



**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC  
BUREAU REGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

WPR/RC59/NGO/07

**Fifty-ninth session  
Manila, Philippines  
22-26 September 2008**

24 September 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Agenda item 11

**STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MEDICAL  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**Negin Sadaghat**

On behalf of the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA), I extend many best wishes and kind greetings to the 59<sup>th</sup> WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.

The IFMSA is in its 57<sup>th</sup> year of operation, it represents over 1 million medical students from 98 countries. IFMSA is continuing its mission to build better skilled and sensitized future physicians by posing as an international platform which supports exchange of best practices, joining efforts and reinforces collaboration.

The IFMSA now hopes to strengthen its involvements in the Western Pacific region through initiatives in primary health care. The sustainable and meaningful village concept projects of the IFMSA, which have been implemented in Bosnia, Ghana, Herzegovina, Panama, Rwanda, Sudan, and Zimbabwe, to name a few, have immense potential to be implemented in the Western Pacific Region. – especially after a successful pilot implementation in Fiji, with the kind support of WHO. We also strongly believe that speaking out about primary health care issues, both from the global and region specific point of view is the responsibility of future physicians – especially today, 30 years after the Alma Ata Declaration signing with so many problems still unsolved and new ones emerging. We do hope you recognize the importance of insuring high quality medical education for medical and nursing students as a means to attain the best quality health care and overall strengthening of health care systems. Another aspect we would also like to stress, is the involvement of medical students in community outreach projects from early on in their studies, in order to foster a sensitized approach to local needs and build students' capacities that is not easy to obtain in a laboratory or hospital environment.

In closing, the IFMSA wishes to convey its appreciation of the work of the outgoing Regional Director, Dr Shigeru Omi – your leadership has been exemplary and a source of inspiration for many medical students. Further congratulations are also extended to Professor Young Soo Shin, the incoming Regional Director. The IFMSA is ever appreciative of the support of the WHO and is always ready to assist with its programmes.

Thank you.