

Where to for WHO?

The unexpected death of the Director-General of WHO, Dr Lee Jong-wook, has been deeply felt by the organisation, but his reforms will enable WHO to more effectively continue their quest to find solutions to global health problems, according to Acting Director-General Dr Anders Nordström, writing in the *Lancet*.

"The reforms introduced by Dr Lee have given WHO greater credibility, accountability, and purpose", writes Dr Nordström. Dr Lee's 10-year global health agenda, which has been adopted by WHO, will refocus the organisation's efforts towards "health and security, universal coverage, health-related human rights, determinants of health, and strengthening health systems".

WHO's immediate aim is "building long-term health security in countries". Dr Nordström gives the example of the role of infectious diseases in health security, which is the topic of next year's *World Health Report*. Other significant health security problems include the shortage of trained health workers and the ongoing concerns with the health of women and children.

The organisation will also continue to work on other health issues highlighted by Dr Lee, including the eradication of poliomyelitis, the surveillance and reporting of avian and pandemic influenza, chronic conditions including AIDS, and the provision of universal access to drugs.

The election of the new Director-General of WHO is planned for November 9, 2006.