

Meeting of the IBE Eastern Mediterranean Regional Executive Committee

Marriott Hotel – Cairo, Egypt.

Saturday 19th May 2008

In attendance: Mrs Manar Sawan, Chair; Dr Abdulaziz Al-Semari, IBE Vice President Eastern Mediterranean, Prof Najib Kissani, Secretary.

Minutes: Prof Najib Kissani

Apologies: Dr Muhammed Aldossari, Vice Chair

1. All those attending confirmed that they have received all the meeting papers and details from Ann Little, IBE Executive Director.
2. Those attending the meeting encouraged the enlargement of IBE's representation in other countries of our region; we agreed to distribute this task between us:
 - a. Manar Sawan: Syria and Jordan
 - b. Abdulaziz Alsemari: Middle East countries
 - c. Najib Kissani: Algeria, Mauritania, Lybia and Palestine
3. It was discussed that the regional committee needs to establish projects to help other associations and societies, such as in Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Lebanon and other countries; this will help with enlargement.
4. Manar Sawan gave a review of what is already being done in Lebanon, including many cultural activities to stimulate people with epilepsy and to provide funds for the Lebanese association. The funds raised help to buy medication and to reintroduce people with epilepsy into society/
5. Abdulaziz Alsemari, reported on the situation in Saudi Arabia, he focused on the campaign on epilepsy awareness in schools and spoke about its success.
6. Najib Kissani talked about campaigns being carried out in Morocco in cities without neurologists, especially in South Morocco, and of the benefits derived from these campaigns.
7. The participants to the meeting agreed to encourage all countries to share their good experiences and in particular to let the world community involved in epilepsy know about successes achieved in countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region, and to publish these reports in journals (including IE News and in other international, national or local journals).
8. The meeting discussed the next IBE/ILAE East Mediterranean Regional Congress and proposed venues for the meeting. This issue would later be discussed at the joint meeting of the IBE Regional Executive Committee and the ILAE Commission for the Region.

9. The meeting also proposed topics for next International Epilepsy Congress in Budapest 2009:
 - a. The health care system and difficulties in the developing world concerning epilepsy (treatment gap, unemployment, etc...)
 - b. Traditional practices in epilepsy
 - c. Women, children and new antiepileptic drugs
 - d. Psychiatric manifestations of epilepsy
 - e. Mental retardation and chronic use of antiepileptic drugs
10. And finally, it was suggested that the group try to improve collaboration and contact between the IBE Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee and ILAE Commission for the region.
11. It was agreed that more funds are needed to encourage enlargement of IBE's representation in most countries of our region. For example, each of us can assist another country in creating their journey and establishing their association, and small funds can cover the meeting and air fares of one person from the IBE regional committee.