



7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting Opens in Kish



• TUMS, NUS Sign MoU



Partnerships at WHS Regional Meeting in Kish Develop Ideas



Social Accountability in Health Sector Is Needed to Have Greater Impact



ECO Drafts Health Action Plan



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The 7th World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting opened in Kish Island, a tourist resort off the southern coast of Iran, on Monday 29 April 2019. The two-day meeting, held at Kish International Convention Center, is hosted by Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS).

TUMS is a member of the M8 Alliance since 2016. The M8 Alliance is a unique network of 25 leading international academic health centers, universities and research institutions based in 18 different countries.



All of the 25 members are committed to improving global health and working with political and economic decision-makers to develop science-based solutions to health challenges worldwide. The M8 Alliance acts as an academic think-tank for the World Health Summit (WHS) (worldhealthsummit.org). The World Health Summit (WHS) is the annual conference of the M8 Alliance. Held once a year, the WHO has grown into the world's most prominent forum to address global health issues. In addition to annual meetings, WHS holds a yearly regional meeting which is hosted by one of its member universities. In the WHS 2018, TUMS was chosen to host the 7th Regional Meeting 2019.

Welcome Speech by TUMS Chancellor Professor Abbasali Karimi

Professor Abbasali Karimi, Chancellor of Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), welcomed the guests who have travelled to Iran despite a negative atmosphere created by the United States.

"As the oldest university of medical sciences of the country with 170 years of experience,



The Regional Meeting in Kish is held in two full-time days, comprising 4 plenaries and 29 parallel sessions. Over 100 foreign speakers and around 100 Iranian experts speak during the two-day event. Altogether, more than 700 participants are attending the event, all of whom are scientists, health experts, students and enthusiasts. The 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting has brought together global health experts, researchers, physicians, key government officials, and representatives from the industry as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from 43 countries to Iran's Kish Island, where they work together to strengthen cooperation, improve health worldwide and address the most pressing health challenges facing the planet today. The meeting provides an opportunity for Iranian and international experts to share ideas and work together to find solution to the existing health challenges in the 21st century. It also provides a chance for Iran to share its valuable experiences in the healthcare and medical education sector with the global community.

The opening ceremony was attended by top dignitaries, including Iran's First Vice President Ishaq Jahangiri, Iran's Health Minister Saeed Namaki, and Kazakhstan's Health Minister Yelzhan Amantayevich Birtanov.



TUMS is honored to host the 7th WHS Regional Meeting as a wholly academic event," he told the packed hall.

In May 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the multilateral nuclear deal with Iran, known as

the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and imposed tough economic sanctions against Iran as part of a "maximum pressure" campaign that has only exacerbated since. The sanctions have also affected Iran's health sector since monetary and banking sanctions have hampered Iran's contacts with the outside world. Dr. Karimi then introduced TUMS to the audience, outlining that it has 11 faculties and about 13,000 students, about 7 percent of whom are international students from 45 countries. The university has 1,800 scientific board members and close to 2,500 resident students, he said. According to Professor Karimi, TUMS has 105 research centers working in a variety of fields relating to local and international healthcare and medicine, and provides services to more than 3.8 million patients, in addition to 300,000 patients who get hospitalized. About 250,000 surgeries are conducted by the hospitals operated by TUMS while 330 of its health centers offer services to three million people in southern Tehran.



Vice President Jahangiri Denounces

Humanitarian Impact of U.S. Sanctions
Jahangiri decried the impact of U.S. sanctions on the wellbeing of average Iranians, calling the unilateral American sanctions "destructive" and

violating basic human rights. "Not only did the U.S. failed to implement its commitments under the JCPOA, but also it imposed what it concedes to be the most severe sanctions ever put in place against a country," he told the audience. "They lie that the government



of Iran is the target since sanctions inflict the greatest pain on the common people". U.S. sanctions have impeded imports of essential goods including medicines and medical equipment to Iran since they have largely blocked Iran's international banking channels. Sanctions have also hamstrung humanitarian aid to Iran in the aftermath of massive floodings in March that claimed dozens of lives and left billions of dollars in direct and indirect damages. "Even the Iranian Red Crescent was not exempt from the impact of sanctions as it could not receive foreign aid," Jahangiri complained, but praising healthcare officials who did not allow any epidemics to occur after the floods. The official commended TUMS for being the only academic institution in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to become a member of the M8 Alliance under the current harsh circumstances. "Despite the fact that health has become a political issue, I commend the scientists who always



strive and think to improve the lives of others regardless of political boundaries," he concluded.

health, in all its forms, is included in the goals one way or another.

