

President's Welcome



The Executive Board has just concluded a very successful meeting in Japan at Kagawa Nutrition University. I am most grateful to our friends and colleagues at KNU for their generous hospitality throughout our meetings. As you know, KNU will be our hosts for the 2007 APACPH Conference.

This was our second Executive Board meeting for 2006, an earlier one was held in Kuala Lumpur in March. We were privileged on that occasion to hold our meetings on the campus of Monash University, Malaysia. You will read more detailed information elsewhere in this newsletter about the results of the Board's deliberations. We spent some time reviewing and discussing the elements of a draft strategic plan. This plan will be the guiding document for our committees as we move ahead in all our future activities. I will be making some amendments to the strategic plan and distributing it to the other committees and the general membership for comment.

A very exciting development is in relation to our APACPH Journal. The Executive Board is in the final phase of reaching an agreement with an international publisher. I hope that all of the negotiations will be completed in the near future and we can look forward to commencing the transition to these new arrangements in 2007. I am also looking forward to the Special issue of the Journal on Health Security and Disaster Management, with guest Editor Prof Anthony Zwi of the University of New South Wales. Submissions for this special issue need to be received by the end of June.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about our 2006 Conference which will be held in Bangkok in December. Based on the report from our colleagues in Thailand, it will be an intellectually stimulating and enjoyable program. Please note that the Planning Committee would like to receive all submissions by the end of June, so if you intend to participate, please make sure that you forward your submission as soon as possible. A number of pre-conference workshops will take place on 3rd December including the second Early Career Network workshop. I look forward to seeing you all in Thailand.

Finally, it is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing away of Dr Lee Jong Wook, Director-General of the World Health Organisation. Dr Lee had many friends throughout the APACPH network and his sudden death is a great loss to the global health community. Please read the tribute from former Secretary-Treasurer of APACPH, Dr Jerrold Michael, that appears in this newsletter.

Best wishes to all.



Dr Richard F. Southby
President, APACPH

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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

- **Executive Board and General Assembly Minutes**
Minutes and Draft Minutes for the business meetings of APACPH can be downloaded from the 'Members Only' section of the APACPH website - www.apacph.org
(please contact sonja@apacph.org if you have forgotten the username and password)
- **Annual Subscription Payments**
We apologise for the delay in sending APACPH invoices for 2006 due to the move to a separate bank account for the newly incorporated organisation and arrangements for tax exemption. Arrangements are about to be finalised and invoices will be sent out by the end of July. Thank you for your patience.
- **APACPH Conference 2006 - 3-6 December 2006 - Bangkok, Thailand**
The abstract deadline is **30 June**. Visit the conference website for more information - www.apacph2006.org
- **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. We cannot complete your entry until you have returned his form.

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

APACPH Website Update

Visitors to the APACPH website can now search for latest news, web links and resources under specific public health categories. These links can be found under the headings on the left-hand side of the website. We will continue to add to these categories to make them a useful tool for searching on particular public health topics.

Other features of the website include:

- A news page highlighting important developments in the field of public health or concerning APACPH
- 'Members' pages - providing up to date contact details for all APACPH members
- Access to the Minutes of the business meetings of APACPH under the '**Members Only**' section of the website
- Calendar of Events - a listing of relevant global public health conferences, seminars and events

How you can help us:

- Please return your 'Member Update form' (found on the '**Members Only**' section of the website) so that we can complete your member page
- Provide us with information on events at your institution and the Region - for inclusion in the News items and for the calendar of events.
- Provide us with information on resources or news that could be included on the website.

We would welcome your feedback and input regarding the APACPH website. Please contact sonja@apacph.org

APACPH Executive Board Meetings in Malaysia and Japan



The APACPH Executive Board have held two face-to-face meetings in March and June of this year. The APACPH Executive would like to thank our hosts at Monash University Malaysia and Kagawa Nutrition University, Japan for their generous hospitality.

Under the leadership of APACPH President, Dr Richard Southby, the APACPH Executive Board have been looking to the future of APACPH and putting in place a new committee structure and strategic plan. The new committees of APACPH are:

- Strategic Planning Committee
- Finance and Development Committee
- Membership Committee
- Journal Committee
- Conference Planning Committee
- Program Development Committee

Proposed chairs of the new committees have been approached and it is expected that the committees will be fully functioning by the time of the General Assembly Meeting in Thailand and will be able to report on their progress to the APACPH membership. To aid this process the APACPH Executive discussed a strategic plan, a draft of which will also be forwarded to the APACPH membership for comment. A budget to support proposed activities will also be presented at the General Assembly Meeting.

