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Dr Ayse Akin
Director, Research and Implementation Center on
Women-Child Health and Family Planning,
Baskent University
Fevzi Çakmak Cad.79.Sok (Eski 12.Sok) No 7/7
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Ayşe,
Dear Dr Akin,

I was pleased to learn that you have been awarded the Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize for 2012 in recognition and appreciation of your outstanding service in the field of family health and I would like to express my congratulations on behalf of the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

During your long-standing career in the area of family health, as Professor at the Medical School of Hacettepe University, and as General Director of Maternal and Child health and Family Planning in the Ministry of Health of Turkey you have actively promoted family health at all levels in Turkey. Many colleagues of the WHO Regional Office still remember your outstanding work and leadership as Chair of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe. While participating in several professional organizations, committees, and serving on several international boards in relation to family health you have always promoted gender equality and the human rights principle.

Your publication list covers the full scope of family health (reproductive, maternal, child, adolescent health and gender) in both national and international peer-reviewed journals and clearly summarize the tremendous work you are doing in accelerating the progress towards meeting internationally-agreed development goals and in attaining the highest achievable standard of family health.

You have served as a role model to many public health professionals, obstetricians and gynaecologists as Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training in the Service Aspects of Family Planning for many years. Leading European experts in the area of reproductive, maternal and neonatal health often remember the meeting of the European Regional Advisory Panel on Research and Training in Reproductive Health in Ankara that was hosted by you in 2005.

Your work in linking gender issues with faster socio-economic development and poverty reduction in Turkey has been recognized by both the international community and by WHO that invited you to join the Gender and Rights Advisory Panel, which is an important component of the governance of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment and constant support of the WHO work. This award is a token of the WHO's appreciation for your outstanding contribution in improving family health and women's health in Turkey, the European Region and globally.

Yours sincerely,

Best personal
regards



Zsuzsanna Jakab
Regional Director

Copies for information:

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