



# APACPH

## Newsletter February 2006

### *President's Welcome*



It is with great pleasure that I take up the reins of the APACPH Presidency from Prof Anuar Zaini. I am very grateful to Prof Zaini for his hard and diligent work over the past couple of years as President and I look forward to his continued involvement in APACPH.

With the passing of the first anniversary of the Tsunami Disaster, the continuing horror of natural disasters such as hurricane Katrina and the Pakistan earthquake and the increasing threat of a global Avian flu epidemic, it is clear that health security and disaster management will continue to be a major public health concern in 2006. Recognising this concern, 'Partnership for Human Security and Health' is the theme for the 38th APACPH Conference to be held in Bangkok, Thailand 3-6 December 2006. I encourage you to submit an abstract and attend what is sure to be a superb international public health conference. Details can be found on the conference website - [www.apacph2006.org](http://www.apacph2006.org)

The 37th APACPH Conference held in Taipei last November was a great success with high attendance and a stimulating program. Presentations addressed some of the public health issues associated with natural disasters, infectious diseases and on-going conflict as well as other pressing health concerns in the Region. Congratulations to the local organisers and particularly to Prof Wen-ta Chiu and Prof Jung-der Wang, for their efforts to ensure the success of this conference and the hospitality and warmth extended to the delegates.

APACPH will be producing a special issue of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health on Health Security and Disaster Management with guest editor, Prof Anthony Zwi. This issue will contain the full papers from the conference and other relevant research. I encourage those who gave presentations on this theme in Taipei to submit their full paper to the Journal Office at the University of Malaya.

I would like to welcome four new members of APACPH. Eastern University, Sri Lanka, B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences, India and the University of Queensland, Australia, were all inducted at the APACPH General Assembly meeting in Taipei in November. I hope they will be fully active participants in the consortium.

I am looking forward to leading APACPH through its next phase. We are now an incorporated organisation and as such can act with greater confidence and independence. With APACPH on this firm footing, I hope to strengthen the participation of members through committees and projects. I would welcome any ideas that members may have regarding future projects or initiatives for the organisation. I also hope to see the development of existing APACPH initiatives, in particular the newly formed 'Early Career Network' which promises to give a voice and support to students and young faculty members.

I wish you all the best for 2006

Dr Richard F. Southby  
President, APACPH

### *In this Issue*

page

- 2 **Background: APACPH**
- 2 **APACPH Member Reminders**
- 2 **Welcome to APACPH New Members**
- 3 **Announcement of the 38th APACPH Conference, Bangkok**
- 3 **Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health goes Quarterly**
- 4 **37th APACPH Conference Taipei Overview**
- 5 **First Early Career Network Workshop in Taiwan a Success**
- 5 **APECNPH Looks to Expand Activities in 2006**
- 6 **APACPH participates in WHO Consultation in Hanoi**
- 7 **APACPH Website New Features**
- 7 **Profile on...Prof Wen-Ta Chiu**
- 8 **Calendar of Events**
- 8 **Contact**

## *Background: The Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health*

APACPH is a consortium of over 50 public health institutions in 18 countries across the Region. The Vision of the Consortium is to achieve the highest possible level of health of all the people of the nations of the Asia-Pacific region. APACPH aims to enhance Regional capacity to improve the quality of life and to address major public health challenges through the delivery of education, research and population health services by member institutions.

APACPH supports activities that forward its five main objectives:

- (i) To enhance the quality and relevance of educational and training programs in public health;
- (ii) To expand knowledge, improve skills and demonstrate effective interventions;
- (iii) To raise awareness of current, emerging, and re-emerging public health issues and develop programs of action for their resolution;
- (iv) To enhance the capacity and sustainability of public health systems;
- (v) To assist in policy and leadership development for health;

APACPH has five Regional Offices, holds an Annual conference on a topical public health issue and publishes the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health, the only English language journal of its type in the Region.

