

Headline **12 mil new cancer cases yearly NGO**
Date **10 Sep 2011**
MediaTitle **Daily Express (KK)**
Section **Nation**
Journalist **N/A**
Frequency **Daily (EM)**
Circ / Read **30,557 / 97,836**

Language **English**
Page No **9**
Article Size **150 cm²**
Color **Black/white**
ADValue **309**
PRValue **927**



12 mil new cancer cases yearly: NGO

KOTA KINABALU: There are about 2.8 million cancer cases a year globally linked to diet, physical activity and weight, a figure that is expected to rise dramatically over the next 10 years.

The World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) has revealed that the number of global cancers has increased by a fifth in less than a decade to reach 12 million new cases a year, more than four times the 2.6 million new HIV infections yearly.

In this sense, The United Nations (UN) Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes and respiratory disease to be held in New York touts itself as a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity to avoid a public health disaster.

The high-level summit aims to bring Heads of State and other representatives from the UN member states together to agree on commitments to tackle the growing global burden of cancer and other NCDs on Sept 19-20.

Non-communicable diseases are a threat to the whole world and, in particular, developing countries, with global rates of heart disease, diabetes and respiratory disease expected to soar.

It is only the second time in the UN's history that a health issue is receiving such high levels of global attention.

Likewise, the World Cancer Research Fund is concerned that failure to develop robust global and national policies for NCD prevention will lead to millions of preventable deaths.

Medical and Scientific Adviser for WCRF, Professor Martin Wiseman, said cancer and other lifestyle-related diseases (which could be prevented) are one of the biggest challenges faced today and the UN Summit later this month is a real turning point.

"People are still unaware that risk factors such as alcohol and obesity affect cancer risk while at the same time, from television advertising to the pricing of food, our society works in a way that discourages people from adopting healthy habits," he said.

While cancer rates are higher in richer countries where people tend to be more overweight and less physically active, it is also increasingly affecting developing countries, many of which do not have the health infrastructure to cope with a large rise in cancer cases and are barely managing now.

Director of Science and Communications for WCRF, Dr Kate Allen said people tend to think of cancer and other diseases such as heart disease and diabetes as "largely being a problem for the developed world."

"But even poor countries are seeing increasing obesity rates as people eat more processed food and become less active."

"Already there are seven million cancer cases diagnosed a year in the developing world and that is likely to rise dramatically. Unless we act now to prevent cancer and other NCDs, the charity appeals of the future will not just be for disasters and famines, but to pay for cancer care," she said.

The four major NCDs are cancer, heart disease, diabetes and lung disease.

Globally, two in every three deaths are caused by NCDs and NCDs are a serious problem in all regions of the world and affect high, middle and low-income countries.

NCDs share a number of common risk factors, such as tobacco use, obesity, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity.

For more information, log on to www.ecrif.org.