



ITU Forum on "Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields in India"



RF and Health: A WHO Perspective

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World Health
Organization

Health:

is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not just the absence of disease or infirmity



is the fundamental right of every human being, everywhere

is crucial to peace and security

depends on the cooperation of all individuals and States

should be shared: extending knowledge to all peoples is essential



PEOPLE

Last but not least, WHO is people. Over 8000 public health experts including doctors, epidemiologists, scientists, managers, administrators and other professionals from all over the world work for WHO in 147 country offices, six regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.



When diplomats met in San Francisco to form the United Nations in 1945, one of the things they discussed was setting up a global health organization. WHO's Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 – a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day.

Delegates from 53 of WHO's 55 original member states came to the first World Health Assembly in June 1948. They decided that WHO's top priorities would be malaria, women's and children's health, tuberculosis, venereal disease, nutrition and environmental sanitation – many of which are still working on today. WHO's work has since grown to also cover health problems that were not even known in 1948, including relatively new diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

1948

International Classification of Disease
WHO took over the responsibility for the International Classification of Disease (ICD), which dates back to the 1850s and was first known as the International List of Causes of Death. The ICD is used to classify diseases and other health problems and has become the international standard used for clinical and epidemiological purposes.

1952 Dr Jonas Salk (US) develops the first successful polio vaccine.



1952–1964

Global yaws control programme
One of the first diseases to claim WHO's attention was yaws, a crippling and disfiguring disease that afflicted some 50 million people in 1950. The global yaws control programme, fully operational between 1952–1964, used long-acting penicillin to treat yaws with one single injection. By 1965, the control programme had examined 300 million people in 46 countries and reduced global disease prevalence by more than 95%.

1967 South African surgeon Christian Barnard conducts the first heart transplant.

1974 The World Health Assembly adopts a resolution to create the Expanded Programme on Immunization to bring basic vaccines to all the world's children.

1977 The first Essential Medicines List appeared in 1977, two years after the World Health Assembly introduced the concepts of "essential drugs" and "national drug policy". 156 countries today have a national list of essential medicines.

1974 Onchocerciasis control programme



WHO worked for 30 years to eliminate onchocerciasis – or river blindness – from West Africa. 600 000 cases of blindness have been prevented and 18 million children spared from the disease. Thousands of farmers have been able to reclaim 25 million hectares of fertile river land that had been abandoned because of the risk of infection.

1979

Eradication of smallpox



Mr Ali Moalim (left), from Somalia, was the last person known to be infected with smallpox. Here he stands with the doctor who treated him more than 25 years ago. Ali has since worked on polio eradication campaigns.

The eradication of smallpox – a disease which had maimed and killed millions – in the late 1970s is one of WHO's proudest achievements. The campaign to eradicate the deadly disease throughout the world was coordinated by WHO between 1967 and 1979. It was the first and so far the only time that a major infectious disease has been eradicated.

1983 Institut Pasteur (France) identifies HIV.

2003

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

21 May 2003 was a historic day for global public health. After nearly four years of intense negotiations, the World Health Assembly unanimously adopted WHO's first global public health treaty. The treaty is designed to reduce tobacco-related deaths and disease around the world.

2004 Adoption of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.



1978 The International Conference on Primary Health Care, in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan sets the historic goal of "Health for All" – to which WHO continues to aspire.



1988

Global Polio Eradication Initiative established

Since its launch in 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has reduced the number of cases of polio by more than 99% – from more than 350 000 per year to 1956 in 2006. Spearheaded by national governments, WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF, it has immunized more than two billion children thanks to the mobilization of more than 20 million volunteers and health workers. As a result, five million children are today walking, who would otherwise have been paralysed, and more than 1.5 million childhood deaths have been averted.

THE GOAL IS TO ERADICATE POLIO WORLDWIDE SO THAT NO CHILD WILL EVER AGAIN BE PARALYZED BY THIS DISEASE.

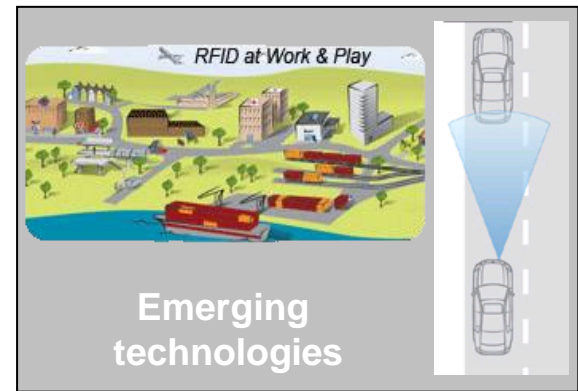
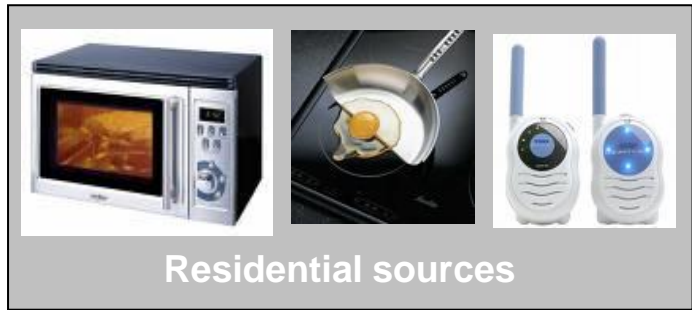
2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) first recognized and then controlled.

