

**PRESS CLIPPING SHEET**

<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	<b>Egyptian Gazette</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>5-April-2015</b>
<b>COUNTRY:</b>	<b>Egypt</b>
<b>CIRCULATION:</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>TITLE :</b>	<b>Call for int'l anti – TB drive</b>
<b>PAGE:</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>ARTICLE TYPE:</b>	<b>General Health News</b>
<b>REPORTER:</b>	<b>Staff Report</b>

## Call for int'l anti-TB drive

**TUBERCULOSIS** (TB) was one of the main topics discussed at the annual conference of the Egyptian Society of Chest Diseases and Tuberculosis (ESCDT). Nearly 1200 chest disease specialists from Arab and African countries, and from the Egyptian universities, attended the conference.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), the ESCDT and the Arab Stop TB Partnership have launched an international campaign to overcome tuberculosis, said Dr Awad Tag el-Din, a professor of chest diseases and President of the conference.

At a press conference held on the sidelines of the ESCDT conference, Dr Amged Abdel Raouf, a professor of chest diseases at Tanta University, made a distinction between having a cough and having tuberculosis (TB). He said the latter was a disease, while coughing was a symptom. Coughing has many causes, some of them are related to the chest or the heart or the ear. Coughing could even have psychological causes. "Therefore a physician had to discover which of the aforementioned reasons had given rise to the cough", he said. According to Dr Awad Tag Eddin, although coughing was the most infectious

symptom of tuberculosis, there were patients who had the disease but did not have a cough.

### **TB situation in Egypt**

According to Dr Essam Moghazi, the Manager of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, TB is a disease that has existed since Pharaonic times. In the past, there were wrong concepts related to TB and it was thought to be an incurable disease. However many effective therapies have become available to overcome the disease. Egypt is one of the countries that has a low or mild incidence rate, with regard to TB. Currently, there are 17 cases per 100,000 people, while in the 1980s there were 350 cases per 100,000 people.

This reflects the success of the national programme to combat TB and is attributable to various factors including physicians who are well-trained in diagnosing and treating the disease; a large number of chest hospitals, up to 39 nationwide; 111 chest clinics spread throughout the villages, in the various provinces and readily available and freely dispensed drugs to treat TB. All these factors have contributed to decreasing the incidence of TB in Egypt.