## *APACPH Member Reminders*

- **Draft Minutes from General Assembly Meeting, Taipei, Taiwan 19 November 2005**  
These Minutes can now be downloaded from the '**Members Only**' section of the APACPH website - [www.apacph.org](http://www.apacph.org)
- **Annual Subscription Payments**  
Invoices will be sent shortly. Please process your 2006 subscription payment as soon as possible.
- **APACPH Conference 2006 - 3-6 December 2006 - Bangkok, Thailand**  
Please put this date in your diary and logon to the conference website [www.apacph2006.org](http://www.apacph2006.org) for updates
- **Member Update forms**  
Please complete the 'Member Update form' (found on the '**Members Only**' section of the APACPH website) and return to the Directorate Office for inclusion on your Member Institution page on the website.

For more information or to advise of a change of details at your institution, contact Sonja Firth at the APACPH Directorate Office - Email: [sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org)

## *Welcome to APACPH New Members*

Four new members were inducted at the General Assembly meeting on 20th November 2005 at Taipei.

Prof Varagunam (Chancellor) and Prof Raveendranath (Vice-Chancellor) represented new member **Eastern University, Sri Lanka**. Their region was hard hit by the Tsunami almost a year ago and they are working with the University of Southern California on a Longitudinal Population Survey into the long-term effects of the Disaster.

We were pleased to welcome our first member from **India, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences** in Kerala. Prof Thankappan (Head, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies) accepted APACPH membership on behalf of their institution and is also working with the University of Southern California on their Tsunami Disaster Population Survey.

Prof Loke Bikram Thapa (Vice-Chancellor) accepted APACPH membership on behalf of **B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal**. The School of Public Health at BPKIHS is new and will be looking for support from APACPH to grow and flourish. Prof Devi Shrestha is the Director of the School.

Prof Richard Taylor (Head, Division of International Health) accepted APACPH membership on behalf of the **School of Population Health, University of Queensland, Australia**. Prof Taylor has been involved with APACPH in a previous position at University of Sydney and we are pleased to see his continuing support of APACPH in his new role at the University of Queensland.

We welcome all new members of APACPH and look forward to their active participation. More information on these and other APACPH member institutions and contacts can be found under '**Members**' on the APACPH website.

For information on joining APACPH please contact Sonja Firth at the Directorate office - [sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org)

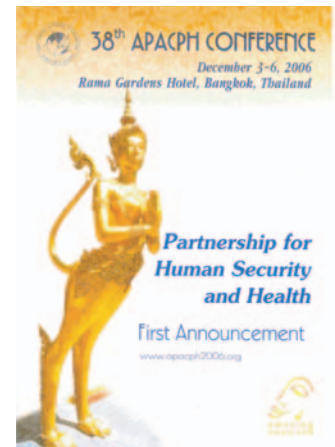
## Announcement of the 38th APACPH Conference, Bangkok

The APACPH Conference for 2006 will take place in **Bangkok, Thailand 3-6 December 2006** and will be hosted by APACPH member, Mahidol University.

The theme of the conference is '**Partnership for Human Security and Health**' which reflects the need for collaboration and cooperation between communities and institutions for the development of human security and health in the world.

Parallel Sessions will include the following topics:

1. Economics and Trade: Poverty Trap, Health and Development
2. Emerging, Re-emerging Diseases and Food Safety
3. Trans-boundary Challenges, Tourism and Health
4. Health Promotion Initiatives
5. Domestic and Workplace Violence
6. Politics, Cultural Diversity, Ethics and Health
7. Capacity Building in Disaster Management
8. Environmental and Human Health
9. Human Genomics in Public Health



The conference will offer an opportunity for all public health professionals and scholars to meet, discuss and share challenges, ideas, resources and experiences. The program will include a variety of presentations covering a wide range of public health topics. Participants will have the opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships as well as establish new partnerships for future collaboration.

A Call for Abstracts will soon be made and the abstract form and guidelines can now be downloaded from the website - **www.apacph2006.org**. The abstract deadline is 30 May 2006. Scholarships for students and junior staff will be available. Please logon to the conference website for updated information on the Program.

## Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health goes Quarterly

Following ten years of publishing the Journal twice-yearly at the University of Malaya, the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health will be going quarterly in 2006.