As well as considering the strategic direction of the organisation, the meetings provided the opportunity to discuss the major activities of APACPH. Plans for the 2006 conference in Bangkok are advancing well and there has been a good response to the Call for Abstracts. It is expected that this conference will have a stimulating and diverse program that includes a number of pre-conference workshops.

Plans for the future of the Journal are at a critical stage and the organisation is in the final phase in an agreement with an international publisher. This is a very exciting development for the Journal, which has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of Prof Anuar Zaini and editorial staff at the University of Malaya.

The Executive Meeting at Kagawa Nutrition University this June provided an excellent opportunity to discuss plans for the 39th APACPH conference which will be held there in 2007. Prof Yasuo Kagawa outlined preliminary plans for the conference and the Executive Board gave some valuable feedback. Expressions of interest are sought from APACPH members for the 2008 conference.

The Draft Minutes from the Executive Board Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in March can be found on the '**Members Only**' section of the website - www.apacph.org. The Minutes from the June meeting will be available shortly.

Update on Journal Developments

The Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health is in the final stages of negotiating an agreement with an international publisher who will take over publication of the journal on behalf of APACPH. It is expected that this Agreement will be finalised soon and that the first issue of the 'new' journal will be published in early 2008.

Prof Anuar Zaini has already advised his intention to step down from the position of Editor and the APACPH Executive Board will be calling for nominations for a new Journal Editor in the near future.

The Special Issue of the APACPH Journal on **Health Security and Disaster Management** is accepting submissions until the end of June. This issue is expected to be published in time for the 2006 APACPH Conference in Bangkok. Please send last minute submissions to the guest editor, Prof Anthony Zwi - A.Zwi@unsw.edu.au

In line with their intention to publish four issues of the APACPH Journal from 2006, the University of Malaya have just published Volume 18, Number 2, 2006. Copies will be sent to APACPH Members shortly.

Submissions for the Journal should be sent 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 Tel: 603 7967 5748 Email: apjph@ummc.edu.my
 Website: www.apjph.org.my

Final Call for Abstracts for the 38th APACPH Conference, Bangkok

The **Deadline for abstracts** for the **38th APACPH Conference: 'Partnership for Human Security and Health'** which will run 3-6 December 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand is **30th June 2006**. The theme reflects the need for partnerships at community, institutional and governmental level to enhance the development of human security and health in the world. A provisional program can be found on the conference website - www.apacph2006.org

Three keynote speakers have been confirmed.

Peter Hotez MD, PhD, FAAP is Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Tropical Medicine at The George Washington University. His keynote speech 'The Neglected Tropical Diseases: New Promise for their Control' reflects his expertise in the area of vaccine development for parasitic and tropical diseases.

Professor Harald zur Hausen M.D., from the German Cancer Research Centre, has played a major role in the research on cervical cancer and his keynote will be a Carcinoma Update.

Jonathan M. Samet, M.D., M.S. is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the US. His keynote speech will be 'Tobacco Control: Saving Lives Millions at a Time' reflecting his extensive experience and research in this important public health area.

Pre-conference workshops and symposia will take place on 3rd December:

Early Career Network Workshop- (9am-3pm)

Practical Research Skills in resource poor settings: chronic disease surveillance, capacity building and community mobilisation to improve public health

Coordinators/Presenters: Dr Ruth Bonita/Dr K.R. Thankappan

Injury Prevention Symposium - (9am-12pm)

Chair: Prof R. Krishnan/Prof Wen-Ta Chiu

Environmental Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) workshop (12pm-3pm)

Chair: Prof Jeffrey Spickett

Women and youth : violence vs resilience symposium - (9am-12pm)

Chair: Prof P.J. Garrison

Behavioral modification initiative symposium (12pm-3pm)

Chair: Prof Edwin Fisher

Scholarships are available for young faculty from developing countries. Deadline for submission of Scholarship application is 31st August.

Please visit the conference website for the latest news, abstract submission, information and registration - www.apacph2006.org



9th ICBM, Bangkok - 29th November - 2nd December



The 9th International Congress of Behavioural Medicine takes place 29th November - 2nd December, immediately prior to the 38th APACPH conference in Bangkok. A preliminary program as well as details on registration and information on the conference is available at www.9icbm-2006.org.

