



**SPEECH**  
**For UNDP/PAPP Special Representative**  
**Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen**

<b>Speaking event:</b>	Inauguration of Qbeiba Nursing School
<b>Date and time:</b>	Thursday, 08.05.2008; 14:00 – 15:30
<b>Venue:</b>	Qbeibah, Jerusalem
<b>Participants/audience:</b>	Governor of Jerusalem Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Higher Education Head of German Representative Office, Mr. <b>Joerg Ranau</b> Representative of Bethlehem University Head of Salvatorian Sisters, Sister Hildegard Enzenhofer
<b>Length of speech:</b>	5 minutes
<b>Context of speech:</b>	opening remarks
<b>Draft prepared by:</b>	Communications Unit

Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be invited here today on this landmark occasion for nursing education to officially open the Qbeibeh School for nursing. I have called this a landmark occasion because this is the first purpose built school for nursing that UNDP/PAPP implements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Anyone who has ever worked in a hospital or been a patient in one knows the value of nursing, and understands the importance of nursing excellence. Education and health are the two pillars upon which the profession of nursing rests. Education is one of the most powerful development engines currently at our disposal; so clearly, at a national level, healthcare and nursing education must be a priority.

The Qbeibeh Nursing School is but one of the many building blocks for UNDP's support to the health sector in the oPt. The domains we see the school addressing in the future are

- In the **practice** realm.... safer processes of care including safer medication practices, malpractice prevention, and wound care management.
- In the **education** realm.... effective communication and collaborative practices in inter-professional teams of health care professionals
- In the **management** realm.... strategies to create and enhance safety cultures and healthy work environments including maximizing nursing's scope of practice and safe work flow processes.



- In the **research** realm.... Comprehensive methods and measures to explore and examine nurses' contribution to safer health care.

The increasing difficulties in accessing health care facilities in the oPt, social change, and vast technological progress, all require an ever wider range of knowledge and skills to meet the diverse needs of Palestinian patients and population **comprehensively, effectively and efficiently.**

It is indeed due to the energies and efforts of many partners that we all finally arrived here today. The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Bethlehem University, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Salvatorian Sisters, have all carefully and cautiously paved the way forward for Palestinian nursing education, and the fruit of their combined efforts, **the nursing degree programme**, is thus a testament to the concept of progress through partnership.

The US\$143,000 funding provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through its Development Bank (KfW), along with the generation of over 1500 workdays, will ensure an optimum learning environment for Palestinian nursing students through the provision of purpose built facilities including classrooms, training areas and lab.

This partnership based health care service, has its foundation in the academic environment in which health care professionals are trained. Bethlehem University has a respected reputation in providing a rich environment for the education and development of nursing professionals, who see their profession as part of a larger, collective endeavour.

The degree programme offers a vital step in the professional development of nursing, but it must not be thought of as an end in itself, rather it is a gateway to a wide selection of careers in the health care sector.

I know that the spirit of exploration and innovation will be engendered in the students who will study within these walls and who will, in turn, form the fabric of future Palestinian health services.

I would like to congratulate the staff, the local community and the Salvatorian Sisters for the work that is being done here. The Qbeibeh community, and many others will benefit from this development and I am pleased to be part of the inauguration today.

Finally, I wish the students the very best of luck as they embark upon this exciting challenge.

Thank you