

IFPMA Reception on the Occasion of the 63rd WHA Remarks by IFPMA Director General Eduardo Pisani

Good evening honorable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates and honored guests, welcome to the IFPMA's Reception on the occasion of the 63rd World Health Assembly! The agenda for this WHA is busier than ever, so thank you for taking the time to join us.

This is my first WHA since assuming the position of Director General of the IFPMA in January and I welcome you all to our Reception this evening. I have already had the pleasure of meeting quite a few of our guests and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the course of this evening, and during the days and months to follow.

The IFPMA goal is to strengthen the research-based pharmaceutical industry's participation in international health discussions here in Geneva, talking with and learning from national missions, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.

The IFPMA intends to serve the international health community as a partner, as a resource and as a thought leader, and I will be seeking to reinforce each of these activities, as we work to build constructive dialogue and collaboration with all of the many different stakeholders concerned with health matters.

The aspirations for a healthier world set out in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals form an important, overarching backdrop to many of the subjects under discussion in Geneva, and more specifically at the WHA this week. One of these MDGs, number 5, seeks specifically to improve women's health and we have chosen this as the theme for our event today.

Women's health is a critical topic. Many women in developing countries find it difficult to access the health care services and medicines that others in richer countries take for granted, and that have helped them to enjoy longer and more productive lives.

As the latest IFPMA Health Partnerships Directory shows, our companies help to redress uneven access to basic services and medicine by supporting a large number of philanthropic or not-for-profit programs to improve health in developing countries, including a substantial number which focus on women's health.

In line with our goal to strengthen mutual understanding between different stakeholders, we will hear from two guest speakers, who are drawn from the ranks of key stakeholders in the Geneva environment – representing a national government and intergovernmental organizations. Then, we will hear more about one company's efforts in this area later on from our third guest speaker.

We were delighted when Dr. Endang Sedyaningsih, the Minister of Health for the Republic of Indonesia, accepted our invitation to speak this evening about her country's efforts to improve women's health and the lessons learned by Indonesia in this area. Unfortunately, she has had to return early to Jakarta and will not be able to join us this evening. However, the Director of the Ministry of Health, Ms. Engko Sosialine, has kindly agreed to step in and speak on her behalf.

Our second guest was to have been Ms. Daisy Mafubelu, Assistant Director General at the World Health Organization, responsible for Family and Community Health. Unfortunately, she is

not able to join us, due to the World Health Assembly. Standing in for her and speaking on behalf of the WHO is Dr. Tonya Nyagiro, Director of the Department of Gender, Women and Health at the WHO.

Our final guest speaker is Ms. Joy Marini is Director of Corporate Contributions at IFPMA member company Johnson & Johnson, where she is responsible for Johnson & Johnson's international programs on maternal and infant health, gender-based violence, and economic empowerment for women. It is very appropriate to have Ms. Marini talk to us about women's health, because her company is probably the one which is most active in supporting women's health programs in developing countries.

So, having introduced you to our esteemed guests speakers, let me turn the floor over to them by asking our first speaker to join me. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to our guest speaker from the Indonesian Ministry of Health, Ms Engko Sosialine.

Geneva, 19 May 2010