The Program Committee has aimed to be as inclusive as possible with the final program and to make sure that there is an excellent mix of symposia, oral and poster presentations across all of the 25 Tracks. Rapid Communication Poster Abstracts can be submitted up until the final deadline of September 1.

Joint Registration

It has been agreed by the organisers of both the ICBM and APACPH conferences that participants of either conference will be able to attend the other conference for the early/membership fee. So, anyone who wishes to attend both conferences, should indicate this when registering.

SEAPHEIN holds International Workshop and Annual Meeting



The South-East Asian Public Health Education Institutes Network (SEAPHEIN) held an **International Workshop on Regional Public Health Education Standards and Accreditation Guidelines** and its **Annual meeting** from 3rd - 7th May in Bangkok this year.

This International Workshop aimed to discuss minimum public health education standards, accreditation guidelines, and the desirable characteristics of graduates of SEAPHEIN's MPH programs. The workshop comprised of documentary reviews, keynote speeches, presentations on core competencies and essential public health functions and group discussions. There were 53 representatives from public health education and related institutes participating in the workshop, of which 35 were international. Group discussions on minimum education standards and accreditation guidelines for the SEAPHEIN MPH programs were fruitful. The participants have unanimously adopted the educational standards for SEAPHEIN MPH programs and adopted guidelines that set forth the purposes, philosophy, values, process, and roles and the composition of an accreditation committee.

At the SEAPHEIN Annual Meeting, country reports were presented in order to review and revise country action plans for the up-coming year. Most countries had successfully executed their action plans, especially the faculty exchange programs. The SEAPHEIN Secretariat is located at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University.

Presentations including keynote address from Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia and country reports from the Annual Meeting are available on the SEAPHEIN website at www.seaphein.org

APACPH Member Updates

KOREA

Professor Kong-Hyun Kim has retired as Dean of the Graduate School of Public Health at Inje University. He has made a major contribution to public health education in Korea, particularly in the areas of alcohol and health promotion. He founded the Korean Journal of Health Promotion.

Professor Seung Wook Lee has been elected Dean of the School of Public Health at Seoul National University. He is recognised as an expert in health statistics.

JAPAN

Professor Miyuki Adachi has retired as Professor of the Human Ecology of Nutrition at Kagawa Nutrition University, Tokyo. She has made major contributions to nutrition education in Japan and in the Asia-Pacific region through her research and development of the Japanese Dietary Guidelines and Guide to eating.

Professor Masamine Jimba has been appointed Professor of International Health at the University of Tokyo.

HONG KONG

The Chinese University of Hong Kong welcome two new Professors to their School of Public Health.

Professor Eng Kiong Yeoh, former Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, HKSAR Government, has now become Professor of Public Health in the Department of Community and Family Medicine and School of Public Health of CUHK.

Professor Emily Chan, past President of Médecins Sans Frontières (Hong Kong) will contribute her experience in international relief to educating MPH students at CUHK in coming academic years.

AUSTRALIA

Associate Professor Sue Fyfe has been appointed Head of School at Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia.

Associate Professor Rosemary Knight is the new Head of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales, Australia.

Early Career Network Activities

Early Career Network
The Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health

Invites You to attend the ECN workshop
3rd December 2006
Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.
and the 38th APACPH Conference,
3-6 December 2006

Practical Research Skills in resource poor settings: Chronic disease surveillance, capacity building and community mobilization to improve public health

PRESENTERS:
DR RUTH BONITA (CHAIR)
DR. THANKAPPAN (CO-CHAIR)

Workshop Info

- This workshop will introduce participants to those skills needed to conduct community-based research with particular reference to low and middle income countries.
- It will cover the importance of health promotion in the prevention of chronic disease, discuss how to build an evidence base to influence policy change, and suggest ways to overcome the challenges associated with research in resource poor settings.
- The following tools which are feasible and flexible for all countries will be explored:
 - a STEPwise approach to surveillance
 - a STEPwise approach to prevention interventions, as well as group work on Advocacy and partnerships

Registration Info

To register please email Sonja on: sonja@apacph.org

For more information about the ECN and workshop log on to ECN page of the APACPH website - http://www.apacph.org/earlycareer/early_career_network

38th APACPH Conference - please check out the conference website: www.apacph.org/2006 for information on the 2006 APACPH Conference in Bangkok.

