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On July 17, 2000 **Syria** issued a set of stamps showing *President Bashar al Assad*.

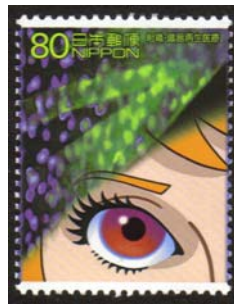
President Assad (1965 -) studied ophthalmology at the Damascus University, Tishrin Military Hospital, Damascus before going to London for further studies. He was ss junior ophthalmologist (staff grade) in Western Eye Hospital, Marylebone Road, London. He gave up ophthalmology practice to enter Syrian politics when his bother Basil, widely regarded as his father's chosen heir, died in a car crash, 1994.



On June 22, 2004 **Colombia** issued a sheet of 12 stamps *Department Series – Santander* one of the stamps shows a view of the large complex of the internationally known **Ophthalmologic Foundation of Santander** in Bucaramanga.



In 2004 **France** issued a 0.50€ stamp for *National Organ Donation*. Shows a left hand with a smiling face on it, above the fingers different organs - eye is above the little finger.



In 2004 **Japan** issued a set of 14 stamps for *Science, Technology and Animation* included is one for *Tissue and Organ Reproduction*.



On March 25, 2004 **Nepal** issued a stamp for the *25th Anniversary of the National Society of Comprehensive Eye Care*.

The Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS, Nepal Society for Comprehensive Eye) and other Nepali and international organizations has been working to create a network of eye services. It has a unit to promote preventive and curative practices in rural communities, and to increase awareness of eye care services throughout Nepal.

Nepal has a population of approximately 21 million people and per capita income of US \$200. Over 16% of the population suffer from one or more eye diseases with 3€either totally or partially blind. It is feared that the rate of increase of blindness due to cataract,

trachoma, glaucoma and infectious disease will increase by at least 20 % per annum. The bigger tragedy is that most eye diseases and blindness in Nepal are preventable and curable. There are 16 eye hospitals/clinics in the present infrastructure most of which are in the cities with the country's 80 eye doctors serving the population at the ratio of 1:4000,000.