WHO Marks 50 Years of Progress

This year, WHO celebrates its 50th anniversary, with events ranging from the signing of a global health charter in May to an art show in Geneva and New York this summer depicting WHO's work

Some of WHO's milestones include:

1948 WHO's constitution takes effect on April 7, which is now marked as World Health Day each year.

1974 WHO launches an expanded program on immunization to protect children from Poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and tuberculosis.

1977 Health for All 2000 program launched, with a goal of having all people attain a level of health to lead socially and economically productive lives.

1979 A WHO commission certifies the worldwide eradication of smallpox.

1987 The Global Program on AIDS is launched by WHO.

1998 WHO marks the organization's 50th anniversary.