Registration and applications for scholarships can be found under 'Download form'.

ECN Information: Sonja (sonja@apacph.org) ECN acting Chair: Kolitha (kolitha@burns.edu.au)

Second Asia-Pacific Early Career Network Workshop

Plans for the second Early Career Network workshop are coming together. The workshop will take place before the 38th APACPH Conference in Bangkok, Thailand on **3rd December 2006**.

The title for the workshop is:

Practical Research Skills in resource poor settings: chronic disease surveillance, capacity building and community mobilisation to improve public health

This workshop will introduce participants to those skills needed to conduct community-based research with particular reference to low and middle income countries. It will cover the importance of health promotion in the prevention of chronic disease, discuss how to build an evidence base to influence policy change and suggest ways to overcome the challenges associated with research in resource poor settings.

The workshop will be coordinated by **Prof Ruth Bonita**, former Director of Surveillance, Chronic Diseases, WHO, Geneva and **Dr K.R. Thankappan**, Director of the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science Studies, India.

Please register interest for this session by emailing sonja@apacph.org

Launch of "Reflections" Public Health photography exhibition

The ECN will be launching this as a photo display at this year's conference in Thailand. Amongst other photos of public health significance, a slide-show of 55 images related to the Tsunami response will be displayed as part of an installation and used between sessions at the conference. This launch will ensure good exposure to a "Reflections" APACPH photo-competition for the 2007 conference in Japan. If you have any photos that you (or your colleagues) have taken that reflect themes of health, community development, empowerment, resilience, humanitarian relief, recovery, health interventions etc, and would like to share them as part of this exhibit, please contact Kolitha at kolwick@hotmail.com

Sri Lanka Public Health Workshop

ECN's Sri Lanka representative, Kremlin (Colombo University) has been working with Dr Walter Patrick (APACPH Secretary General) and Dr Paula Palmer from the University of Southern California (USC) to facilitate Public health workshops and field research activities both in Colombo and in the Eastern Province. The Workshop on Disaster Management is scheduled for 23rd July, and will be supported by World Health Organization in Sri Lanka. Students from USC will also undertake several field-activities. An excursion to the Southern parts of Sri Lanka affected by the 2004 Tsunami will provide an opportunity for the participants to gain valuable experience from the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. This visit to Sri Lanka is due to take place 22nd - 31st July, and another active ECN member Ann Hayashi from USC will be documenting the journey.

For more information on all the activities of the Asia-Pacific Early Career Network in Public Health, please visit this section of the APACPH website - www.apacph.org/site/pages/Early_Career_Network

We are keen to engage active members from across the Region in the Early Career Network. Please contact Acting Chair, **Kolitha Wickramage** - kolwick@hotmail.com or sonja@apacph.org if you would like to register for the network, need more information or would like to be part of the working group.



Kolitha Wickramage (Acting Chair- ECN), University of New South Wales, Australia



Michelle Wong, University of Southern California (USC), USA



Ann Hayashi, University of Southern California (USC), USA



Kremlin Wickramasinghe, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

A Tribute to a Great Public Health Leader

Dr Jong Wook Lee

Director-General of the World Health Organization July 2003 - May 2006

The world lost a valiant and tireless worker for public health with the untimely death on May 22nd of Dr Jong Wook Lee, the first Korean to head an international agency and the sixth person to head the World Health Organization. He was a visionary public health physician who combined modesty with perseverance in everything that he did in his 61 years of life. He leaves his wife Reiko and son Tad and a global community of colleagues and friends who will miss his presence but remain rewarded by having had his life touch ours.

DHHS Secretary Mike Leavitt put it well when he noted that Dr Lee offered "visionary leadership and a cooperative spirit." Little wonder when you consider that his experience with the public health implications of international events reached back to his early childhood. At age 5, during the Korean War, he and his mother and two brothers walked 250 miles through bitterly cold winter weather to be united with his father.

His father and one brother went into politics but his mother encouraged him to become a physician. He completed his MD degree in Korea and was enrolled in an advanced medical program when he applied to the University of Hawaii to study public health out of what he described as "Being able to do more good that way."