*'I am pleased to announce that the editorial office is now receiving sufficient articles to increase production of the Journal to four annually. This is a major step towards establishing the Journal as a significant world-class quality publication,' noted Prof Anuar Zaini, Editor-in-Chief.*

In line with the increase in production, the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health will be publishing a special issue on the subject of '**Health Security and Disaster Management**'. This issue will contain full papers from presentations at the 37th APACPH Conference in Taipei, November 2005, but will also include other relevant papers from across the Region. The guest editor for this issue will be Prof Anthony Zwi, who has considerable experience in this field. A Call for Papers will be widely publicised shortly.

Negotiations are on-going with two publishing houses that are interested in taking over the production of the Journal. Some of the benefits of moving to an outside publisher include electronic publishing of articles, publicity and promotion of the journal globally and a more sophisticated submission process. APACPH is keen to maintain editorial control and to offer services such as assistance with English for those who need it so that the unique qualities of the Journal are not lost.

The next issue of the Journal Vol 18:1 is due out in March 2006 and has a focus on community health promotion approaches and health seeking behaviours.

Those wishing to submit articles for the Journal should read the 'Instructions for Authors' (on the Journal website - **www.apjph.org.my** or APACPH website **www.apacph.org** under '**APJPH**') and send their submissions to:

Managing Editor, the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health  
Health Research and Development Unit (HeRDU)  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya  
50603 Kuala Lumpur MALAYSIA  
Fax: +603 7967 5769

Enquiries can be made to **apjph@ummc.edu.my** or Tel: +603 7967 5748

# 37th APACPH Conference Taipei 19-23 November 2005 Health Security and Emerging Disasters in the Asia-Pacific Region



Conference hosts and members of the APACPH Executive welcome delegates to the 37th APACPH Conference



APACPH General Assembly (new member and APACPH Executive in front row)



The Asia-Pacific Health Forum included panelists from Australia, Fiji, Japan, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, Thailand, the Solomon Islands and Vietnam



Conference delegates were treated to a cultural experience at the conference social events (left and below)



10 student and 10 junior professional travel awards were offered by the Conference organisers



27 countries were represented at the Conference and Forum



Professor Sheng-Mou Hou, Minister of Health, Taiwan, accepts the **Kazue McClaren Award** for his valuable contributions to enhancing the health of the people of Taiwan and the Asia Pacific Region.

**A full program of keynote, plenary parallel and poster sessions over 3 days**

**Three pre-conference workshops**

**Asia-Pacific Health Forum**

**Over 300 delegates**

**27 different countries**



Prof Wen-Ta Chiu was presented with the **APACPH Public Health Recognition Award** for his valuable contributions in medicine and public health in the field of injury prevention and disaster mitigation

## First Early Career Network Workshop in Taiwan a Success

When Michelle Wong from University of Southern California first conceived the idea for a global network of students and early career professionals in public health one of her aims was to bring what she knew to be a dynamic group of individuals together to share ideas, discuss global health challenges and solutions and to give a voice to these 'up-and-coming' academics and health professionals.

In November 2005 Michelle and her Early Career Network development team succeeded in their aim by attracting around 40 public health students and professionals representing over 10 countries to its first ever workshop at the 37th APACPH Conference in Taipei. The theme for the workshop was **'Identifying and Understanding the Region's Major Public Health Issues'** and attendees were encouraged to share the major health challenges of their respective countries and provide insight into possible avenues to address these issues. Just as importantly, attendees were enthusiastic



Michelle Wong addresses the Early Career Network Workshop delegates



Members of the Early Career Network at the APACPH Conference in Taipei

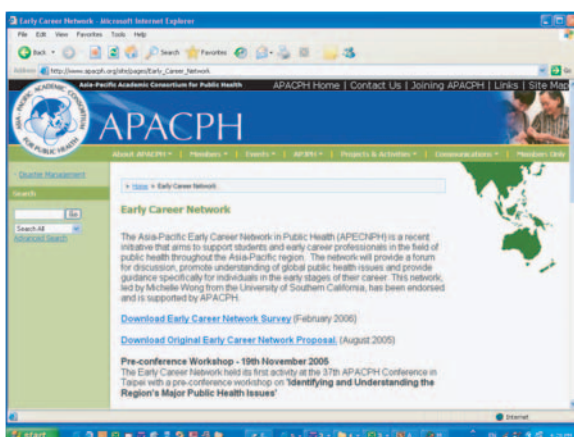
at the idea of a network, run by them and for them, and its potential to provide support, advice and information on all aspects of public health. There was genuine excitement for the future of the Early Career Network and discussion and ideas continued to flow over the following days of the conference.

