

## *Dr Ghazi Retirement speech.*

*Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to thank you all for being here today to celebrate my retirement. It has been an incredible journey, and I have had the pleasure of working with so many amazing people over the years. As I stand here today to say goodbye to my colleagues and friends, I find myself experiencing a wide range of emotions. To begin, I would like to express my gratitude to my Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, and to the DDG and the team of the Organisation, for the privilege of working with such a fantastic team of individuals.*

*When I first started my career, I never imagined I would have the opportunity to work with such a talented and dedicated person.*

*I am very proud to say that I spent half of my lifetime with the amazing World Organisation for Animal Health, 15 years as the delegate of my beloved country Lebanon, and 24 years as regional representative.*

*I am proud also that somehow, much of my work has been highlighted in the activities to the regional activities. From the GF-TADs strategies to CAMENET and AQMENET, to Horse movement facilitation to the BESST initiative, Regional Rabies control to animal welfare strategy, etc, etc.*

*I would like to take a moment to thank some special people who have had a significant impact on my life and career.*

*All along the years I have been supported by great personalities giving a push ahead to my career and helped me every time I found myself in difficulty to face the challenges of life. .*

*First, my Father who gave me his blessing even at the last moment before he left us to Paradise. Then all the people who believed in my work and capacity and helped me to improve them and overcome the sleepless nights to the long hours of working, I will never forget the lessons they taught me.*

*Dean Alameddine, who helped me get a scholarship for my Master in Chemistry at the faculty of sciences in Beirut.*

*Prime Minister Karamah who selected me for the scholarship to study Veterinary medicine in Toulouse France.*

*Fawzi Ghandour, president of the Lebanese equestrian Federation who spent on my training and continuous education in equine in Fontainebleau France and Lexington USA.*

*Famous veterinarians, Drs Emile Rizkallah, Sultan Haidar and Khalil Maasri, all participated in giving me the opportunity to work with them and practice my profession at the best level.*

*Dr Mansour Kassab, with whom we get the OIE office in Beirut. And many many colleagues who shared with me professionalism as well as friendship. Just to say that I really enjoyed practicing my profession and I worshipped it.*

*Of course after My amazing wife, Fatina who walked with me 50 years of Joy and happiness, supported my hard moments with love and affection.*

*I would also like to thank all my colleagues, The RRs and Srrs, the members of the regional commission, who have become like family to*

*me over the years. Thanks to everyone I worked with and everyone who helped me along the way at this Great Organisation.*

*Bernard Vallat, Francois Caya, Neo Mapitse, Romano Marabelli, my FAO and FEI colleagues, and many others, I appreciate the chances, the help, and the time spent together. We have shared so many memories and experiences, and I will miss working with each and every one of you.*

*To my team at the regional office in Beirut, Mustafa, Ali, Maroun, Bilal and of course the famous Rita, Pierre Primot and Xavier Patcholek, all my thanks. I haven't forgotten the late Khodr, Mahmoud and Tony who left us so early. God bless you.*

*As I move on to the next phase of my life, I am excited to explore new opportunities and spend more time with my family, my sons and grandchildren.*

*To conclude, I want to leave you all with a piece of advice that's served me well throughout my career: **always strive for excellence, never give up on your dreams, and cherish every moment of your life.***

*Dear Dr Eloit, It has been an honor to work alongside with you, I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing the continued success of the organization.*

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