The news of the sudden death of Dr Mahmoud Fikri on 17 October 2017 was met by shock and sadness by all who knew and worked with him, and the loss to the Organization is keenly felt.

Dr Fikri had been nominated Regional Director during the 63rd session of the Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean in October 2016, and then appointed by the Executive Board in January 2017. He took office on 1 February 2017. Over the almost nine months that Dr Fikri served as Regional Director, his commitment and dedication to furthering the mission of WHO made him a colleague remembered by all. His determination to position WHO as a leading and respected health partner, his modesty, sense of humor, kindheartedness, and compassion were all remarked upon by the Organization.

Previously, Dr Fikri had served as Advisor to the Minister of Health of the United Arab Emirates from 1996 to 2017, and had been a prominent figure in the field of public health in the Region for many years. He was previously the Assistant-Undersecretary for Preventive Medicine and Health Policies Affairs in the Ministry (1995–2013). He served as a Member of the Board of Directors of the WHO Centre for Health Development (the “WHO Kobe Centre”), Japan, and as a Member of the Advisory Board of the Health Ministers’ Council for Gulf Cooperation Council States (1996–2005). He was also a member of WHO’s Executive Board from 1997 to 2000.
Dr Fikri is survived by his wife, five sons and two daughters.

Dr Fikri has passed away. He was a dedicated and respected member of our organization. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and colleagues. He contributed to the organization during his tenure from 2016 to 2017, serving as regional director for the region. His passing is a loss for the organization and for public health. He will be remembered for his dedication and service.

Dr Fikri worked closely with the Ministry of Health in the Arab League countries, and he was a leader in the field of public health. He sat on the executive board of local and international health organizations, and he was a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board from 2000 to 1997.

We extend our condolences to his family and colleagues.

Tuesday 15th of October 2019 07:20:44 PM