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In This Issue

- PBU participates at WOC 2012 Abu Dhabi
- IAPB-EMR regional workshop on progress of VISION 2020 in the region
- EMR Primary eye care taskforce workshop held
- IDB –PBU consultative meeting
- EMR- Human Resource Working Group sets up priorities
- 2nd RAAB DR Survey in Saudi Arabia

Partner News:

- Al Basar international foundation held workshop on second decade of VISION 2020
- Makkah Ophthalmic College graduates second batch

What is PBU?

The Prevention of Blindness Union (PBU) is an International union of Nongovernmental Development Organizations working in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and Africa. It has the following reputable international NGOs and bodies as members:/p>

- IMPACT-EMR Saudi Arabia
- AlBasar International Foundation Saudi Arabia
- Al Noor Foundation Egypt
- Nadi AlBassar Tunisia

PBU participates at WOC 2012 Abu Dhabi



The PBU will be present at the World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC) 2012 taking place in Abu Dhabi , UAE from 16-20 February. Visit us at Booth no #5A47.

[back to top](#)

IAPB-EMR regional workshop on progress of VISION 2020 in the region



The IAPB-EMR held a regional meeting to assess the successes and challenges in the

- CHEF International Pakistan
- Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)
- Islamic Development Bank,(Ex-Officio member)
- Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology - MEACO
- WHO EMR. (Ex –Officio member)

The union is under leadership of HRH Prince Abdulaziz Ahmad AlSaud

The **Vision** of PBU is to facilitate the provision of comprehensive eye care to all segments of the society based on the principles of equity and justice.

The **Mission** of the union is to support, coordinate, collaborate and advocate activities in the field of comprehensive eye care (promotion, preventive, curative and rehabilitation) with all stakeholders (such as Governments, Non-Governmental Development Organizations (NGDO), regional and international organizations, professional bodies and institutions) in the EMR and Africa.

For more information on PBU please visit: www.pbunion.org.

implementation of WHO Action plan 2009-2013 and regional recommendations on Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, School Eye Health and Primary eye care, at the national level.

The meeting was held from 20-21 November 2011 in Dubai. It was attended by most national coordinators for prevention of blindness in the region, EMR Co-Chairs, experts in public health ophthalmology and programme management. The meeting came up with achievable action points for the NCs, NGOs and IAPB to accelerate the implementation of VISION 2020 programs in the region. The meeting was organized by PBU and supported by the Islamic Development Bank and the IAPB.

[back to top](#) ↑

EMR Primary eye care taskforce workshop held



The Primary eye care taskforce setup by WHO EMRO and IAPB-EMR had a 2 day workshop in Dubai to develop training manual and indicators for reporting and monitoring of eye health at primary health care. The meeting was held between 22-23 November 2011. Draft manual and indicators are at the final stage of development.

[back to top](#) ↑

IDB –PBU consultative meeting



The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) , the PBU and a number of NGOs and development agencies involved in eye care and prevention of blindness in the Middle East and Africa held a consultative meeting in Dubai on the 19 November 2011. The meeting provided a forum for discussions and harmonization of priorities in the implementation of eye care and prevention of blindness activities in the Eastern Mediterranean and Africa regions.

[back to top](#) ↑

EMR- Human Resource Working Group sets up priorities



The Human resource working group of the EMR had worked out modalities to strengthen human resources development for eye health in the region. These was at a meeting of the group which held on the 22 November 2011 in Dubai. Among the majors strategies was to

undertake a region wide situational analysis of all HR and training institutions involved in eye health. Twinning programs will be developed between institutions in the region, as well as Human resource interest groups at national levels.

[back to top](#) ↑

2nd RAAB DR Survey in Saudi Arabia



The PBU and the Saudi National Prevention of Blindness committee in conjunction with Ministry of Health is conducting a second Rapid Assessment of avoidable blindness plus diabetic retinopathy pilot study in Jizan province, Southern part of Saudi Arabia. The survey is expected to be completed by the end of January 2012. It will provide more data for planning of eye care and diabetic retinopathy services in the province. The first survey was conducted last year at the Taif region Western province of the Kingdom. The success of that survey in generating interest of the Ministry of health and other stakeholders made it possible to undertake the second study.

[back to top](#) ↑

Al Basar international foundation held workshop on second decade of VISION 2020



On 27 November 2011 in Khartoum Sudan, Al Basar International Foundation organized a workshop to review the global perspective in Vision 2020 for the next decade, and major achievements and challenges of Vision 2020 especially as it relates to Sudan. The workshop consisted of three sessions: inauguration, scientific session and Group Discussions. Speakers included Dr. R. Pararajasegaram, Prof. Daud Khan, Prof. Saleh Memon, Prof. Kadir Kazi, Prof. Adel ARushood, Dr. Babar Qureshi, Dr. Haroon Awan, Dr. Mansur Rabiou and Mr. Hassan Minto etc.

[back to top](#) ↑

Makkah Ophthalmic College graduates second batch



The Makkah Ophthalmic Technical College established 2007 had graduated the 2nd batch of 43 Ophthalmic Assistants. The 3 year diploma programs cover 2 main fields Diploma of Ophthalmic Assistant (DOA) and Diploma of Ophthalmic Technologist (DOT) The diploma award ceremony was held on Saturday, 26th November 2011 at Friendship Hall, Khartoum.