Kolitha Wickramage, WHO, Sri Lanka commented, **"The ECN workshop harnessed the energy of early career public health professionals, students and well respected leaders in the field in an interactive session that was informative, entertaining and sometimes very funny! It was most certainly the best conference I have attended to date..."**

Presentations from the pre-conference workshop in Taipei can be found on the APACPH website at

**[www.apacph.org/site/pages/Early\\_Career\\_Network](http://www.apacph.org/site/pages/Early_Career_Network)**

## APECNPH Looks to Expand Activities in 2006



Early Career Network page on the APACPH Website

Following the success of its first workshop at the 37th APACPH conference in Taipei, the development team of the Asia-Pacific Early Career Network in Public Health (APECNPH) is planning its activities for 2006. Those individuals already identified as part of the network will have received a survey which the development team hopes will inform the activities of the network and ensure that the Mission reflects the views of the whole Region.

This network is also looking for enthusiastic individuals across the Region who would like to take a more active role by becoming a country representative or assist with fund-raising activities for the network. A core group of dedicated individuals who are prepared to devote some of their time is seen as vital to the success of this initiative.

One of the main activities for the year will be the second workshop to take place at the 38th APACPH Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

Network members have been encouraged to give their opinions on the topic for this workshop and a forum has been set up on the APACPH website - **[www.apacph.org](http://www.apacph.org)** - to assist this discussion. The forum is also a way for the network to discuss other matters of interest or debate and APACPH members and non-members alike are encouraged to use this resource which can be found on the APACPH website under **'Projects and Activities', 'Project Bulletin Boards'**.

For more information on the APECNPH, joining the network or becoming an active member visit **[www.apacph.org/site/pages/Early\\_Career\\_Network](http://www.apacph.org/site/pages/Early_Career_Network)** or contact Sonja Firth - **[sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org)**

## APACPH participates in WHO Consultation in Hanoi



Delegates at the WHO Consultation on Essential Public Health Functions in the Western Pacific Region

Regional Director, Prof Brian Oldenburg represented APACPH at a WHO-sponsored meeting in Hanoi on November 22-24 to discuss and review the effort within the Western Pacific Region of WHO over recent years and to develop nine essential health functions (EPHFs) for the Region. The meeting was also attended by senior health ministry officials from WHO Western Pacific Region Member States.

Public health is a core element of every government's attempts to improve and promote health. Unfortunately, there is evidence that public health systems and services are struggling to cope with current demands. This problem applies not only to traditional public health areas, but also to emerging public health threats that currently include SARS and avian influenza. It is also relevant to newer areas of public health that includes the effects of globalization, migration and use of new technologies.

The nine essential public health functions identified are: (1) health situation monitoring and analysis (2) epidemiological surveillance, disease prevention and control (3) development of policies and planning in public health (4) strategic management of health systems and services for population health gain (5) regulation and enforcement to protect public health (6) human resource development and planning in public health (7) health promotion, social participation and empowerment (8) ensuring the quality of personal and population-based health services, and (9) research development and implementation of innovative public health solutions.

These functions have already been tested and evaluated in three country case studies in Fiji, Malaysia and Vietnam. A copy of the original WHO study from 2003 can be found at [www.wpro.who.int/publications/PUB\\_9290610824.htm](http://www.wpro.who.int/publications/PUB_9290610824.htm). The purpose of these case studies was to assist Member States to define more clearly and systematically the core areas of public health work for which their governments are ultimately responsible.

