non-governmental organizations.
The 1st round of the Infection Control and Intensive Care Training addressing the OIC (Organization for Islamic Cooperation) member countries took place, under the coordination of the Ministry of Health General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs, between 25 June and 13 July 2018 with the participation of 22 healthcare professionals from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The training program developed and implemented by the Turkish Ministry of Health aims to strengthen the health manpower capacity in the stakeholder countries and particularly increase the service quality in the field of infection control and intensive care in the OIC member countries.

Within the scope of the theoretical trainings lasting one week, the following subjects were taught by the specialist doctors working at the affiliated training and research hospitals of the Ministry:
- Epidemiology and Surveillance
- Infection Control Methods
- Sterilization / Disinfection / Antisepsis,
- Intensive Care Nursing
- Extensive Patient Monitoring at Intensive Care
- Ventilation and Oxygenation Practices
- Basic and Advanced Life Support
- Cardiovascular System Diseases
- Multisystem Disorders and Care and
- National Hospital Infection Surveillance Program (UHESA)

Following the theoretical trainings, practical trainings were provided at Gülhane Training and Research Hospital, Numune Training and Research Hospital, Dr. Sami Ulus Women's and Children's Health Training and Research Hospital, Dişkapı Yıldırım Beyazıt Training and Research Hospital and Ankara Training and Research Hospital for two weeks.

Within the framework of the training program, a trip was organized to Konya on 07 July 2018, Saturday to enable the participants to socialize and learn about historical and cultural values of Turkey.

At the end of the training program, certificates of attendance were presented to the participants by Director-General of EU and Foreign Affairs Dr. Selami Kılıç and SESRIC Director-General and Ambassador Musa Kulaklıkaya.

The Infection Control and Intensive Care Training Program will continue in 2018 with the 2nd and 3rd rounds of trainings, and in this regard it is planned to provide theoretical and practical trainings for healthcare professionals from 10 OIC member countries in order to increase their professional knowledge and experiences.
The second-phase trainings of Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC member countries – developed by the Turkish Ministry of Health and implemented in cooperation with the Sudan Ministry of Health, SESRIC and TIKA - are being held in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, between 15 and 19 July 2018. Within the framework of the project, it is planned to develop health manpower capacity on emergency preparedness and response, which is underdeveloped in Islamic countries, by benefitting from the experiences of Turkey, training of the personnel of Sudan Ministry of Health first and provision of trainings for the other Muslim countries, under supervision of Turkey, by the personnel of Sudan Ministry of Health who successfully complete the trainer’s training.

Throughout the first phase of the project, 30 Sudanese healthcare professionals, who became successful in the three round trainings organized in Sudan by the trainers of the Turkish Ministry of Health and received trainer’s training in Turkey and improved their knowledge and skills, got to the point of having candidate trainer qualifications. During the new phase of the project covering 15-19 July 2018, Sudanese healthcare professionals who received trainer’s training are providing training for the healthcare personnel from various parts of Sudan under supervision of the trainers of the Turkish Ministry of Health. The project aims to extend the trainings to cover all provinces of Sudan.

Within the framework of Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB), aiming to treat cataract and other visual disorders in Africa, in cooperation with Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISDF), a technical delegation assigned by the headquarters of the said institution in Jeddah visited Turkey on 19-20 July 2018 in order to evaluate the relevant activities and plan the future steps. During the visit, the stakeholder non-governmental organizations and TIKA attended the meetings besides the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs and shared their contributions.
Turkey-Djibouti Health Week

Upon the visit of H.E. Ismail Omar Geulleh, President of Djibouti; Former Health Minister of Turkey Dr. Ahmet Demircan and Djiboutian Health Minister Djama Elmi Okieh agreed to hold a health week in Djibouti. In this regard, the 3rd Turkey-Djibouti Joint Health Week is taking place between 9-17 March 2018 by the coordination and organization of the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs. 19 health professionals are bringing healthcare to the people of Djibouti in the fields of cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, urology, ear-nose and throat, plastic surgery, pediatric surgery, ophthalmology, anesthesia and reanimation. Additionally, the Ministry of Health of Turkey donated 70 packages of medical assistance supplies for the Health Week. During the Week, free of charge surgeries are performed in 4 different hospitals (Peltier, Arta, Balbala and Dar-el Hannan) of Djibouti and trainings are conducted for Djiboutian health personnel for capacity building.