The 78-year-old professor also used the opening ceremony to

Namaki then explained that the administration of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has designated health as one of its three top priorities.



WHS Founding President Calls for Action

World Health Summit Founding President Professor Detlev Ganten took to the podium and called the Regional Meeting in Kish Island the latest step toward increasing success of the WHS. "The future of mankind will be impacted by science only quicker as we go on and there is no noble goal for science more than to improve global health both for individuals and for societies," the German scientist said. He referred to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nation as a major focus for himself and his organization, pointing out that

issue a call to action for governments and people.

"What we need is for various fields of sciences to come together, and for policies both local and international to unite to improve global health," he insisted, adding that people need to work together to achieve healthy policies and bring the fragmented fields of science together.

"Health is a Political Choice", Says Minister

Iran's Health Minister Saeed Namaki succeeded Ganten on the stage and continued the theme of the relationship between healthcare and politics. "Health is a political choice," he declared.

He elaborated on the government's Health Transformation Plan (HTP), calling it the latest step taken by the Rouhani administration to make reforms in Iran's healthcare system. "During the past decade, the plan to transform health services in line with reaching Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC), and especially to deal with the challenge of rising healthcare costs across the country, has been gradually implemented," he said. The HTP, the minister elaborated, is an extension of the country's national Five-Year Development Plans. It includes a host of government interventions, including but not limited to boosting health insurance

- * **Health in Uncertain Situations**
- * **Global Health in a Transitional World**
- * **Sustainable Health Development**
- * **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) & Mental Health**
- * **Planetary Health**
- * **Medical Education**



coverage, increasing the quality of services, decreasing the share of medical expenses paid by patients, increasing healthcare coverage and improving preliminary and secondary care.

He pointed to the establishment of a national blood pressure control force, a campaign to eliminate malaria in Iran with the help of the World Health Organization (WHO), integrating nation-wide efforts to promote mental health, launching a specialized ministry department to combat Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), and building health centers for workers as other positive steps taken in recent years.

There are, according to Namaki, 66 medical sciences universities across Iran, each of them covering a specific portion of the 81-million strong Iranian population. They have more than 19,000 science board members and 250,000 students in various fields.

Namaki called on the participants to oppose unilateral U.S. sanctions that have affected Iran's health sector and endangered the life of patients. "I can on all of you thinkers and policymakers to pool resources and employ existing potentials to stand against people who violate the people's health so that no one stands bereft of healthcare services due to implementation of cruel sanctions".

Scientific Themes of the Conference

The agenda of the Regional Meeting in Kish has been arranged based on the existing global health challenges, particularly those facing Iran and its surrounding regions.

Having taken all these issues into account, the program includes six main themes as listed below:

- * Health in Uncertain Situations
- * Global Health in a Transitional World
- * Sustainable Health Development
- * Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) & Mental Health
- * Planetary Health
- * Medical Education

Interactive Panels on WHS Themes

A series of diverse expert panels were organized

during the 7th WHS Regional Meeting to discuss the six themes.

The panels were highly interactive. Some students who attended the panels at times challenged their coaches and experts while learning from them at the same time.



On Monday 29 April 2019, two panels were held on the theme of "Sustainable Health Development." They included "New Silk Roads – BRI for Global Health" and "Global Health and Religions". On the theme of "Global Health in a Transitional World", the Kish International Convention Center played host to three panels, namely "Strengthening Essential Surgical Systems", "Road Accidents and Traffic Injuries", and "Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases".

Three panels, titled "Neglected Epidemics: Oral Public Health", "Nutrition and Healthy Life Styles" and "Ageing and Geriatric Medicine" constituted the Regional Meeting's focus on NCDs and Mental Health.

To teach participants about "Health in Uncertain Situations", organizers held a plan on war, conflict and sanctions with a focus on how they present challenges for global health.

