Primary Health Care: Not the best of beginnings?
(Presented by Dr Socrates Litsios)

Under the leadership of its new Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, WHO will soon embark on a renewal of primary health care. Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the historic Alma Ata "Health for All" conference. But did WHO make mistakes when it began the primary health care movement in the 1970s? And if so, how can it avoid repeating them now?

In this presentation, Dr Socrates Litsios, former WHO Chief of Primary Health Care, argues that the Organization did not choose the best strategy for incorporating PHC principles in its own work. Other options were available which might have been more successful then, and which could still be valuable to WHO today.

Dr Litsios is currently writing the history of WHO's third decade, as part of the Global Health Histories initiative. This book is intended for publication in 2008, WHO's 60th anniversary year.

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