

Bahrain's healthcare achievements in focus

Gulf Daily News - 13th August 2007 - BAHRAIN'S recognition as the number one primary healthcare provider in the G.C.C. will be the focus of a discussion at a global event in the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires tomorrow.

The kingdom is being represented at the International Conference on Health for Development: Rights, Facts and Realities, by Health Ministry Primary Care and Public Health Assistant Under-Secretary Dr Mariam Al Jalahma.

Dr Al Jalahma will speak on Primary Health Care and Epidemiology of Disease in Bahrain, which will be followed by a discussion on its experiences in the field.

The five-day conference, which begins today has been organised by the Argentine Health Ministry, in co-operation with the World Health Organisation.

It marks the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Primary Health Care, which was held in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, and the seventh anniversary of the adoption of the Millennium Development Declaration.

Delegates will also discuss preparations for the 60th anniversary of the WHO later this year.

"It is being held primarily to reflect on the lessons learnt and exchange experiences on the implementation of Primary Health Care as the most appropriate model to guarantee equity in access to health," said Dr Al Jalahma.

"The conference shall also further the strengthening of health systems to ensure their crucial contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development objectives and goals.

She said that in 2000, during the UN General Assembly, the Millennium Declaration was adopted, setting a historical and unprecedented commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to improve the health and welfare of the poorest and most vulnerable by 2015.

Bahrain is one of the very few countries which has come close to the goals that were set 30 years ago, although there is a lot more to be done, said Dr Al Jalahma.

"In the last 30 years, changes have been introduced in financing, management and healthcare models to cope with coverage, quality, efficiency and issues in sanitary services," she said.

"In Bahrain, with the opening of many health centres, healthcare has reached the most vulnerable in society, making it stand out as a model in not only the G.C.C. but also in the Eastern Mediterranean region."