

■ **Box. 5 Reason for This Motion**

(1) The WHO Constitution clearly states, "The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition." In 2005, the WHO amended the International Health Regulations (IHR) by instituting the principle of universal application. Because of political factors, Taiwan's 23 million people have been unreasonably barred from the WHO, depriving them of fundamental medical rights and protection.

(2) In response to a March 14, 2002, joint resolution passed by the European Parliament, US President Bush signed H.R. 2739, which expressed support for Taiwan's application to join the WHO. The Legislative Yuan passed a resolution in April 2002 enjoining relevant government agencies, such as the MOFA and DOH, to strive toward Taiwan's accession to the WHO as an observer. Prior to the WHO plenary session, it was reported that the German parliament had put forth a motion demanding that the German government take immediate action to support Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO.

(3) A decade has passed since Taiwan first sought to join the WHO in 1997. Taiwan's objective has always been to participate in the WHO as an observer, emphasizing the right of health. Taiwan is a sovereign nation. That said, is it really necessary to downgrade Taiwan's WHO participation to observer status in the face of China's suppression and the difficulties that Taiwan has encountered concerning its participation? China has always treated issues concerning Taiwan as internal problems in order to isolate Taiwan. In May 2005, China unilaterally signed a memorandum of understanding with the WHO's director-general in an attempt to create a facade that China was concerned about the health and welfare of Taiwan's

people. All this demonstrates that China's opposition and obstruction will not abate should Taiwan apply to become merely an observer in the organization.

(4) Taiwan should change its present strategies and move beyond past conventional diplomatic actions by completely de-linking Taiwan's right to health. Adhering to the principle of universal application outlined in the IHR, which could serve as a legal foundation for the nation's participation in global health systems, Taiwan could apply directly for WHO membership. In so doing, the Taiwan issue could be made known to the international community.

(5) A major foreign affairs task is to promote participation in international organizations. The significance of Taiwan's participation would not merely lie in its ability to acquire the latest health information and technology or simply meet its developmental needs in medical health. Participation would more importantly signify Taiwan's desire to fulfill its international obligations and repay the international community by sharing its experiences and technologies in the fields of medicine and public health. The Legislative Yuan fully support the government's bid to participate in international organizations to safeguard the health interests of people all over the world. Such interactions would help realize the right to health of Taiwan's 23 million people. Therefore, the sponsors and cosponsors of this motion request the Executive Yuan re-examine relevant strategies and those concerning Taiwan's positioning, and throw its full weight behind Taiwan's moves to participate in the WHO as a full member.

PART II. A Brief Introduction of the WHO

■ Background: Establishment of the WHO

On April 25, 1945, the UN Conference on International Organization was held in San Francisco. Republic of China and Brazil proposed to hold an international health conference in order to address the casualties suffered during World War II, to solve the problems of international public health created by the war, and to take chemical warfare into future considerations. Under the UN framework, a new international health organization was set to be launched. This proposal was approved by each residing representative.



A Technical Preparatory Committee was set up to organize the international health conference with the first meeting being held on March 18, 1946, in Paris. From June 19 to July 22, the international health conference was successfully held in New York City. 51 member states in the UN sent representative delegations and 13 non-member states sent observers to participate in this conference. During this conference, the WHO Constitution was ratified. Before enacting the constitution and initiating the WHO, 18 states were designated as an Interim Commission in charge of the preparatory procedures, the launching of the WHO, the continuous operation of the previous organization and assisting in solving emerging health problems when necessary.

On April 7, 1948, the WHO Constitution was ratified by half of the member states (26 member states), thus the WHO was officially launched. From then on, April 7th has since been designated World Health Day. During the Interim Commission, many countries harbored different views regarding the details behind the creation of an international health organization. For example, some countries proposed to name this new organization United World Health Organization or World Health Nations of the United Nations. However, the mission of the WHO is to promote universal health standards. At that time, many countries had yet to join the UN. Participants believed that countries that have not joined the UN could first join the WHO. In other words, other proposed names were discarded for fear that the over-emphasis of the UN may have de-incentivized many countries from

joining the WHO.

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■ The Role WHO Plays in International Health Affairs

The WHO is in charge of setting the guidelines and coordinating international health initiatives under the UN framework. When there are outbreaks of diseases, the WHO is tasked with sending experts to the area in order to control and prevent the further spread of that disease. Furthermore, the WHO provides humanitarian assistance to areas suffering from natural or man-made disasters. In addition, the WHO also plays an important role in the establishment and collection of health statistics. For example, the WHO makes predictions about the future trends of global health. When necessary, the organization sends out warnings. For example, in the past it was thought that heart disease, cancer and diabetes only occurred in affluent societies; however, findings suggested that the number of people suffering from chronic diseases was also increasing in the developing world with growing prevalence among the younger population.

