

Remarks by Dr. Zhu CHEN, the Chinese Health Minister
at
The Opening Ceremony of the ECOSOC AMR
Regional Ministerial Meeting on Promoting Health Literacy
(9:30 am, April 29, 2009, Beijing)

Honorable Under Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Sha Zukang,
President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Ms. Lucas
Assistant Director-General of World Health Organization, Mr. Alwan,
Distinguished ministers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

I am very pleased to attend the opening ceremony of the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review Regional Ministerial Meeting on Promoting Health Literacy. On behalf of the Chinese Ministry of Health, I congratulate the convening of the meeting, and extend warm welcome to all the delegates

mankind. In the health sector, health literacy is our best weapon and the most effective vaccine against diseases, which helps greatly in preventing diseases. Only when people become health literates can they avoid harms in a scientific way when threatened by diseases and take the initiative to seek health services to effectively protect themselves.

The Chinese Minist

of people in developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region cannot get access or do not have sufficient access to necessary health knowledge, that means we live in a world which is unfair, unhealthy, and bound to be inharmonious. I believe that as long as governments, international organizations, as well as the international community at large have a strong sense of responsibility and get united regardless of geographic locations and different races, we will be able to promote health literacy in the public and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Then everyone can freely pursue happiness and mankind will live in harmony. I think this is not only my hope but also a common hope of everyone here today. s move quickly to fulfill the United Nations Millennium Declaration Goals and make our dream come true.

Finally, I wish the meeting a complete success!

Thank you!