

Health Secretary connects with NHS Wales staff

Health Service employees in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan will be first in Wales to get an opportunity to ask Mr Gething questions about the health service at a Cabinet Connect event.

The first staff Q&A session will be held at University of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, and invitations have been sent to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Public Health Wales and Wales Ambulance Service staff in the area.

Mr Gething said:

“I have had the great pleasure to meet many frontline health employees during visits across Wales and I wanted to build on those discussions through Cabinet Connect events.

“I want to give frontline staff the opportunity to meet me, ask me questions and discuss the issues in the health service that are important to them.”

Cabinet Connect builds on the success of the Carwyn Connect events, which the First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones has used to meet and get the views of people across Wales.

Children paying the heaviest price as conflict in Yemen enters third year – UN

27 March 2017 – As the escalation of the conflict in Yemen enters its third year this week, the top United Nations humanitarian official has called on the parties to the conflict to commit to political dialogue and resolve the situation or risk an unending manmade crisis.

In a statement, Stephen O’Brien, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs underscored that in addition to wrecking the country’s economy, killing thousands and displacing millions, the fighting has brought Yemen to the brink of a famine.

“During my third visit to Yemen only weeks ago, I saw the terrible and terrifying evidence of looming famine,” said Mr. O’Brien.

In the hospital ward, the complete stillness of the tiny malnourished child whose eyes focus on nothing. The grim realization that these patients were the fortunate ones who could access a hospital and might survive.

Underscoring that UN and its partners are already providing life-saving assistance in all of Yemen's 22 governorates, reaching almost 6 million people every month, Mr. O'Brien urged parties to the conflict to expedite immediate, timely, and unimpeded humanitarian access as well as facilitate commercial activities critical to reversing prevailing massive food insecurity and ensuring that people's basic needs can be met.

Nearly 19 million Yemenis over two-thirds of the population need humanitarian assistance and, according to UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), seven million are facing starvation.

Most of all, the Yemeni people need the parties to commit to political dialogue, or this man-made crisis will never end, noted Mr. O'Brien.

In the meantime, together we can we must avert this famine, this human catastrophe.



A boy sits amid rubble, all that remains of his home – which was destroyed in an air strike – in Okash Village, near Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. Photo: UNICEF/Hamoud



Children hold shrapnel from exploded artillery shells while standing on a street damaged by blasts in Sana'a. Photo: UNICEF/Hamoud



A boy stands atop a large piece of exploded artillery shell, which landed near his home in the village of Al Mahjar, a suburb of Sana'a. Photo: UNICEF/Hamoud

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Number of children injured, recruited in conflict nearly doubled in one year UNICEF

As with most crises, it is the children who are bearing the brunt of the suffering.

Families are having to resort to extreme measures to support their children as coping measures have been severely eroded, turning Yemen the poorest country in the region into one of the largest food security and malnutrition emergencies in the world, noted United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in a new report, *Falling through the Cracks* today.

According to UN verified data, in the past year alone, the number of children

killed increased from 900 to more than 1,500; those injured nearly doubled from 1,300 to 2,450; children recruited in fighting neared 1,580 (compared to 850 last year); and 212 schools were attacked (up from 50 last year).

Also, Yemen's health system is on the verge of collapse, leaving close to 15 million men, women and children with no access to health care. This is all the more concerning given an outbreak of cholera and acute watery diarrhoea in October 2016 that continues to spread, with over 22,500 suspected cases and 106 deaths.

The war in Yemen continues to claim children's lives and their future, said Meritxell Relaño, UNICEF Representative in the war-torn country.

We need to act now to pull families back from the brink. The risks for generations to come are extremely high.

[Bill Gates hails China 'best place' for ambitious youth](#)

Bill Gates, former chairman of Microsoft Corp and chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, receives a table tennis paddle from Peking University in Beijing on Friday. Gates talked with students after delivering a speech at the university and was invited to play a game of table tennis. [Photo by Zhu Xingxin/chinadaily.com.cn]

Once widely considered the world's richest man, Microsoft founder Bill Gates has said China is the "best place" for the young to fulfil their ambitions to make the world a better place.

In a Friday lecture to Peking University students, the billionaire philanthropist described the skepticism in some developed countries about whether globalization works for ordinary people.

He said the results of the U.S. presidential election and the Brexit vote showed how any country may turn inward when confronted with difficult issues like immigration, security and global development. In a world suddenly short of experienced leaders, Gates commended China for assuming greater responsibility for critical global issues like climate change and inclusive development.

Gates told hundreds of students attending the lecture of his high hopes for China's youth as they enter the workforce at the time of "China's rise as a center of global progress and innovation."

"The world's eyes are on China...the world's eyes are specifically on all of you... What an incredible thing is the belief that you can make the world a

better place. There has never been a better moment.”

Gates said China has to deal with the most urgent challenges the world faces.

Health, agriculture, energy, and technology are areas where Gates sees “exciting opportunities” for more “amazing progress” for China and for the world.

Gates believes China could lead the world in eradicating malaria. He commended Tu Youyou’s discovery of artemisinin, which won her a Nobel Prize in 2015, and said there was need to develop more powerful tools – like a single-dose treatment – to block transmission of the malaria parasite from mosquitos to humans. More than 3.2 billion people in the world still live with the risk of malaria infection, he said.

On agriculture, Gates said China’s continuing advances in rice growing could benefit to millions of small farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Gates’ foundation has keen interest in Africa and is working with the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Agriculture on sustainable agriculture throughout Africa.

He said China understands that helping other countries creates a more stable and secure world for people everywhere.

The founder of Microsoft sees great potential in China’s tech sector. A lab he set up in Beijing about 20 years ago has grown into Microsoft’s largest research center outside the United States with some 200 of the world’s top researchers, developers and more than 300 visiting scientists and fellows.

He said the lab also supports up-and-coming software developers by hiring more than 5,000 interns.

“Maybe you want to develop the next vaccine that protects everyone from malaria. Maybe you want to design the battery that lights people’s desks at night...” he told students.

“No matter what, if your ambition is to improve the world, this is the best time and the best place to do it.”

Bill Gates hails China ‘best place’ for ambitious youth

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[China to conduct 2nd scientific survey on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau](#)

The government of Tibet Autonomous Region and Chinese Academy of Sciences have agreed to launch a large-scale survey of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, 40 years after the first was conducted.

Scientists will set out in June to investigate changes in resources, ecology and the environment on the plateau. Their findings will be used to provide scientific support for environmental protection and economic and social development in Tibet.

New technologies, including drones and satellites, will be employed to cover the whole area and capture more comprehensive and accurate scientific data.

The first investigation was conducted in the 1970s, involving over 50 subjects such as geology, geophysics, botany, zoology and agriculture.