

World Blood Donor Day 2009 Guyana

On Sunday 14 June 2009, Guyana joined other member states in celebrating World Blood Donor Day (WBDD). This year's event was celebrated under the theme "*Pledge 2 save lives*".

This event was particularly special as attending the celebrations were over 105 collaborative entities from the private and public sectors, which in 2007 had committed to participate in the process of voluntary blood donations. Through their collaborative effort voluntary blood donations in Guyana has increased from approximately 30% in 2007 to over 66% by mid 2009.

The Minister of Health (Dr. Leslie Ramsammy) thanked and congratulated corporate Guyana for the role they continue to play in ensuring safe and adequate blood supply. The Minister of Health also indicated that working together, Guyana will achieve the target of 100% voluntary blood donations and surpassing 10,000 units collected (per year) by the end of 2010. The acting PAHO Representative (Dr. Luis Seoane) in his congratulatory message asked for even greater commitments and challenged the participants to donate blood voluntary at least twice per year, to ensure that the supply of blood is adequate, sentiment also echoed by the Minister of Health.

During the ceremony, individuals gave testimonials on how they became voluntary blood donors, the ongoing wonderful experience and in general what it means to them; others used the opportunity to thank all those who have saved the lives of their relatives through altruistic blood donations.

