

Chile

Chile celebrated World Blood Donor Day in 2006 with a historical milestone event, the inauguration of the “Blood and Tissue Center, IV-V Region”, Chile’s first Regional Blood Centre. During World Health Day celebrations in the year 2000, the Minister of Health at that time, Dr Michelle Bachelet, who is currently President of Chile, together with representatives from PAHO/WHO, the Chilean Society of Haematology and the Chilean Red Cross, signed the Valparaíso Resolution, “Safe blood starts with me”. One important outcome from that agreement is the Regional Blood Centre.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Minister of Health, PAHO/WHO representatives, the Ambassador of France, health authorities from other regions, blood bank directors and blood donors. Medals and certificates were presented to volunteer blood donors who had made more than 12 donations. A highlight of the event was the presentation of a vehicle equipped as a bloodmobile, donated by the Regional Government.

Promotional activities were carried out in other regions. Region III held a training workshop for donor promoters, and delivered certification to young people from the Adventist Church. In Region X a press conference was held on Health Services, followed by discussion in schools.

In Santiago, the capital city, a public information campaign in conjunction with the French Embassy and the Ministry of Health was carried out through the Emergency Public Assistance Hospital. The campaign ended on 14 June with a mobile blood collection at the French Embassy and at all the country’s French schools. Several other cities held blood collections to commemorate the day.

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