It was at the University of Hawaii where I was serving as Professor of Public Health and Dean of the School of Public Health that I was privileged to begin a life long friendship with this extraordinary professional who in addition to being a serious student and researcher was an avid scuba diver who his student friends called "Ugie."

In 1983 upon his graduation with a Masters degree in Public Health, an opportunity opened for an assignment to the Regional Office of the World Health Organization in the Nation of Fiji and the faculty at Hawaii as well as friends in the Manila WHO office urged him to apply for the posting. His interest in Leprosy and Tuberculosis and a great desire to help an underserved population made the assignment a natural for the energetic new graduate. That was the beginning of an incredible career in service to Global Health.

In 1986 Dr Lee moved on from Fiji to head a variety of health programs including Leprosy, Tuberculosis and Polio out of the regional office of the World Health Organization in Manila. In 1990 he moved to the WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland where he gained a world wide reputation as an expert in vaccination.

In 2003 Dr Lee was elected by the General assembly of the World Health Organization to serve as its sixth Director General. Prior to his formal elevation as Director General which was scheduled for July of 2003, he agreed to attend the PHS Professional Meeting held that June in Scottsdale, Arizona.

On Wednesday June 18th Dr Lee made a presentation on "Global Health" to an overflow crowd of Commissioned Officers who reacted most enthusiastically to his encouraging words of a vision for energizing collaboration between nations for the enhancement of health for all. As I listened to the presentation I wondered how many others there were like Dr. Lee that could have made the presentation in Korean, French or Japanese as well as in English.

Before leaving to return to Geneva and his formal induction ceremony he told me of his hope to see an increased number of PHS officers serving in the field of Global Health. He had earlier visited a near by Indian Reservation thanks to RADM Grimm's courtesy and was most impressed with the efforts of the officers who served there and their potential for service in the field of Global Health.

In the final accounting, success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others that is worth remembering. For that reason Dr. J.W. Lee's life will remain as a blessing for all citizens of the world community.

His life's work in service to enhancement of the public's health meets the criteria set out by Robert Pine, namely; What we have done for ourselves alone, dies with us. What we have done for others and the world - remains and is immortal.

Dr. Jerrold M. Michael
RADM USPHS (Ret.)
May 23, 2006

Calendar of Events

Pasteur/NHRI/CDC International Symposium "Re-Emerging Virus Infections"

Date: 1-3 September

Location: Tainan, Taiwan

Conference Website: http://pasteur_virus.lstar.com.tw/

The speakers include more than 20 top experts in the world. World leaders of the field, such as S. Halstead, A. Osterhaus, F. Rey, J. Skehel, D. Webster, among many others will bring their highly valuable experience to discussions about how to watch and control emerging or re-emerging virus infections.

28th ASPHER Annual Conference

Date: 15 - 17 September 2006

Location: Maastricht, the Netherlands

Conference Website: <http://www.unimaas.nl/aspher2006/>

Celebrate with ASPHER in Maastricht on their 40th anniversary, in keeping with the theme for this year's conference: **'The next 40 years of unity and diversity in the education of public health.'**

The overall aim of the conference is to contribute to the development of present-day and future public health education within Europe. We invite participants to exchange research findings and practical experience within education of public health and to discuss ongoing or planned activities related to the following topics:

- The Expanding Domain of Public Health
- European Dimensions in Public Health Education
- Capacity Building and Manpower Development
- Harmonisation of Education in Public Health

3rd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity

Date: 13 - 15 October 2006

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Conference Website: <http://www.longevity-international.com>

The 3rd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity is bringing together health professionals for a global perspective on the issues confronting them in the areas of quality and length of life for the world's ageing population.

1st Asia-pacific EBM Network Conference: Constraints and Solutions

Date: 8-10 December 2006

Location: School of Public Health, Prince of Wales Hospital, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Website: <http://www.sph.cuhk.edu.hk/hkcochrane/e-welcome.htm>

Sir Iain Chalmers, the founder of the World Cochrane Collaboration, will give the keynote speech for the conference. A CUHK-Oxford-NEMC training programme will be built in the conference with world leading experts from the UK National EBM Centre and Tufts New England Medical Centre (USA) as trainers. The conference will be a special event for people from both the East and the West to sit together and share their ideas and experiences and develop partnerships and collaborations.

For a more comprehensive listing of Calendar of Events visit the APACPH website - www.apacph.org - **'Events'**

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:

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