As a gift from the people of Turkey to their Djiboutian brothers and sisters, 5 fully equipped ambulances were delivered by the Director General of the EU and Foreign Affairs, Dr. Selami Kılıç and Ambassador of Turkey to Djibouti Sadi Altınok. During his speech in the handover ceremony Ambassador Kılıç conveyed the heartfelt regards of the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the Minister of Health as well Turkish people and added that these activities aimed to improve the health and well-being of our Djiboutian brothers and sisters.

Minister of Health of Djibouti Djama Elmi Okieh expressed their pleasure of hosting Turkish delegation in his country and thanked President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the delegation. During the Health Week, over 1000 patients were provided with medical consultations, 119 patients were operated by Turkish surgeons. 38 Djiboutian health professionals also received on-site trainings.

Relief Activities of the Turkish Ministry of Health on 3 Continents

Help human for a better life so that state has a better future, help human for a better life so that the world has a better future. Moving on from this belief, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey organized “health weeks” in Djibouti, Sudan and Uzbekistan Termiz. The Ministry of Health continues to bring hope to hopeless, health to sick and injured, and increase the friendship ties in 3 continents in 16 countries through 35 Health Week organizations.
Sudan-Turkey Health Week

On the same days, the Ministry of Health of Turkey organized another Health Week in Sudan. During the Week, 100 children, who suffered cleft lip and palate, were operated and treated by Turkish plastic surgeons. Turkish medical delegation consisted of doctors and surgeons from plastic and reconstructive surgery, ear-nose-throat and anesthesia specialties, working at the Ministry of Health. Assoc. Prof. Dr. İrfan Neziroğlu, Ambassador of Turkey to Khartoum also visited the patients and Turkish delegation. Ambassador Neziroğlu highlighted that those health weeks helped to further increase the friendly ties between the two countries and added that similar activities were expected from the Ministry of Health in the coming period.

Turkey – Uzbekistan Health Week (Termiz)

The 6th Turkey-Uzbekistan Health Week was held in Termiz on 4-14 April 2018 under coordination of TIKA, and in cooperation with the Health Ministries of the Republic of Turkey and Republic of Uzbekistan. Surgical operations of 157 patients were performed by the plastic surgeons for various diseases such as natal deformities, cleft lip and palate and burns in Surhanderya region. Throughout the health week, 765 outpatient treatments were made, and 132 Uzbek healthcare professionals were trained to improve their professional capacity. The Joint Health Week, organized for the second time in Termiz, is also important since this was the first health activity provided by a foreign healthcare team in the region.

Turkey-Uzbekistan Joint Health Week (Tashkent)

658 specialized operations, 2,412 consultations and 765 trainings were performed during health weeks organized in Uzbekistan as of 2015. Healthcare professionals of the Turkish Ministry of Health perform specialized surgeries that cannot be conducted due to lack of medical equipment and experiences, on-the-job practical trainings are provided for the healthcare professionals and patients are examined. Thus, healthcare professionals exchange their experiences and knowledge, and friendship ties strengthen between two countries. The Health Week took place concurrently with the Uzbekistan visit of President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and held on 26 April – 06 May 2018 with a 33-person team of doctors and nurses in the fields of Cardiology, Cardiovascular Surgery, General Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Urology, Orthopedics, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Anesthesia and Reanimation and Radiology at the following facilities of Uzbekistan: - Tashkent Republic Emergency Medicine Research Hospital - Tashkent Pediatrics Medicine Institute and - Tashkent Republic Gynecology Hospital During the event, medical conditions of the patients who were previously treated in Uzbekistan on the occasion of former health weeks and who were treated in Turkey were checked and those who will be treated in Turkey in the coming period were evaluated. Throughout the health week, 186 operations and 697 consultations were performed and professional training was provided for 774 Uzbek healthcare professionals.
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