The WHO also cooperates with many non-governmental organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Global Fund, Medecins Sans Frontieres on numerous joint projects around the world. Moreover, the WHO is also a leader in standardizing international health regulations such as the creation of the IHR (2005) and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). In sum, through its 60 year development the WHO has become the most important international health cooperation platform.

■ The WHO Structure

The Who has 193 member states, and 2 associate member states (Puerto Rico and Tokelau). Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland. Regional Offices have been set up around the world including Europe, America, Africa, the Western Pacific Ocean, Southeast Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean. Offices have been set up in 147 countries. In total more than 8000 experts and personnel in public health including medical professionals, epidemiologists, researchers, administrative and managing staffs are working globally in WHO-affiliated institutions.

PART III. Taiwan and WHO (World Health Organization)

■ Taiwan (Republic of China) a Founding Nation of WHO

As WWII came to an end, various reconstruction projects were conducted in countries around the world. Nevertheless, due to the war, previously existing international health organizations, such as the Health Organization of Nation League and the Office International d'Hygiène Publique (OIHP), were in shambles and unable to carry out work efficiently. Under this circumstance, at the San Francisco Conference, which was convened in 1945 to decide on the future development plans of the UN, Dr. Szeming Sze from the ROC and Geraldo de Paula Souza from Brazil worked together to promote the foundation of "an international health organization of the UN." In January 1946, during the first meeting of the Economic and Social Council of the UN, it was finally agreed upon to set up such an organization, which later became the "World Health Organization" that exist today.

■ WHO Aid to Taiwan: 1948-1971

As the recognized representative of China, Taiwan (ROC) remained a member state of the WHO from 1948 to 1972. During this period, the aid Taiwan received from the WHO included counseling for public health projects, scholarships, and donations of medical and health equipment. The most successful areas were as follow:

(1) The prevention and treatment of malaria: As early as during the Japanese colonial period, a solid foundation for the prevention and treatment of malaria had already been established. Later on, the Rockefeller Foundation of the US also set up a "Taiwan Provincial Malaria Research Institute", where meticulous surveys were conducted on the cause and spread of malaria in Taiwan. In 1952, the WHO, Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA), Council for U.S. Aid (CUSA), and Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction (JCRR) jointly granted a 200 million USD fund to Taiwan. With collaborative efforts from local governments at all levels, the first-stage of a four-year malaria eradication program began. In this program, the WHO donated USD 34,000 for the purchase of important lab facilities and medial supplies during the four-year period. In 1964, the WHO sent an assessment team to Taiwan to evaluate the eradication progress. On 4 December 1965, Deputy Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Milton P. Siegel, officially issued a "registration certificate of malaria eradication" to Taiwan, announcing that Taiwan had become a "malaria-eradicated area." Because of



Taiwan's rapid advancement and success in malaria eradication, many Southeastern Asian and South Pacific countries sent experts to the island to observe and study our methods. Moreover, a number of institute leaders and experts from the Taiwan Provincial Malaria Research Institute, such as Guang-Chi Liang (梁廣琪), Cheng-Der Chen (陳政德), Wan-Yi Chen (陳萬益), and Cheng-Hua Chuang (莊徵華), were recruited by the WHO to assist with the implementation of malaria eradication programs in Central and South American countries.

(2) The prevention and treatment of trachoma: during the 1940s, trachoma was highly prevalent in the coastal areas around central and southern Taiwan. As many as 60-90 % of the local residents were infected with the disease. In 1952, the WHO discovered Tetra-cycline as an effective treatment for trachoma. After the first Expert Meeting, it was decided that Taiwan should be the first country to receive trial treatment; therefore a center for trachoma prevention and treatment was established. The WHO in joint cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) dispatched experts to Taiwan to conduct large-scale trachoma prevention and treatment programs by helping out schools and family households. During the program's duration, medical staff from schools would teach students how to apply ointment in their eyes at home, which these students would later be examined by trained physicians at health centers. By the end of the program, the contraction rate of trachoma dropped from a high of 90% to 0 %. In terms of trachoma eradication, Taiwan serves as an exemplary model for all other countries in the world with its impressive achievements.

