

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kensington, MD

IEF PRESIDENT HONORED FOR HER WORK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BLINDNESS AND VISUAL DISABILITY

International Eye Foundation's President Victoria M. Sheffield presented with the prestigious Prince Abdulaziz Ahmad Al-Saud International Prevention of Blindness Award

The award was given on October 17, 2010 at the opening session of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO) joint meeting in Chicago.

The Prevention of Blindness Award recognizes an outstanding individual who has made a substantial contribution to the global fight against blindness and visual disability and helped to further MEACO's mission to unite and strengthen the relationship of ophthalmologists and ophthalmic societies in the Middle East and Africa. Ms. Sheffield noted that "I am thrilled and humbled to be recognized in this way by my colleagues. The award also honors the International Eye Foundation and the motto of our founder, Dr. John Harry King, Jr. who felt that our collaborative work reflects *the promotion of peace through the prevention of blindness*. I'm extremely proud of MEACO's achievements and the major role it now plays in elevating the standards of ophthalmology in the region".

Ms. Sheffield is shown receiving the award from the President of MEACO, Dr. Abdulaziz Al Rajhi.

Over a period of 38 years, Ms. Sheffield has worked across all regions of the world developing and executing eye care programs, providing training and conducting research. She is a leader in the sustainability approach to quality eye care in developing countries. A member of the AAO's Global Outreach Committee, Ms. Sheffield is the author of numerous scientific articles and presentations. She holds leadership positions in the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and the rank of Commander in The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. Ms Sheffield has lived in five countries on four continents, has traveled to 98 countries and has professional experience in 41 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

The award recognizes Ms. Sheffield's significant contribution to the prevention of blindness and the restoration of sight in the developing world and especially in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and Africa.



Photo credit: Oscar Einzig

The International Eye Foundation, based in Kensington, MD, USA prevents blindness and restores sight in the developing world. Founded in 1961, IEF programs focus on clinical and surgical eye care services, childhood blindness, 'River blindness' control, and expanding the availability of ophthalmic instruments, supplies and equipment. IEF's major initiative focuses on management and sustainability of eye care institutions to improve the quality, efficiency, and availability of eye care worldwide.

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