

## WHO nominates current head Chan for second term

January 18 2012

The World Health Organisation on Wednesday nominated its current chief Margaret Chan for a second term at the head of the UN agency.

Director-General Chan was the only candidate put forward to the WHO's executive board who made the official nomination at a meeting in Geneva.

The appointment must be approved at the 65th World Health Assembly, scheduled to meet in the city from May 21-26.

"If confirmed by the <u>World Health Assembly</u>, Dr Chan's new term will begin on July 1, 2012 and continue until June 30, 2017," WHO said.

Chan, a former Hong Kong health chief, was elected to the WHO's top post in November 2006.

During her Hong Kong tenure the city dealt with the world's first outbreak of the deadly <u>H5N1 bird flu</u> virus as well as an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

And in 2009, during her time at the helm of the WHO, Chan declared swine flu the world's first flu pandemic in 40 years.

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