On the issue of "Planetary Health", the 7th WHS Regional Meeting presented participants with two panels on air pollution and health, and climate change and health.

Lastly, the subject of "Medical Education" drew participants to a panel titled "Networking in Medical Education".

Professor Detlev Ganten is one of the key figures in German biomedicine. He was born in Lüneburg (Germany) in 1941 and studied medicine at the Universities of Würzburg (Germany), Montpellier (France) and Tübingen (Germany).

He worked as an intern in surgery at Mamounia Hospital in Morocco. After receiving his MD from the University of Tübingen, he spent several years as a research scientist at the Clinical Research Institute in Montreal, and earned his Ph.D. at McGill University in Canada.

In 1975, Ganten was appointed Professor at the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Heidelberg (Germany). In 1991, he moved to Berlin, where he became the Founding Director and President of the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) and Director of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology at the Free University of Berlin.



World Health Summit Founding President **Detlev Ganten:** Partnerships at WHS Regional Meeting in Kish Develop Ideas

He held these roles until 2004, when he took over as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the "Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin", the joint medical faculty of the Free University and Humboldt University of Berlin. Since 2005, Professor Ganten has been the Chairman of the Board of the Charité Foundation,

In 2009, professor Ganten founded the World Health Summit (WHS) – www.worldhealthsummit.org.

At the annual WHS gathering in Germany, about 2,000 leaders from academia, politics, civil society, and the private sector work together under the patronage of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the President of the French Republic and the President of the European Commission to find solutions for the challenges posed by global health.



The WHS's academic think tank is provided by the M8 Alliance, a unique collaborative network made up of leading international medical universities, research institutions and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) for Health.

In 2009, Dr. Ganten was elected Chairman of the Joint Board of Trustees of the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces and of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology. He had previously held positions as President of the German Society for Naturalists and Physicians (1996-1998), President of the Helmholtz Association of National Research Centers (HGF) (1997-2001) and was a member of the German National Ethics Council (2002-2007). He is currently a member of Heidelberg Academy of Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, German Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) and Academia Europea.

Professor Ganten is also editor-in-chief of the Journal of Molecular Medicine.

As a research scientist in the field of hypertension, Professor Ganten elucidated fundamental mechanisms of the pathophysiology and molecular biology of high blood pressure.

His areas of research include the hormonal regulation of blood pressure, especially the renin-angiotensin system, and the molecular genetics of cardiovascular diseases. He has a special interest in developing the concept of evolutionary medicine.

Throughout his career, he has received many awards, including the Chavez Award of the International Society of Hypertension (1981), the Sechenov Medaille of the Medical Academy

Moscow (1981), the Science Award of the Deutsche Liga zur Bekämpfung des hohen Blutdruckes (1981), the Heilmeyer Medaille from the Gesellschaft für Fortschritte auf dem Gebiet der Inneren Medizin (1990), the Max Planck Research Award (1990), the Okamoto Award (Japan, 1990), the CIBA-Award of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research from the American Heart Association (1992) and a Dr. Honoris Causa from the Universities of Lasi, Maastricht, Berlin, Coimbra, Montreal and Rome.

Professor Ganten has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit of Germany (2000), and is an Officer of the French Légion



d'Honneur (2012).

Alongside his leadership of research organizations, Ganten has represented various bodies such as the German Ethics Council and continues to influence many debates, particularly on healthcare in Germany.

Ganten's priorities today are medicine and prevention. He has researched high blood pressure for decades. As WHS Founding President, the scientist is committed to improving global healthcare.

His guiding principle is that health is an all-embracing subject and that we can only improve global health if politics, business and civil society get involved.

In an interview with the Newsletter, he elaborated on the forum in Kish Island.

Here's the full text of our interview with Professor Ganten:

What do you think will be your main takeaway from this conference and how much of your initial goals do you think you will achieve here?

In medicine, you always have to be hopeful. One thing we saw was the level of interaction in the opening ceremony. Just having the

I don't believe in sanctions. I don't believe in antagonism. I believe in dialogue.

To make it specific, a person like [U.S. President Donald] Trump, who tweets certain things and breaks conventional communication and forces other people into camps of for or against certain subjects. That's not the way politics are being done.

meeting, with so many of the important people of the country, with health as the major focus, is already big results.

