

## Stop TB Partnership and Kochon Foundation announce recipients of 2011 award for distinguished achievements in combating tuberculosis

27 October 2011 – Lille, France – The International Nepal Fellowship (INF), a Nepali faith-based organization, and Professor Alimuddin Zumla of the United Kingdom (UK) will share this year's Kochon prize, which is awarded annually to persons, institutions or organizations that have made a highly significant contribution to combating tuberculosis (TB), a disease that still causes three deaths every minute. The selections were announced at the opening ceremony of the [World Conference of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#) (the Union) in Lille today.

**INF** has been working on TB in Nepal since 1973 and in 1985 became the regional counterpart to the National Tuberculosis Programme, taking charge of implementing TB control activities in all 15 districts of Nepal's mid-western region.

In addition to providing basic TB services, INF trains staff from health facilities, government programmes and partner NGOs on how to improve the quality of TB care. Recognizing that TB is a disease mainly affecting poor and vulnerable groups, the organization operates a fund that provides medicine, tests and help with transport costs to needy patients. INF operates the only centre in the region providing outpatient and inpatient services for people with multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), operating a hostel that provides food and shelter for patients.

INF has a staff of about 340 Nepalis and 20 expatriate volunteers. The organization also works on leprosy control, community health and development, hospital and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities, drug awareness/rehabilitation and HIV education, counselling and care.

**Professor Alimuddin Zumla** is renowned internationally for his leadership in TB and TB/HIV research and for establishing north-south partnerships for TB research. Dr Zumla's collaborations now span five countries in Europe and 10 in sub-Saharan Africa, where he leads several multi-country research projects. His team's research findings have contributed to the development of WHO's management guidelines on treatment and prevention of TB and TB/HIV and have led to improvements in the care of patients worldwide.

Dr Zumla is Professor of Infectious Diseases and International Health, University College London Medical School, and Consultant Infectious Diseases Physician at University College London Hospitals NHS Trust, London. He also serves as visiting professor at several European and African universities and is Chairman of the International Scientific Advisory Committee to the United Kingdom All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis.

A founding member and trustee of the UK charity TB Alert, Dr Zumla pioneered the London TB Link Project, which brought to light the growing problem of TB in London. He has authored 368 publications and edited 17 medical textbooks, including the classic *Tuberculosis: A Comprehensive Clinical Reference*. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the Weber Parkes Trust Medal (2000), The Albert Chalmers Medal (2004), The India International Foundation Science Award (2011) and The Spinoza Leerstoel Award of the University of Amsterdam (2011).

Professor Zumla, a native of Zambia, qualified in medicine in 1979 at the University of Zambia School of Medicine and subsequently completed specialty training in infectious diseases, tropical medicine and clinical immunology in the UK and United States.

INF and Professor Zumla will each receive the Kochon Medal and share an award of US\$ 65 000. [Dr Armand Van Deun](#), an international leader on improving laboratory testing for TB, was the recipient of last year's Kochon Prize.

**The Kochon Foundation** is a non-profit foundation registered in the Republic of Korea. The Prize was established in 2006 in honour of the late Chairman Chong-Kun Lee, founder of both the Foundation and Chong Kun Dang Pharmaceutical Corporation in Korea.

[The Stop TB Partnership](#) is leading the way to a world without tuberculosis (TB), a disease that is curable but still kills three people every minute. Founded in 2001, the Partnership's mission is to serve every person who is vulnerable to TB and ensure that high-quality treatment is available to all who need it. Our role is to ensure a bold vision for addressing TB and to coordinate and catalyse global efforts towards elimination of the disease.

Together our nearly 1000 partners are a collective force that is transforming the fight against TB in more than 100 countries. They include the World Health Organization – which hosts the partnership secretariat and is the major partner – government programmes, technical partners, research and funding agencies, NGOs, civil society and community groups and private sector. Our Global Plan to Stop TB (2011-2015) sets forth a roadmap for halving TB prevalence and deaths compared with 1990 levels by 2015.

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