

One fifth of all adults with diabetes live in the South-East Asia region

Rapid development and increasing life spans intensify diabetes epidemic

BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 14, 2011 World Diabetes Day 2011 marks the release of the International Diabetes Federation's 5th edition of the Diabetes Atlas. New figures indicate that the number of people living with diabetes is expected to rise from 366 million in 2011 to 552 million by 2030. In 2011 there were 71.4 million people with diabetes in the South East Asia region, this number is expected to increase to 120.9 million by 2030. IDF also estimates that 36.2 million people in the region are still yet to be diagnosed with the disease. In 2011, IDF estimates that India alone has 61.3 million people living with diabetes; this places India second to China.

The South-East Asia region also has one of the highest estimates of prevalence of type 1 diabetes in children. In 2011 an estimated 18,000 children under the age of 15 developed type 1 diabetes.

"We must do all we can to combat the onslaught of the diabetes epidemic" said Dhruba Lall Singh, Chair of IDF's South-East Asia region, "India is obviously a large concern but we still need to keep an eye on the smaller countries. Mauritius now has the highest prevalence in the region at 15.1%. We need urgent action now, from all sectors."

The regional figures echo the shocking increase in diabetes on a global level. "In every country and in every community worldwide, we are losing the battle against this cruel and deadly disease" said Jean Claude Mbanya, President of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) "We want World Diabetes Day 2011 to bring these alarming diabetes facts into the global spotlight. We demand that public and world leaders act on diabetes now".

The release of these figures follow the September meeting of 193 Heads of State and government at the UN in New York to agree on a Political Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) including diabetes.

India will face one of the toughest struggles against diabetes in the region. Due to its large childhood population India accounts for most of the 112,000 children in the region with type 1 diabetes. The country is also the largest contributor to regional mortality with 983,000 deaths attributable to diabetes.

It is hoped that campaigns such as today's World Diabetes Day will continue to raise the voice of people with diabetes and move advocacy to action on a global scale.

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**International
Diabetes
Federation**

For more information on country and region



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About World Diabetes Day

World Diabetes Day (WDD) is celebrated every year on November 14. The World Diabetes Day campaign is led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and its member associations. It engages millions of people worldwide in diabetes advocacy and awareness. World Diabetes Day was created in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organization in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat that diabetes now poses. World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2007 with the passage of United Nation Resolution 61/225. The campaign draws attention to issues of paramount importance to the diabetes world and keeps diabetes firmly in the public spotlight. This year sees the third of a five-year campaign that will address the growing need for diabetes education and prevention programmes.

www.worlddiabetesday.org

About the International Diabetes Federation (IDF)

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is an umbrella organisation of over 200 national diabetes associations in over 160 countries. It represents the interests of the growing number of people with diabetes and those at risk. The Federation has been leading the global diabetes community since 1950. IDF's mission is to promote diabetes care, prevention and a cure worldwide. www.idf.org

For more information on the 5th edition **Diabetes Atlas** and country-by-country statistics visit:

<http://www.idf.org/diabetesatlas/>

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