So, the very fact of organizing the meeting, getting people together, thinking about what can be done and what needs to be done in the country, in the region and in the world is purpose in itself.

Then, of course, everybody comes with his or her own ideas. And many people have organizations behind them. They represent organizations, political parties, universities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

To me, it's very important to note that in the Sustainable Development Goals [of the United Nations], number 17 deals with partnership.

Here, we meet, we hear what everybody thinks. We have very open discussions beginning from the opening ceremony. There are no secrets. The people here have a common goal. They also have their own ideas. They have their own partnerships, which can go

beyond this meeting, but also partnerships that are active during this meeting, which can develop their own thoughts and ideas.

So, it's a multifaceted kind of result. It's the organization, the mobilization, the meeting of people, and the exchange of ideas.

And then, of course, you go home, I go home, and say 'oh my God', so many people, many of us have not been many times in Iran. Politicians and all kinds of people coming together and saying 'health is so important and there is so much to be done'.

This creates an enthusiasm that means you keep on working beyond the three days, you maintain the contacts, you meet the people again, and you discuss what you did. So, it's a continuous process that starts in this sort of meeting.

What about the Student Pre-Event?

Doing this with old people is good, but you always have to have a mixture of society. The students are the educated people of the country. They have to take responsibility. They have to see what kind of responsibility other people take. They must find people they want to follow. They need to find people whom they think they can contact for furthering their own careers and ideas, and to develop mentorships. So, I think mixing the generations together and having the enthusiasm of the young peo-



ple is very important. Medical and health students are people who have to create the new systems and the new medicine. And, there is another dimension to this. Medicine is still very curated. We wait for the people to become sick and then we do what we can do.

So do you view the Student Pre-Event as a positive development in the path of WHS Regional Meetings and do you like to see that become a regular fixture?

Absolutely. We discussed that during the M8 Alliance meeting. Also, we have always had young people. Students have always been among the audience.

But organization is also very important so that you can be more efficient with your ideas and for the ideas that students have among different groups of society.

What do you think about the remarks made by First Vice President Ishaq Jahangiri at the opening ceremony? Do you agree that unilateral U.S. sanctions have impacted average Iranians, especially in the health and medical sector?

I'm not a politician, but I have my political thoughts. I have created an initiative through InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), which is called 'Respect and Dialogue'. I don't believe in sanctions. I don't believe in antagonism. I believe in dialogue.



To make it specific, a person like [U.S. President Donald] Trump, who tweets certain things and breaks conventional communication and forces other people into camps of for or against certain subjects. That's not the way politics are being done.

So, I believe in dialogue. I believe in meeting people. I believe in understanding people. I believe that most people don't want the misery of other people and want everybody to live in a good situation. In politics, the elected people have a duty to talk and negotiate to obtain the things that need to be obtained. You have to continue. You have to persevere.

Is this your first time in Kish? What do you think of

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the island?

This is my first time in Kish and second time in Iran. On Sunday, we did a little bit of sightseeing in Kish and visited the underground water reservoirs.

We saw the people living in those old houses that I think are wonderful. The wind and the fresh air and the light were great. It's a very interesting place.

ECO Drafts Health Action Plan



The organization includes Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, with its headquarters located in Tehran.

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has drafted a plan of action on the issue of health among its 10 member states with the aim of better fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

The SDGs share health as a common denominator.

ECO is an inter-governmental regional organization encompassing countries from Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Middle East and South Asia with more than 460 million inhabitants and over 8 million square kilometers connecting Russia to Persian Gulf and China to Europe. The overall objective of ECO is the sustainable economic development of its 10 member states and the region as a whole.

The organization includes Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran,

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, with its headquarters located in Tehran.

As shared with the Newsletter, the draft plan, which has just been distributed among member states for reviewing, aims to enhance cooperation among ECO member states and translate SDGs into action as the cornerstone of sustainable health development.

The draft plan of action calls for cooperation among ECO member states to strengthen health systems in order to prevent NCDs and enhance equitable health services consonant with the principles of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

It also looks to boost preparedness, monitoring and surveillance of health-related aspects of disasters and emergencies.

"The plan is basically about interaction and cooperation between member states on health-related issues," ECO Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development Kaan Sayin told the Newsletter on Monday 29 April 2019.

