

Press statement

THE WORLD LOSES DR LEE JONG-WOOK, ONE OF THE GREATEST FORCES FOR GOOD HEALTH, SAYS UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement by Dr Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director

Geneva, 22 May 2006 – “With the passing away of Dr LEE Jong-wook, the world has lost one of its greatest forces for good health – a scientist, policymaker and leader of exceptional caliber and accomplishments.

The UNAIDS family and I personally have lost a friend and ally. We share the profound sense of loss and grief felt by our WHO colleagues. Our deepest sympathies go out to Dr Lee’s family.

Dr Lee and I recently attended the G8 health ministers meeting in Moscow, at which Dr Lee shared his vision and enthusiasm for keeping health issues high on the political agenda.

It is very sad that Dr Lee leaves us at a time when his leadership was much needed given WHO’s crucial role in addressing today’s threats to global health.

The loss of Dr Lee, a distinguished humanitarian advocate who gave long and devoted service to the United Nations, will be sorely felt by all those who had the honour to work with him. His commitment to help all people attain the highest possible level of health also reflected his personal determination to transform the AIDS response and help people affected by this epidemic. He will be greatly missed by us all.”

Contact

Dominique De Santis | UNAIDS Geneva | +41 22 791 4509 | desantis@unaids.org