During the meeting the following issues were considered:

- (1) the nine public health functions were critically reviewed particularly in relation to the 'lessons learnt' arising from the three country case studies
- (2) guidelines, tools and indicators were identified, based on the public health functions, that would be useful in assisting Member States in the future to evaluate, monitor and strengthen their public health infrastructures and responsibilities
- (3) approaches to promote the reorientation of health professionals, managers, policy-makers and government institutions towards public health, in line with the development of essential public health functions were identified, and;
- (4) ways in which these functions can actually be used to strengthen and define more clearly the central leadership role of ministries or departments of health in addressing the public health challenges confronting the region were discussed.

Recommendations arising from this and previously conducted consultations in relation to EPHFs, included:

- i) to consider in more detail the appropriateness of EPHFs for emergency preparedness and disaster management
- ii) to develop further the terminology that is required in order to reflect the role and contribution of sectors other than health in improving public health
- iii) to consider further how EPHFs can be suitable for audiences other than public health professionals
- iv) to conduct more detailed and thorough economic analyses to identify the contribution and importance of public health to the major priorities of Member Countries
- v) to develop an appropriate research agenda and appropriate workforce development, education and training
- vi) to consider further the relationship between EPHFs and policies and laws that impact on health.

The further development of EPHFs in the Western Pacific Region of WHO would also appear to provide an opportunity for APACPH member institutions to engage with Health Ministries in their own countries and to develop education, training and research programs that build on this work.

For more information, please contact Prof Brian Oldenburg at the APACPH Directorate in Brisbane - [b.oldenburg@qut.edu.au](mailto:b.oldenburg@qut.edu.au)

## APACPH Website New Features - [www.apacph.org](http://www.apacph.org)

Those who have been logging onto the APACPH website ([www.apacph.org](http://www.apacph.org)) recently will have noticed some new features and enhanced usability. The main menu items are now listed at the top with a drop-down feature to allow quicker navigation between pages.

The homepage features a list of '**News**' items, which can be updated with the most recent reports, announcements, or any other Regional matter of interest. There is often an opportunity to read more by clicking on the web-link or document attached.

The menu on the left hand side provides the opportunity to group articles, web-links and other resources on a particular topic. Currently there is a '**Disaster Management**' folder however other topics will be added to this section of the website.

A list of members by country can be found under the '**Members**' menu item and for those institutions that have returned their '**Member Update**' form, more comprehensive information on their institution can be found on their dedicated member page. See **Mahidol University** under **Thailand** for an example. This feature is particularly useful for those institutions without an English language website.

The **Bulletin board** section of the website is also now functioning. It can be found under '**Projects and Activities**'. The Early Career Network has a dedicated forum and we would request that members encourage their postgraduate students and young faculty to register in order to take part in the debate. Other forums will be set up as requested. It is not necessary to be a member of APACPH to take part in these forums.

The website will continue to be enhanced and improved so feedback and suggestions are welcomed. Information to include on the website is also requested in order to make the website as relevant as possible. To request a Member Update form, to make suggestions or ask questions about the APACPH website, or if you have forgotten the password for the 'Members Only' section, please contact Sonja Firth - [sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org)

### Profile on...Prof Wen-Ta Chiu



Prof. Wen-Ta Chiu is currently the vice-president of Taipei Medical University (TMU) and the CEO (Superintendent) of the 750-bed University affiliated Wanfang Municipal Hospital. Prof. Chiu's previous positions include Dean of School of Public Health, TMU from 1993 to 1997 and Dean of Graduate Institute of Injury Prevention, TMU from 1998 to 2004. As Head of Neurosurgery and Department of Surgery, Dr. Chiu has been interested in trauma surgery and the prevention of injuries. As surgeon and public health specialist he has brought medicine and public health together in practical and wide reaching policy actions. The introduction of the motorcycle helmet law in Taiwan and its effective implementation was in no small measure due to his efforts and resulted in the reduction of head injury deaths by almost one third over two years. After graduation from Chung-Shan Medical University, Prof. Chiu obtained his PhD. from University of Pittsburgh, USA in 1989 and Doctor of Medical Science (D. M.Sc.) from University of

Nihon, Japan in 1991. Prof. Chiu's research and teaching interests lie in injury prevention and control, health policy, hospital administration and neurosurgery. He has published 167 papers and 20 books or chapters. He is the former president of Taiwan Neurosurgical Society, former president of Injury Prevention Association, Taiwan. He was the Secretary General of the Neurotraumatology Committee of World Federation of Neurosurgeons (WFNS) and has trained many neurosurgeons in Taiwan and internationally. Currently, he serves as the presidents of Taiwan College of Healthcare Executives (TCHE), Non-governmental Hospitals and Clinics Association, Taiwan and the Injury Prevention and Disaster Medicine Research Foundation.