He said the draft plan, which has been proposed by Iran, was officially distributed among the foreign ministries of member states on Monday to be referred to related state bodies subsequently.

The draft plan of action hopes to get ECO member states to take steps to institutionalize health cooperation under a regional agreement.

According to Sayin, a high-level panel of ECO experts will soon convene to review the contents of the proposed plan, after which they will give their feedback to their respective minis-



tries.

He expects the initial process to take about two months, by which time ECO member states will have crafted a vision for how to get the plan into action. "We're also thinking of holding a sideline event just for the high-level officials of ECO countries at the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May during which the general outlines of the plan will be approved," Sayin said.

The 7th World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting in Kish, Sayin believes, is a good opportunity to discuss the draft action plan with health officials of the member states present at the event, including Kazakh Health Minister Yelzhan Aamtayevich Birtanov.

Established as Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in 1964 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, it was renamed "ECO" in 1985.

In 1992 and following the collapse of Soviet Union, Afghanistan and six former Soviet Republics, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also joined the organization, forming one of the biggest regional blocs in Asia and beyond.

Over the past three decades, ECO member states have been collaborating to accelerate the pace of regional development through their common endeavors.



TUMS, NUS Sign MoU

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday 29 April 2019.

The MoU was signed on the sideline of the first day of the 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Kish Island.

The MoU was signed by Professor Ali Akbari Sari, Dean of TUMS's School of Public Health and his counterpart Professor Teo Yik Ying, Dean of NUS's Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

The exchange of scientific, academic and technical information and appropriate academic materials and other information of mutual interest owned by the two universities was the main subject of the MoU.

The agreement also covers the identification of opportunities for exchange and cooperation and joint research and development in areas of mutual interest.

As part of the MoU, the two sides further agreed to organize and participate in joint academic and scientific activities such as seminars and conferences.

Lastly, they committed to promotion of joint research, education and capacity building activities.

The universities foresaw the formation of a management committee to oversee implementation of activities mentioned as part of the MoU or define new areas and programs of collaboration.

They also agreed to have their representatives meet periodically to negotiate and conclude specific agreements and programs of cooperation, and agree on appropriate funding for implementation of joint projects.



Former WHO Program Coordinator for Human Resources in Health
Dr. Charles Boelen:

Social Accountability in Health Sector Is Needed to Have Greater Impact



Dr. Charles Boelen, former program coordinator of the World Health Organization (WHO) for human resources in health, says the main message at the 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting in Kish Island is emphasis on "social accountability in the health sector."

"I'm promoting the concept of social accountability in the health sector. It means that each stakeholder or actor such as university should comply with the principle of social accountability. They have to feel responsible for consequences of their acts in order to increase their impact on health," he told the Newsletter in an interview on Monday 29 April 2019.

Boelen believes that scientific centers and universities around the globe, including Tehran Uni-

versity of Medical Sciences (TUMS) "should go through transformation to improve their impact on health."

"In the three missions of education, research and service provision, they have to re-think their priorities for greater impact on health," he insisted.

A famous figure in "social accountability", Boelen supports people or organizations whose professional accomplishments are reflective of the principles of social accountability. He is a physician, specializing in public health, health system management and medical education, with a large experience in international health.

He argues that a key question for medical schools in each education mission is "what's the ideal



profile of the doctor? What are the key competences any doctor should have regardless of his or her country and culture?" He believes that "a majority of medical schools around the world have no clear vision what's the ideal profile." Boelen promotes the concept of "5-star doctor", each star meaning a key component of the profile.

A 5-star doctor should have ability to:

- * Assess and improve quality of care by responding to the patient's total health needs
- * Make optimal use of new technologies
- * Promote healthy life-styles
- * Reconcile individual and community health requirements
- * Work efficiently in a team

The key competence, he says, is "being a community leader in health. But a majority of medical and health schools don't prepare a doctor to be a community leader in health because most teaching materials focus on medical sciences, not interaction with society."

Boelen says doctors should be trained to support that if we want to have universal health coverage for everyone.

"This is a priority of the WHO: Universal Coverage of Health (UCH)," he said.