2005 World Health Assembly revises the International Health Regulations.

The Present EMF Context

- Increasing EMF human exposure due to electricity use, wireless devices and medical technologies
- Increasing concern from the public

"Using EMF to achieve the smartest sustainable city"



Mobiles 'boost cancer'

Radiation may make tumours grow faster

use are still unclear.
The biggest British study, led by Sir William Stewart two years ago, could find no evidence of a risk to health. But Sir William still recommended a precautionary approach, particularly in children.
The World Health Organisation has called for more research and has urged people to limit mobile use.
Now Italian scientists believe they could be closer to the truth.
Dr Fiorenzo Marinelli, of the National Research Council in

Cancer develops when control signals in a normal cell go wrong and an abnormal cell results. Instead of destroying itself the mutant cell keeps on dividing and forms a lump or tumour.
The results of the Italian study support the belief of some scientists who say radiation can damage DNA and destroy the cell repair system - making tumours more deadly.
Dr Peter de Pomerai of the University of Nottingham, who studied effects on the body of



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The Present Scientific Knowledge

**Large and increasingly sophisticated
database**

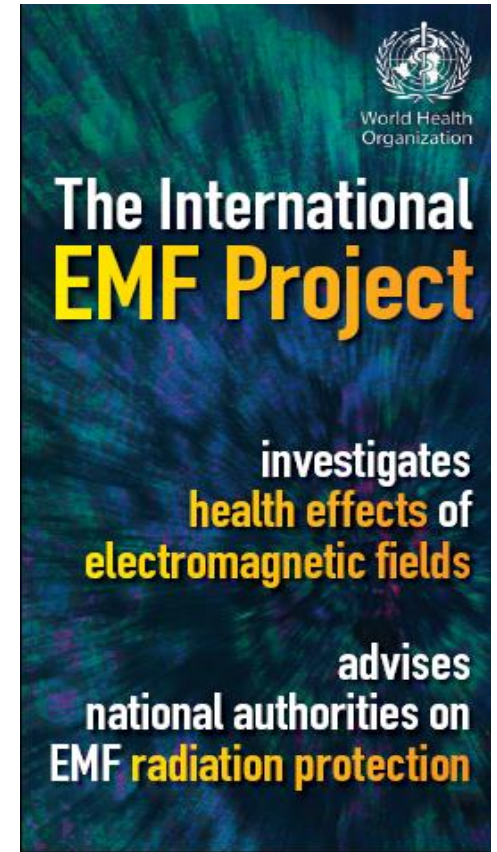
Known mechanisms

**Health effects not established below
international guidelines**

Scientific uncertainty

WHO International EMF Project

- Established in 1996
- Coordinated by WHO HQ
- A multinational, multidisciplinary effort to create and disseminate information on human health risk from EMF



WHO Partners in Radiation



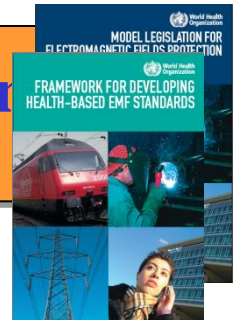
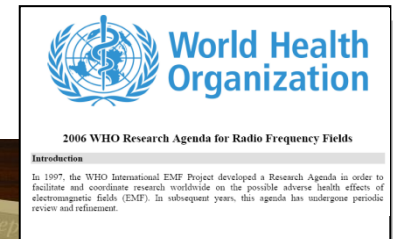
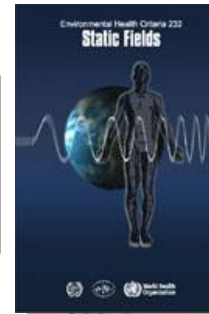
Do EMFs pose a health risk?

**Risk Assessment
The Evidence**

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**Risk Perception
and Public Concern**

**Risk Management
The Policies**

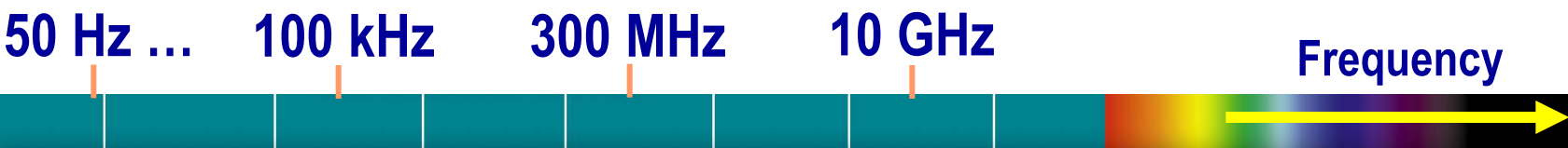


OUTLINE

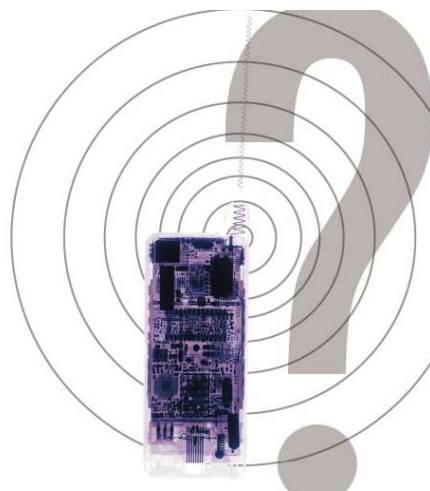
- Introduction
- **Assessing the health risk**



What do we know?



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What do we know?

Mechanisms of interaction

