
MEDIA RELEASE
FIP hosts record participants at its
68th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Basel, Switzerland

Basel, Switzerland, 29 August to 4 September 2008 - The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is very pleased to announce a record number of participants in attendance at its 68th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences held in Basel, Switzerland at the end August and beginning of September. Over 3000 pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, academics, researches, students and press from 120 different countries participated in sessions, workshops and discussions focused on Reengineering Pharmacy Practice in a Changing World, the main theme of the Congress.

FIP was also honoured and privileged to welcome Mr Pascal Couchepin, President of the Swiss Confederation, to speak at the Opening Ceremony. President Couchepin offered poignant praise for the role of the pharmacist in health care and commended FIP on its job in bringing together so many of the world's pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists in an event such as the FIP World Congress.

Dr Kamal K Midha also addressed an audience of thousands during the Opening Ceremony, recounting the work and accomplishments of the Federation over the past year yet stressing that is FIP is solidly focused on and preparing for the future with the creation of 2020 Vision: FIP's Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan. Through this plan, which was unanimously supported and ratified by the FIP Council during the Congress, FIP aims to position itself as the global source of information and expertise on medicines use such that *whenever and wherever medicines are discussed on a global level, FIP is at the table.*

Throughout the week of pre-satellite symposia, plenary sessions, workshops, meetings, exhibition and poster sessions, FIP Congress Participants were exposed to the most current and relevant issues facing the pharmacy profession and pharmaceutical sciences and invited to play an integral role in their development.

As the biggest global meeting of its kind, the FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has once again offered a unique and invaluable venue for learning and international networking. FIP is already looking forward to welcoming participants once again next year at the 69th Congress in Istanbul, Turkey.