

Foreign cooperation gains momentum

The Ministry of Public Health has recently intensified cooperation with international organizations including the World Health Organization and UN Children's Fund.

The active cooperation with the WHO enabled it to establish telemedicine between Pyongyang and provincial and county hospitals throughout the country. The new system helps make medical service more scientific and faster and raise its quality.

The WHO has assisted the ministry in various projects for improving the health of mothers and children annually since 2006. This year the latter brought in millions of vermifuge pills from the former to help school-age children get rid of intestinal worms.

The ministry also organized a campaign to cure and prevent tuberculosis with antituberculosis drugs worth hundreds of thousands of US dollars from the Global Drug Facility.

In close cooperation with the Christian Friends of Korea and Stanford University it built a state standard tuberculosis laboratory in its Preventive Centre

No. 3 and is working with Eugene Bell on curing TB patients resistant to DOTS in the country.

It launched an inoculation of children from 7 to 16 in all parts of the country with hepatitis B vaccines from Caritas Germany of Caritas International, contributing to further decreasing the outbreak of hepatitis B among the Korean children.

To stamp out TB and malaria in the country it kept close contact with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Most recently, it has shipped in drugs via the UNICEF to vaccinate the children against five diseases. It has also undertaken a variety of cooperation projects for the healthcare of women and babies to lower the mortality of mothers and improve their health.

In addition, the ministry is running refresher courses for hundreds of health workers periodically

in cooperation with the WHO.

"We will keep closer ties with the WHO, UNICEF and other international organizations and NGOs that render sincere assistance to the health sector to help

develop the country's public health and improve the people's health," said Pak Jong Min, director of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Ministry of Public Health.

By Kim Yu Gyong PT



After the talks with resident officers of the World Health Organization. By courtesy of the Ministry of Public Health

The Pyongyang Times

PYONGYANG, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Saturday, March 26, Juche 100 (2011)

Weekly

No. 13 (2,631)

Technological personnel of Kim Chaek University of Technology and scientists and technicians at the institute established a computer-

promptly applied to production.

A system of



Anti-TB fight nation's priority

An event was held on March 24 at the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang to mark World TB Day.

It brought together officials from the Ministry of Public Health and relevant organs, officers from UNICEF, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other international organizations.

Speeches were made.

This year's theme for the day is "Strengthening and Innovating Strategy to Eliminate TB".

Pak Jong Min, department director of the Ministry of Public Health, said that the hygienic information and the work to raise public awareness of the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis will be conducted on a high level in close contact with relevant agencies at home and the WHO and other

international organizations.

WHO officer-in-charge Nazira Artykova said that addressing TB is crucial for attaining the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) on poverty, HIV and maternal and child health.

In other words, addressing the TB is of fundamental importance for the development of each country, she noted.

At present TB programme in the DPRK is supported by the Global Fund, UN agencies, IFRC and other international organizations.

Speeches were followed by a Korean scientific film show, photo show and artistic performance of a hygienic information team.

Similar events took place in all the provinces.

*Article and photo by
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