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## **On the move against tuberculosis: Nurses from 11 countries awarded for outstanding achievement in TB prevention, care and treatment**

**GENEVA, Switzerland, 19 March 2010** – On the occasion of World TB Day, the International Council of Nurses has given awards to 12 nurses who, through their dedication, passion and innovative care strategies, are living examples of the World TB Day slogan ‘*On the move against tuberculosis: innovate to accelerate action*’.

“From the nurses in Lesotho providing TB training to chiefs in the local community, to the Russian nurse who has developed a standard to avoid laboratory errors in TB diagnostics, and the nurse in the Philippines who trains nurses in the management of drug-resistant TB through out the Western Pacific and South East Asian region - these 12 nurses are leading their countries in TB prevention, care and treatment,” stated David Benton, ICN’s Chief Executive Officer.

The ICN/Lilly Award for Nursing Excellence in TB/MDR-TB is one aspect of ICN’s work in TB and multi-drug resistant TB as a founding member of the Lilly MDR-TB Partnership. Through this Partnership more than 18 000 nurses have been trained in TB endemic countries. This annual award supported by Lilly recognizes nursing expertise and aims to motivate and recognise nurses working with those affected by TB and MDR-TB in countries included in the TB project. It showcases the contribution made by nurses to TB prevention, care and treatment and offers the recipients an educational grant to continue their professional development along with a specially designed medal. Recipients are selected by their national nurses association for their outstanding achievement in TB prevention, care and treatment.

The 2010 award recipients are:

### **Ethiopia: Mohammed Yesuf Mohammed**

Head nurse and Matron at the St Peters TB specialized hospital in Addis Ababa, Mr Mohammed is one of the first three Ethiopian nurses to undertake training in MDR-TB. He is currently training nurses and other health workers in different health centres and hospitals in Addis Ababa on practical MDR patient care, treatment and reporting of MDR-TB.

### **Kenya: Solomon Murira Miriti**

In February 2010, Mr Miriti, a TB and leprosy coordinator in Central Province, Kenya pioneered the first ever TB community programme at Kijabe hospital which involves actively locating, screening and treating those in the community infected by TB.

**Lesotho: Mary Malebihan Letsie and Paballo Thatho**

Ms Letsie, TB Coordinator of Mafeteng District, and Ms Thatho, a nurse who runs health care services in remote clinics of the same district, had the innovative idea to provide TB training to local chiefs who can then influence others in TB prevention, care and treatment.

**Malawi: Sharon Bisika**

As Principal Nursing Officer at the Ministry of Health, Ms. Bisika has been exemplary in mobilizing and advocating for preventive resources for managing the MCR-TB patients in her district.

**Mozambique: Safira Cuna**

As Head of the Department of Medicine at the Central Hospital in Maputo, Ms Cuna trains physicians and nurses in TB prevention and contagion in all the provinces. Thanks to her commitment, the Central Hospital now has a 24-hour lab to analyze suspected sputum and a room to isolate TB patients.

**Philippines: John Stuart Pancho**

As a training officer at the Tropical Disease Foundation, Mr Pancho trains and mentors health workers on Programmatic Management of Drug-resistant TB (PMDT) throughout the Western Pacific and South East Asian regions. He has written and contributed to several works on PMDT implementation.

**Russia: Gul'shat Ablyazova**

Ms Ablyazova, Head Nurse of the TB pulmonary department, trains health care staff and patients on TB prevention and care. She developed a standard for sputum testing to avoid mistakes in TB laboratory diagnosis and has trained 148 nurses in the Irkutsk region of Siberia.

**South Africa: Mavis Kedibone Malelane**

As a TB Focal nurse at Masakhane clinic, Ms Malelane increased case detection by carrying out awareness campaigns, and sputum collection. She has been able to meet the national requirements of 80% coverage.

**Swaziland: Samkelo Andy Simelane**

Mr Simelane, a TB infection control trainer has initiated intensified TB case findings in areas of HIV and established defaulter tracing for TB patients.

**Uganda : Aciro Yolanda Ottoo**

During the rebel insurgency in the northern region, when the most of the health facilities in the region and the district were destroyed, Ms Ottoo, Senior Nursing Officer at Gulu Regional Hospital in Uganda, withstood all the challenges and continued to health educate the communities on TB and MDR-TB.

**Zambia: Precious Nzala Chikotola**

One of the TB focal persons at Kafue rural mission clinic which has a catchment area of more than 5,000 people, Ms Chikotola provides TB awareness to communities through drama and song.

**Editor's note**

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

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