

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW PREMISES FOR THE WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN MENTAL HEALTH (LILLE, FRANCE)

Monday 27 April 2015 at 18:00

Head of the Regional Health Agency for the Nord Pas-de-Calais Region, **Dr Jean Yves Grall,**

Mayor of Armentières, Chairman of the Supervisory Board EPSM Lille Metropole, **Mr Bernard Haesebroeck,**

Mayor of Hellemmes, **Mr Frédéric Marchand,**

General Director of EPSM Lille-Metropole, **Mr Joseph Halos,**

Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre, Chairman of the medical commission of establishment, **Dr Jean-Luc Roelandt,**

Chairman of the inter-health association for mental health and citizenship, **Mrs Raghnia Chabane,**

Head of hospital department 59G21, **Dr Laurent Defromont,**

The Staff of WHO Collaborating Centre,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you for inviting me to this event which is the inauguration of the new premises for the WHO Collaborating Centre and Frontières Center – Hospital department 59G21 Sector.

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health has been established for nearly 40 years and has been intensively collaborating with WHO. Thank you to Dr Roelandt for your leadership and guidance.

WHO depends on its Collaborating Centres for a variety of important activities. This includes providing scientific and technical expertise to WHO, conducting appropriate research, implementing educational and training programmes and providing public health advice to Governments.

A recent example of providing advice to the French Government has resulted in significant amendment in the mental health component of the national health law. The amendment relates to the use of restraint and isolation among persons with mental disorders, based on a visit of the relevant Deputy to WHO, organized by the WHO Collaborating Centre in Lille.

These are exactly the kind of extremely important activities that we expect all Collaborating Centres to perform.

The Collaborating Centre has also taken a lead in a variety of other activities during the last few years; this includes organizing meetings and consultations on the revision of International Classification of Diseases and contributing to the development of training material on mental health for primary care.

WHO would very much like the Collaborating Centre at Lille to play a much larger role not only within France but also internationally. We, in WHO, are fully committed to implement this vision.

The adoption of Mental Health Action Plan by the World Health Assembly in 2013 has been a landmark event. France being one of WHO's member states has shown its commitment to implementing the Action Plan. Mental Health services in France are well developed, but still there is much work to be done.

I would like to request Honourable Minister to provide all the support that the Centre will need.

I also want to thank the relevant city authorities for housing the WHO Collaborating Centre in these nice and new premises which provide a very stimulating environment to the functioning of the Collaborating Centre.

Again with many thanks to the Director of the Collaborating Centre Dr Roelandt for organizing this event and giving me a chance to see the important work that is being done by the Centre.