



Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition
Permanent Observer with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
884 Second Avenue, Dag Hammarskjöld Centre No. 20512, United Nations Plaza, New York NY10017

“There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread”
Mahatma Gandhi

<<>>

IIMSAM OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

IIMSAM participates in Diabetes Walkathon on UN World Diabetes Day



IIMSAM GWA DR. NASEER HOMOUD

Doha (November 14, 2008): The Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina against Malnutrition (IIMSAM), a Permanent Observer to the United Nations Economic and Social Council led by its Goodwill Ambassador, Dr. Naseer Shahir Homoud participated in a Walkathon race at Aspire today on World Diabetes Day. The event was organized by Aspire Active being collaborated with Qatar Diabetes Association and Qatar Foundation to mark the day and to create public awareness among community including children about the types and manifestation of diabetes, its causes, symptoms and pre-cautions.

Under the slogan "**Change your life ... small steps ... big rewards**", the Qatar Diabetes Association, a part of Qatar Foundation teamed up with ASPIRE Academy for Sports Excellence and IIMSAM to mark World Diabetes Day by launching diabetes awareness and prevention campaigns. 14th November is being marked as World Diabetes Day. The event which started at 5 PM marked the presence of a number of volunteers and dignitaries including women and children. The theme of this year's World Diabetes Day (November 14) is diabetes in children and

adolescents. The global awareness campaign aims to bring the spot light on diabetes and highlight the message that no child should die of diabetes. It also aims to increase awareness in parents, caregivers, teachers, health care professionals, statesmen and the common public regarding diabetes. Speaking on the occasion, *Dr. Naseer Shahir Homoud* pledged to support solidarity campaigns mounted by the World Health Organization and other allied agencies of the United Nations to cope up with this spreading disease. He called upon individuals, groups, NGOs, private and public organizations across the globe to come forward with their active participation in the movement to take care of people affected by Diabetes. Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases to affect children. It can strike children of any age, even toddlers and babies. Every day more than 200 children are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, requiring them to take multiple daily insulin shots and monitor the glucose levels in their blood. It is increasing at a rate of 3% each year among children and rising even faster in pre-school children at a rate of 5% per year. Over 70,000 children a year under the age of 15 get diabetes.

The Goodwill Ambassador pledged to render supports of IIMSAM to Qatar Diabetes Association in its activities and missions to cope up with this fatal disease. He further stressed to intensify the ongoing operations in Qatar by touching all cases of this illness involving masses, educational institutions, health care sectors, concerned NGOs and media among others.

Showing his concern about this illness, Dr. Naseer said developing countries are running short of insulin causing death toll very high. He said every step should be taken to stop these sensational deaths.

Speaking at the occasion, Gisela Hackfort, ASPIRE Active's program head said: “Our goal is to reach the general public, the educational and health care communities in an effort to target Qataris who are at risk for diabetes and help guide them to the proper medical programs to prevent or diagnose and treat this deadly disease.”