

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Taiwan Launches WHO Charm Offensive with Hospitals Without Borders Exhibition

TAIPEI, Taiwan, 13 May, 2018. Diseases know no border, and any country or region that is excluded from the global epidemic prevention network leaves a gap in our defenses. Global health initiatives can benefit from Taiwan's medical experience and expertise, such as the development of a rapid test for insect-borne diseases, and Taiwan remains eager to do its part as a member of the global community.

Hospital Without Borders (HWB) is a Taiwanese crowd-funding campaign. Its members include various public organizations, as well as diplomatic and medical professionals. It aims to launch a WHO charm offensive with a Taiwanese hospital experience exhibition in downtown Geneva.

Following the inception of the National Health Insurance program, average life expectancy in Taiwan rose from 74.5 years in 1995 to 80.2 years in 2015, and the socio-economic health gap has been reduced. All this was achieved with a total healthcare expenditure that reached just 5.9% of GDP in 2016. With its high medical standards and excellent track record, Taiwan's NHI is fully in line with the WHA goal of providing universal health coverage by 2030.

Taiwan's public health achievements, including the improvement of environmental hygiene, universal vaccination, and a wide-ranging epidemic surveillance system, have led to the successful control, reduction, or elimination of several major epidemic diseases since the 1950s.

HWB will be open to public from 18 to 20 May at the Place des Bergues in Geneva. A press conference will be held on 19 May at 2pm. Six topics from the 71st WHA provisional agenda will be presented, ranging from medical outreach to countries in need and global epidemic prevention.

Exhibition Venue: L'iceBergues, Places des Bergues 3, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

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