The scientist proposed that medical and health universities should make sure that "graduates will be employed in such a way that the competences acquired will be awarded, which is

not happening in most countries now."

To have a better impact, Boelen said, universities, academic institutions and scientific centers around the globe need to reconsider their position and give priority to social accountability.

"This is the message that needs to be heard here in Kish Island," he concluded.

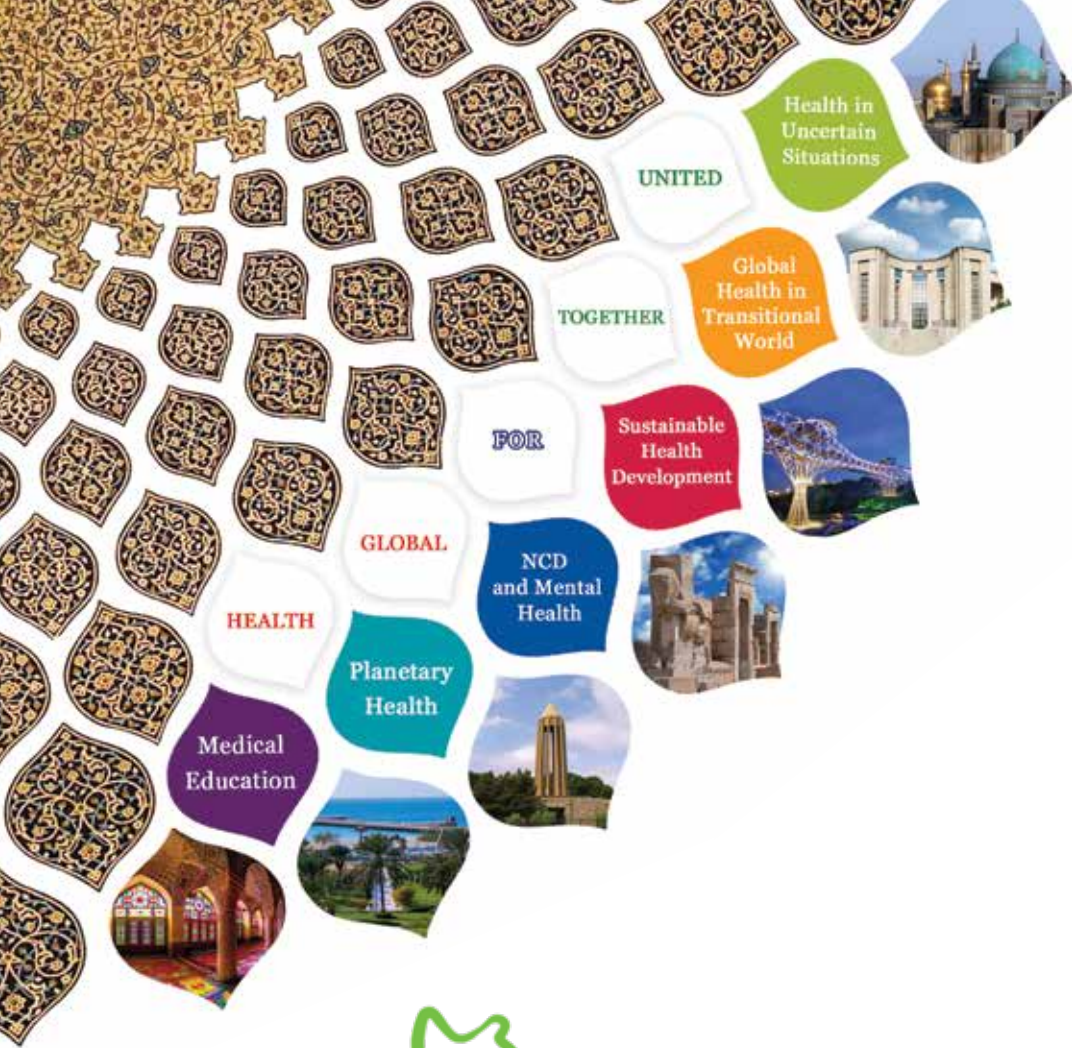
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TEHRAN UNIVERSITY
OF
MEDICAL SCIENCES

M8Alliance
Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies

هفتمین نشست منطقه‌ای مجمع جهانی سلامت

7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
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