(3) Maternal and pediatric health: in 1952, WHO, UNICEF, and JCRR assisted Taiwan's Department of Health in establishing the Taiwan Provincial Committee of Maternal and Child Health by providing funding, technical counseling, and medical equipment. After the creation of this committee the WHO promptly sent experts specialized in maternal and pediatric health to Taiwan, including doctors, public health nurses, and mid-wives to assist with pioneering new projects as well as providing training for health officials and staff. In 1964, the committee was reorganized into a research institute. At this stage, instead of stationing long-term medical experts the WHO sent short-term counselors. The promotion of maternal and pediatric health was so successful that the institute later dispatched experts to assist South Korea in related work.

(4) Psychiatric health: In 1955, WHO assigned one of its counselors, Dr. G. Hargreaves, to visit Taiwan to find ways for improving psychiatric health on the island. He also agreed to assist Taiwan in carrying out projects concerning mental health. In the same year, the WHO invited Dr. Chung-Yi Lin (林忠義), the head of the Department of Psychiatry of National Taiwan University Hospital, to work as a counselor for the Expert Committee on Mental Health in Geneva. The WHO subsequently dispatched 8 experts to Taiwan to provide guidance for implementing projects for improving psychiatric health. In 1968, under the leadership of Dr. Chu-Chang Chen (陳珠璋) and Dr. Ming-Tze Chuang (莊明哲), Taiwan participated in the International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia (IPSS) hosted by the WHO and 8 other countries, including the US, USSR, UK, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, India, Nigeria, and Columbia. In addition, the WHO also provided nearly 30 individual grants for advanced studies every year for medical personnel in psychiatric health in Taiwan, which helped lay the foundation for the development of psychiatric study in Taiwan.

■ Box 6. Chronology of Cooperation between Taiwan and the WHO

Year	Chronology of the WHO	Taiwan Contributions to the WHO	WHO aid to Taiwan
1945	Proposal (ROC & Brazil)		
1946	Title and Regulations		
1948	Foundation		
1951	First Meeting, the Western Pacific Region	International Seminar on Nursing Education convened in Taiwan by the WHO's Western Pacific Region Office	
1952	The 2nd Meeting of the Western Pacific Region Office convened		WHO implemented malaria eradication programs, established a trachoma center, and assisted with the founding of Taiwan Provincial Committee of Maternal and Child Health
1953	The 3rd Meeting of the Western Pacific Region Office convened		
1954	The 7th WHA Meeting convened		
1955	1. The 8th WHA Meeting convened 2. The 6th Meeting of the Western Pacific Region Office convened 3. Technological Forum on Nutrition and Health Education of Western Pacific Region convened		Foundation of Institute of Environmental Health, Taiwan
1956		Meeting of Environmental Health of the Western Pacific Region office was convened in Taiwan, with discussions on the collection and use of organic waste	
1959		Annual Meeting of the Western Pacific Region Office convened in Taiwan	
1962		Seminar on Rural Services convened in Taiwan	
1964			WHO experts were sent to assess the progress of malaria eradication in Taiwan
1965			A "registration certificate of malaria eradication" was issued to Taiwan by the WHO
1966	Membership fee for ROC was raised to USD 100,000 per year		WHO provided 120 scholarships for further studies abroad and sent 75 experts to Taiwan to assist with project work
1967		The 2nd Seminar on Maternal and Child Health, Western Pacific Region Office convened in Taiwan The 18th Annual Meeting of the Western Pacific Region Office convened in Taiwan	
1971	Withdrawal of Taiwan (ROC) from the UN		
1972	Withdrawal from the WHO		

Take Action Now !!



Write a letter

and support *Taiwan*

to join the World Health Organization!!

If you think/believe that Taiwan should join the WHO.
Please write a letter to:

- Secretary General, WHO (www.who.int)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Minister of Health Ministry
- Members of Parliament

Support Taiwan to participate
in the great family of the WHO!

Take Action Now !!

"the enjoyment of the highest obtainable standard of health
is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race,
political belief, economic, or social condition"

— WHO Constitution

"We cannot afford to have gaps in the fence against diseases, and any country,
no matter what its political attitudes or affiliations are,
can be a serious detriment to the effectiveness of the WHO if it is left outside.
It is important that health should be regarded as a worldwide question,
quite independent of political attitudes in any country in the world"

— The first Director-General of WHO, Brock Chisholm



Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan (ROC)

www.doh.gov.tw