[Unofficial Translation]

Starting the operation of Palestine National Rehabilitation Center for Drug Addicts Treatment

Bethlehem - Ma'an - The Ministry of Health celebrated on Thursday 17 January 2019, the opening and the operation of the Palestine National Rehabilitation Center (PNRC) for Treatment of Addicts, where it was announced to start receiving patients from last Sunday.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of the Minister of Health, Dr. Jawad Awad, in the presence of the Deputy Minister Dr. Asa'ad Ramlawi, as the minister's representative. The event took place at the premises of PNRC.

The ceremony was attended by the Governor of Bethlehem Mr. Kamel Ihmaid, the Head Representative of the Republic of Korea to the State of Palestine Mr. DongGi Kim, the Representative of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Ms. Cristina Albertin, the Country Director of Korea International Cooperation agency (KOICA) in Palestine Mr. JeongShin Cho, and the Head of WHO Office in Palestine Dr. Gerald Rockenschaub.



Mr. DongGi Kim, Head Representative of Republic of Korea to Palestine, expressed in his speech that he is honored and delighted to celebrate the completion of the PNRC project, stressing that the center is really important for treatment of drug dependence, and which will also serve as a safe place that can give comfort and hope in the darkest of times, and where resilience can be restored.

Mr. Kim also included saying: "I am optimistic that the Palestinian National Rehabilitation Center will contribute tremendously to the welfare of Palestinian society, boosting awareness for healthy mind and body in young people."

Furthermore, Mr. Kim added that the Korean Government anticipates more opportunities for collaboration and cooperation with Palestine in the future, especially in the medical and health care.

Also, Mr. JeongShin Cho, Country Director of KOICA Office in Palestine, started his speech in welcoming and thanking the partners, who made this project a success by overcoming the obstacles that were faced during implementation. Taking the opportunity of this ceremony, Mr. Cho evaluated the project by showing that it is really important that it is the first of its kind in the region, which developed a comprehensive system of drug dependence treatment, and integrating it in the Palestinian Health system.

Mr. Cho, also explained about the “3 Ps (People, Prosperity, and Peace)” approach that KOICA uses in choosing and implementing its projects worldwide, saying that this approach could help Palestine achieve development, by making the people the center of development, achieving economic and social progress which will bring prosperity and peace which is important to sustain the other two.

Mr. Cho said “Korea achieved today’s development by promoting and protecting these values. And now, KOICA is fully ready to share this experience with Palestine People based on our mutual trust and friendship.”

Dr. Ramlawi said in a speech on behalf of the Minister of Health: "Today we celebrate the operation of the Palestine National Rehabilitation Center, the only governmental center of its kind, not only in Palestine but also in the Middle East".

He added that the center will serve and provide treatment, rehabilitation and preventive services for patients and addicts, free of charge, with a supervision of specialists in this field, where we employed qualified staff, and provided with all the necessary equipment. We announced the start to receive patients and addicts from the beginning of this week.

Dr. Al-Ramlawi expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Korean government and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for their generous support and continuous follow-up over the past years, which is the establishment of this important medical facility, they have all the thanks and appreciation and respect.

On the other hand, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in Palestine implements development projects in Palestine with the support of the Republic of Korea, with total support of 60 million US dollars as of the end of 2017, in various fields, especially education, health, public administration, telecommunications and others.

The project of the Palestinian National Rehabilitation Center (PNRC) in Bethlehem is one of the most important achievements of the Korean Agency in Palestine, and the first of its kind in the Arab world. The project aims at establishing a therapeutic health center with all necessary services to treat, and rehabilitate drug addicts, and engage them in society. Also to include this system for treating and rehabilitating drug addicts in the Palestinian health system, combating the spread of drugs in Palestine in accordance with the Palestinian National strategy and the United Nations goals for sustainable development.

The project lasted five years (2013-2018), during which the construction of the building, the purchase of equipment and furniture required for the building, the appointment and training of the medical and administrative staff. The project was at a cost of US $ 5 million, and it was implemented by KOICA and in cooperation with UNODC.

The center consists of three floors, a public administration floor, outpatient clinics, meeting rooms, a praying room, a computer lab and a library. The other two floors are for dormitories separated for male and female drug addicts. Each floor contains rooms, seating and entertainment areas, kitchen and laundry rooms. The center also has a gym equipped with the latest equipment. Also, the clinics and laboratories are equipped with the latest medical and laboratory equipment. The center also consists of an outdoor courtyard and an outdoor volleyball playground.