



In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Message by
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WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office
to the
Technical Consultation for Establishing Guidelines for Practicing Clinical
Dietician
Sharjah, UAE, 24 – 25 April 2010

Ladies and gentleman,

I am pleased to welcome you all today in this special forum and to thank the Government of United Arab of Emirates, represented of Ministry of Health for hosting this important Consultation and providing all kind of support.

All that clinical dietitians work in hospitals and other health care facilities, aim to provide nutrition therapy to patients according to the disease processes, provide individual dietary consultations to patients and their family members and also conduct group educations for other health workers, patients and the public. In addition, clinical dietitians in smaller facilities will also provide or create outpatient education programs. They work as a team with the physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, speech therapists, social workers and nurses to provide care to the patients.

However, the Region still has no WHO standards or guidelines for organizing the clinical dietetic practice, that would help Member States to describe the responsibilities of a dietitian and delineate safe dietetic practice in clinical settings. Such standards have been in place in many developed countries and include professional standards, ethical guidelines,

entry-level competencies, provincial regulations, standards of care, and practice guidelines. Many countries in the Region, took proactive steps and initiated national guidelines or realized the importance of this area and working in this direction to set up national guidelines such GCC, Jordan and Lebanon.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Regional Office has expressed an urgent need to call for this consultation to serve as think-tanks for deliberating on the current clinical dietetic practice, challenges encountered by the dieticians and set up standards for the area, benefiting from the current experience of developed Countries. The main objectives of the meeting are to:

1. Identify the key challenges in clinical dietetic practice;
2. Develop standards for Clinical Dietetic Practice in the Middle East region; and
3. Recommend strategies at regional/ national level to implement the set standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through this consultation, every effort will be made to direct the focus of Member States to results on the ground; to concentrate on the comparative advantages of the contributions of specialized agencies and donors, particularly in health and nutrition system strengthening; and to support the leadership of governments and international community programmes to achieve these results.

We are very proud of our partnership with you and very pleased to see your participation in this important work. I wish you a pleasant stay in this beautiful city and successful outcome of this activity.