Prof. Chiu's association with APACPH began in 1994 and he participated in the 1995 APACPH meeting hosted by the National Taiwan University. He has since become an active member of APACPH, involved in APACPH committees, contributing at APACPH conferences (he was an invited speaker at the 2003 Shanghai Conference on SARS) and participating in collaborative projects on injury prevention. In November 2005, Prof Wen-Ta Chiu together with Prof Jung-der Wang of National Taiwan University, hosted the 37th APACPH Conference in Taipei. With a theme of Health Security and Emerging Disasters, the conference had excellent attendance from home and abroad and a full program of international speakers. Formerly APACPH Vice-President, Prof Chiu was elected President-Elect at the Taipei General Assembly meeting in 2005.

Prof. Chiu has obtained many awards, which include the 50th anniversary outstanding Alumni award from the University of Pittsburgh, National Society Education Award, Wang Ming Nin Research Award, National Quality Award, and Huang's Foundation Research Award. At the 2005 Conference Prof Chiu was acknowledged with an APACPH Public Health Recognition Award for his significant contribution to the field of public health.

## *Calendar of Events*

### **33rd Annual conference on Global Health - Excellence, Innovation and Influence as Pathways to Results**

Date: 30 May-2 June 2006

Location: Washington DC, USA

Conference Website: [www.globalhealth.org/conference/](http://www.globalhealth.org/conference/)

The 2006 Annual Conference will explore the many pathways taken to reach our common goal: improving the health and well-being of the world's poorest and most disempowered peoples. What is the best knowledge available? What are new ways of looking at problems and solutions? What resources make things happen?

### **WFPHA's 11th International Congress on Public Health**

#### **Public Health in a Globalised World: Breaking Down Social, Economic and Political Barriers**

Date: 21-25 August 2006

Location: Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL

Website: [www.wfphacongress06.com](http://www.wfphacongress06.com)

The Congress will bring together health professionals, teachers, researchers, managers, national and international Public/Collective Health leaders and all those interested in debating, reflecting, and facing the theoretical and practical challenges of public health. The scientific program has been developed in a way to showcase the diverse dimensions of the central theme - Public Health in a Globalized World: Breaking Down Social, Economic and Political Barriers.

### **The GOAL International Teaching Seminar 2006**

#### **Applying behavioral sciences to prevent disease and improve health**

Date: 5-7 June, 2006

Location: Lahti, Finland

Website : [www.palmenia.helsinki.fi/ikihyva/](http://www.palmenia.helsinki.fi/ikihyva/)

The annual GOAL Teaching Seminar provides a platform for learning and exchanging ideas with other public health and behavioral sciences researchers, health practitioners and policy practitioners sharing the same challenges in different regions of the world.

### **The World Heart Federation's 39th Ten-Day International Teaching Seminar**

Date: 13-25 August, 2006

Location: Brisbane, Australia

Website: <http://www.worldheart.org/capacity-ten-day-seminar.php>

An opportunity to gain valuable skills and connect with colleagues from around the world, the ten-day seminar accepts approximately 36 fellows with preference given to younger candidates with little or no formal training in Epidemiology.

## *Contact*

For further information on any of the items mentioned in the newsletter, to include items for the next newsletter, or to enquire on any APACPH-related business, please contact:

Sonja Firth  
APACPH Regional Office/Directorate (Brisbane)  
c/- School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology  
Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove  
Qld 4059 AUSTRALIA  
Tel: +61 7 3864 3372 Fax: +61 7 3864 9693  
Email: [sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org) Website [www.apacph.org](http://www.apacph.org)