

Alarming jump in GCC diabetes cases focus of debate at confab



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Due to the high prevalence of diabetes and its numerous burdens and consequences, this disease has become a major concern to the Ministry of Health in Kuwait.

This was disclosed by Massimo Massi Benedetti, Vice-President of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), at the First EUBIROD Annual Conference in Kuwait at the Dasman Center for Diabetes.

The conference began on May 2 and will last until May 4, 2009. He went on to say, "This region is considered to be one of the hottest zones of diabetes mellitus, and the incidence of it is increasing enormously year by year."

"All age groups are subject to diabetes - children and adults of all ages. Probably, as a specialized health team, you are aware of the complications of diabetes mellitus which affect the whole body, such as the cardiovascular system, the heart, the nervous system, eyes, nephrology and limbs," he said.

"Therefore," he added, "it is crucial to have an improved Diabetes Register to enable health care providers to compile all necessary data of diabetic patients. I hope the Diabetes Register will be set up in cooperation with the European countries and will expand and continue in the future."

The European Best Information through Regional Outcomes in Diabetes (EUBIROD) is a public health project funded by the European Commission, DG-SANCO. The conference includes a number of vital lectures concerning Diabetes in the Gulf Area, the EUBIROD project, the Diabetes Register and the Diabetes Register in Kuwait

The event which took place under the auspices of His Excellency the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, the country which is currently chairing the European Union, also included a speech by Dr Monira Al-Arouj, Consultant Diabetologist-Assistant Director-General.

"The EUBIROD is a type of cooperation under the shield of the European Union and this project consists of 22 European states. These states are working to help facilitate the exchange of information concerning diabetes between different countries through a Diabetes Registry that connects these different countries," Dr Al-Arouj stated.

"Through the Dasman Center for Diabetes Kuwait has become the only country outside the European Union to join the EUBIROD project. This will help Kuwait register information of all patients suffering from diabetes in Kuwait.

"Thus, it will help provide Kuwait with all the necessary information concerning the disease, its symptoms and how likely it is to aggravate. It will also help keep the center updated on all the developments concerning the disease and on new prevention methods.

"It will also help in an easier evaluation of the needed finance to develop prevention methods and

solutions for the disease. In addition, the project will help in advanced research and educational programs relating to the matter,” Dr Al-Arouj said.

The three-day conference hosts members from the Ministry of Health and a number of ambassadors and diplomats of various European states.