

## Why World TB Day?

World TB Day is a day for building momentum for continued support for TB control, so that TB patients wherever they may be, receive quality care that will cure them of the disease.

“TB Anywhere is TB Everywhere”, the theme for World TB Day, 24 March 2007, is a call to make sure that high quality TB services reach all who suffer from TB. The message is underpinned by the fact that one TB patient can infect several others if left untreated. It is a message conveying shared responsibility and urging unified action to work towards a world free of tuberculosis.

World TB Day is a day to:

- Alert people about TB – to tell them how grave the problem is
- Reassure people that the tools are indeed available, but that these need to be more widely used, to overcome TB
- Convince policy makers and opinion leaders of the value in investing in the new Stop TB strategy and supporting all the critical components of this strategy, without having to compromise on quality of implementation
- Call on all partners, NGOs, medical schools, business and industry, self-help groups, government ministries and departments, international development agencies, and others to contribute more to Stop TB
- Mobilize people to demand and to fulfill their right to access good quality TB services
- Motivate medical practitioners to involve themselves in the national TB control programme
- Attract media attention, disseminate useful information to generate public awareness of TB and services available and help allay stigma relating to the disease.



*“But what does universal access mean? To me, this means that no one should die because they can’t get drugs. It means that no one will miss being tested, diagnosed, treated and cared for because there aren’t clinics”* - late Dr LEE Jong Wook, former Director-General of WHO