

Celebration of the International Blood Donor Day in Tajikistan

At the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Health the National Marathon on voluntary blood donation devoted to the International Blood Donor Day was conducted on 14 June 2009 in Tajikistan.

Hundreds of citizenships of Tajikistan, as well as staff of international agencies made their way to the National and Regional Blood Centers, to voluntarily donate their blood for patients in need of blood transfusion.

The Marathon was organised by the National Scientific and Clinical Blood Center with the technical and financial support of GF ATM through the UNDP Tajikistan and the WHO Country Office Tajikistan. This year's celebration has **"Blood For the Sake of Life"** as its theme.

The Marathon was conducted to express gratitude to blood donors and to increase the number of voluntary blood donors in the country. For Tajikistan, where the voluntary blood donation movement is at its first steps of implementation these kind of activities are extremely important. In 2005, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution recognizing that volunteer blood donors who donate blood regularly are important in maintaining a safe, adequate and sustainable blood supply. The National Blood program not only advocates voluntary blood donation as a priority for the country but ensures safe blood donation as well.

The Tajik National Television center broadcasted the event live and hence catered to a wider audience. Famous scientists, artists, various dignitaries and religious leaders donated their blood to help preserve a life. Speeches were made by them encouraging people to come forward to donate their blood.

The day was ended by the solemn meeting and concert in one of the biggest cinema and concert hall of Dushanbe city "Kohki Jomi". All donors and guests were greeted by Dr Lola Bobokhodjaeva, Head of the Department of Health of the President's Office as well as the Minister of Health ,Dr Nusratullo Salimov and UNDP Country Director Mr Rastislav Vrbensky.

The words of courtesy were given to honorary donors and participants of the Marathon. After the formalities, awards were given to 15 outstanding donors for their valuable contribution. By Presidential Decree they also were presented with honorary Degree and Medal of 'Honoured Donor'. A concert was organized to celebrate the day and artist from all fields participated and stressed the importance and encouraged blood donation as a moral duty of each citizen.

The Marathon was conducted all over the country. According to records of the National and Regional Blood Centers a total of 750 people donated their blood and a total of 400 litres of blood was donated during this day for people

in need. All donors were provided by food and memorable gifts – T-shirts and caps with the 'Blood Donor Day' logo.



