

IndyAct – Lebanon

Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2010 1:43 PM

Subject: Disappointed that oral health staff at WHO ignores Arab region

Dr. Ala Din Abdul Sahib Alwan
Assistant Director-General
Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health
World Health Organization - AlwanA@who.int

Dear Assistant Director-General Alwan,

In November, IndyAct hosted a consultative workshop of Arab nations and Arab NGOs here in Beirut. Attending to speak, in addition to representatives from throughout our region, were the chairman of the UNEP treaty conference and UNEP staff. At the workshop, the participants unanimously agreed to work for a mercury treaty plank calling for a scheduled phase-out of amalgam.

Imagine our surprise when WHO's in-house dentist issues a paper stating that phase-out plans do not work, that we must accept amalgam in perpetuity, and that the specific steps agreed to at a meeting on that subject on 2009 are to be disregarded. When I learned that the paper was prepared only by dentists, and dentists on the pro-amalgam side of the debate, I find myself gravely disappointed in that part of WHO.

The staff in Geneva is called on to work for the nations, not the other way around. The Petersen Paper disregards the goals of the Arab region, is generated from staff and not from WHO member nations, and should be withdrawn.

Dr.Eng. Naji KODEIH

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Dr. Eng. Naji KODEIH - Toxicologist
Policy Advisor and Toxic Campaigner

IndyACT - The League of Independent Activists

Coordinator for NGOs in Arab Countries working on Chemical Management
National NGO Focal Point for SAICM
ZMWG - Zero Mercury Working Group
IPEN - International POPs Elimination Network
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