WHO launched a patient safety programme in 2004 to highlight the importance of patient safety as a global health care issue. WHO is collaborating closely with Oman in raising awareness of patient safety and the rights of patients and participated in the second Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) patient safety conference which was jointly hosted by the Executive Board of the Health Ministers Council for GCC States, Ministry of Health of Oman, and Sultan Qaboos University from 20–23 January 2013 in Muscat, Oman.

WHO Representative Dr Abdullah Assa'edi and Sir Liam Donaldson, WHO Envoy for Patient Safety and Chair, World Alliance for Patient Safety, joined more than 400 physicians, nurses and various other health personnel in the conference.

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