
Hospital leaders drive sustainable healthcare at the 45th World Hospital Congress



The 45th World Hospital Congress came to a close today in Dubai (UAE) with a ceremony to hand over hosting duties for the 46th World Hospital Congress to Lisbon (Portugal) in 2023.

This was the second time Dubai was selected to host the World Hospital Congress – the premier event for global leaders and decision-makers in the healthcare community. It took place at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre (DWTC) under the esteemed Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council.

Over three days, more than 1,000 delegates from over 60 countries and territories gathered in Dubai for plenary and thematic sessions, networking, workshops, poster presentations and industry exhibitions. Co-hosted by the IHF and Dubai Health Authority, the theme for this 45th World Hospital Congress was “Global Learnings, Local Actions: Sustainable Healthcare”.

On the last day of the congress, the final plenary session was hosted by Sonia Roschnik of the Geneva Sustainability Centre, with the topic: “Net zero in healthcare: how is it possible?” The emphasis on sustainable healthcare echoed the decision of the IHF’s General Assembly to approve the IHF *Statement on Sustainability*, announced on the opening day of the congress. (<https://www.ihf-fih.org/about/statement-on-sustainability/>)

H.E. Amb. Dr Abdul Salam Al Madani, Roving Ambassador for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean for the GCC, Chairman of INDEX Holding and IHF Special Adviser to the Middle East Region stated:

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“This year’s edition is a testament of our keenness to provide a valuable opportunity to share experiences and knowledge among those interested in the sector. During the course of three days, the conference provided participants and attendees from all over the world a chance to connect and build bridges of cooperation in addition to exchanging information and experiences, as we all share one goal in the end, which is to provide high-quality healthcare to patients and create a safe environment for the establishment of medical care services.”

On Thursday 10 November, the winners in each of seven prestigious categories of the IHF Awards 2022 were announced a spectacular Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner: <https://worldhospitalcongress.org/2022-winners/>.

One of the major awards was Dr Kwang Tae Kim Grand Hospital Award, which recognized hospitals that excelled in the five dimensions of healthcare delivery.

- Gold winners: Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (UAE), and Severance Hospital (Republic of Korea)
- Silver winners: Tan Tock Seng Hospital (Singapore)
- Bronze winners: Al Qassimi Hospital (UAE), and King Faisal Medical Complex, Taif (KSA).

Another highlight was the Ashikaga-Nikken Excellence Award for Green Hospitals which honoured hospitals and healthcare organizations that promote sustainable and eco-friendly initiatives.

- Gold winners: Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (UAE), and Japanese Red Cross Matsuyama Hospital (Japan)
- Silver winners: Aga Khan Health Service (Pakistan)
- Bronze winners: Buddhist Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital (Taiwan)

The presenters of the best posters, as judged by the committee, were awarded at the Welcome Reception on 8 November.

- Subtheme: Improvements in Delivery of Care

Application of clinical decision support system to improve pain management during COVID-19 pandemic: Jia-Jyun Yao, Resident doctor of the department of Anaesthesiology, Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan

- Subtheme: The People Agenda

Leveraging Community Resources to Improve Outcomes for Hip Fracture Patients: Victoria Chang, Senior Executive, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

- Subtheme: Green Hospitals

Building a sustainability strategy with a focus on climate and health using empowerment leadership: Sophie Meisser, Head of Sustainability, HUG, Switzerland

Winners of the People's Choice Awards for best poster presentations, as voted for by delegates at the congress, were recognized at the Closing Ceremony.

- Subtheme: Improvements in Delivery of Care

Systematizing care at distance: Expert recommendations to remote nursing consultations in Portugal: Ricardo Correia de Matos from Secção Regional do Centro da Ordem dos Enfermeiros, Portugal

- Subtheme: The People Agenda

Establishment of COVID vaccination center in Alkharj with community participation: Dr Noha Elklatawy from King Khalid Alkharj hospital, Saudi Arabia

- Subtheme: Green Hospitals

COVID Recovery Management throughout Hospital Incident Command Center: Fahad Al-Mamkhour from King Khalid Alkharj hospital, Saudi Arabia

As the 45th World Hospital Congress concluded, Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Regional Director of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, gave a video address.

“Adversity begets innovation and innovation builds resilience... Resilient hospitals maintain their functions amid crisis while leaving no one behind. As a result, they improve access and coverage, reduce vulnerabilities and address inequalities.”

With motivating words to close the ceremony, IHF President Deborah J. Bowen, FACHE, CAE, summarized the importance of the annual gathering:

“It has been my pleasure to be with you at this 45th World Hospital Congress here in Dubai. The incredible line-up of learning we've enjoyed has given us new perspectives we can carry with us into our everyday work. The depth of collective expertise on display at this forum has been truly remarkable. Not only can that expertise guide us as we work to address the challenges we face today, it can help us do so tomorrow as well.

We arrived here as individuals, but we leave here with the expertise of a community to help us attain our shared goal ... to provide safe and equitable care to all.”

Finally, DHA Director General H.E. Awadh Al Ketbi handed over organizing responsibilities ceremonially to H.E. Fernando Figueirinhas, Ambassador of the Republic of Portugal to the UAE, alongside representatives of the Portuguese Consortium, the hosts of the next Congress. Joining them on stage were Prof. Margarida Eiras from the Portuguese Association for Hospital Development, Óscar Gaspar from the Portuguese Association of Private Hospitals, and Dr Xavier Barreto from the Portuguese Association of Hospital Administrators. The 46th World Hospital Congress will take place in Lisbon from 25 to 27 October 2023.

Source: [IHF](#)

Published on : Fri, 11 Nov 2022

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