

DATE: 23 OCTOBER 2018

TO: ALL MEDIA

Minister Motsoaledi recognised for his role in the fight against TB

The Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, will this evening receive two prestigious Kochon Prizes. He will receive the first prize in his individual capacity for his role and political leadership in fight against Tuberculosis globally. The second prize, which he will share with the Right Honourable Nick Hebert, Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom, will be in their capacity as co-chairs of the Global TB Caucus of members of parliament from all over the world. The Kochon Prize is awarded annually to individuals and/or organisations that have made a significant contribution to combating TB either in their countries or globally.

The Award Ceremony will be held at The Hague, **The Netherlands**, from **18h00** South African time.

HISTORY OF THE PRIZE

The Kochon Prize was established in 2006 in honour of the late Chairman Chong-Kun Lee, founder of the Chong Kun Dang Pharmaceutical Corporation and Kochon Foundation in Korea. Lee was committed throughout his career to improving access to low-cost lifesaving antibiotics and anti-TB drugs.

To list just a few, the Kochon Prize has been awarded to the following:

- 2006** - Winstone Zulu, a leading TB/HIV community activist.
- 2007** - Ministry of Health, Republic of China for its expansion of its TB control program.
- 2008** - Jaime Bayona, Founding director of Socios en Salud, Peru for his groundbreaking contribution to MDR-TB policy development.
- 2009** - Professor Stewart Cole, for his work in genetic research on MDR-TB and his quest to develop effective new TB drugs.
- 2010** - Dr Dan Van Deun, from the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp for his work on lab system strengthening for TB testing.
- 2011** - Professor Alimuddin Zumla for his leadership in TB/HIV research.
- 2012** - Desmond Tutu TB Centre, for their work with vulnerable communities affected by TB. **2013** - GHESKIO, Haiti for their work on TB/HIV integration.
- 2014** - TB REACH Ethiopia; for its work on TB case detection and treatment support among vulnerable populations.
- 2015** - Naomi Wanjiru, Kenyan Nurse for her work serving people living with HIV and TB and campaigner.
- 2016** - Galina Zaporozhan, Republic of Moldova for her work with Speranta Terrei, a TB patient support group.
- 2017** - Indian Council of Medical Research for their excellence in TB vaccines, diagnostics, and treatment research and development.

The 2018 Prize is awarded to **outstanding political leaders who are reinvigorating, driving change, and taking bold actions to End TB.**

Process of nomination

People were invited to nominate exceptional political TB leaders via an online platform. The online platform asked several questions about the nominee and the nominator was also invited to submit letter(s) of support.

Some of the Nominators of Minister Motsoaledi wrote an additional letter of support:

- “Through Dr. Motsoaledi’s formidable leadership, South Africa has made numerous significant contributions that sparked the TB community’s optimism that TB can be ended and that have resulted in landmark policy change; e.g. South Africa was the first high burden TB country to use the GeneXpert diagnostic test for the initial evaluation of symptomatic patients. This policy decision offered incremental drug sensitivity testing to all patients who presented with TB symptoms, assisting in diagnosing both drug-sensitive and esp. drug-resistant TB in a shorter period of time³. Four years later the WHO released its #EndTB strategy, which includes the recommendation for all persons being evaluated for TB to have initial rapid drug susceptibility testing, typically done with GeneXpert”.
- “In the same year South Africa also moved rapidly to decentralise DR-TB treatment, taking a person-centered and human rights-based approach, which has been associated with improved patient outcomes and reduced costs for all”.
- “South Africa adopted new DR-TB drugs rapidly as these became available, leading to a threefold increase in cure rates for patients”.
- “Arguably his ability to mobilize high level interest in and support for efforts to end TB stand out as his greatest achievement. As described above, Dr. Motsoaledi advocated for the first United Nations High Level Meeting (UN HLM) to be held on TB and successfully encouraged many of his fellow leaders to join him on the world’s biggest stage”.
- “Minister Motsoaledi has been a champion of the response to TB since assuming office in 2009”.
- “Minister Motsoaledi was instrumental in advocating for the historic United Nations High Level Meeting (UNHLM) on Ending TB”
- “Minister Motsoaledi is also Co-chair of the Global TB Caucus, a collective of over 2,300 parliamentarians from around the world who champion the response to TB. This shows remarkable leadership in ensuring that his own engagement with policies and issues that can help to end TB, is emulated by political leaders around the world”.

Selection Process

An independent selection committee is responsible for choosing the theme, scoring applications, and identifying the winners. The Selection Committee consists of 4 people; Paula Fujiwara (Senior Advisor and Scientific Director, The Union against TB and Lung Diseases), Ken Castro (former Director at the Centre of for Diseases Control and Professor of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, USA), Timur Abdullaev (Human Rights and Public Health Consultant, also a TB Survivor from Uzbekistan) and Melvyn Spiegelman (Director of the Global TB Drug Alliance).

Many personalities involved in the fight against TB in their countries and globally, parliamentarians, academics, civil society representatives will be in attendance. Ms South Africa, Tamaryn Green, a medical student who also is a TB survivor and has joined the global battle against TB, will be officiating as one of the programme directors at the award ceremony.

On behalf of the people of South Africa, The Ministry of Health, is humbled and wishes to express its gratitude for this global recognition of Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi. This is a proud moment for our country. The recognition of his leadership will assist the country in mobilising the much needed resources and partnerships towards ending TB.

For more information, please contact

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