

President's Welcome



The Executive Board was very fortunate to hold its recent meeting at the School of Public Health, the University of Indonesia, during the third week of July, 2007. We were graciously hosted by Professor Hasbullah Thabrany, Dean of the School of Public Health, and his school and university colleagues. On behalf of all of the APACPH attendees I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our good friend and colleague, Professor Thabrany, for their magnificent support of our meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity to hold our formal meeting, participate in a concurrent public health symposium organized by the School, meet new public health colleagues and enjoy the sights of Jakarta.

In the very near future you will be able to read the complete minutes from the Executive Board meeting on the APACPH website. I will take this opportunity, however, to highlight a number of the issues and actions from the Executive Board meeting.

We had a very good discussion on the topic of the APACPH Resource Directory. I believe this, when completed and distributed, will be an important tool for us to use in expanding our contacts throughout the region, seeking grants and donations, and learning more about each other as APACPH members. It was agreed that the Program Development Committee, chaired by Dr. Paula Palmer, will revise the survey instrument and have it distributed before the Japan Conference in November. I hope that it will not be much longer before we have a completed Directory for distribution. It must be remembered, however, that in order for this directory to retain its value, it will need regular updating. I am most grateful to Paula Palmer for her willingness to take on this important responsibility.

Another significant topic was in relation to new members. It is a great pleasure to welcome BRAC University and Tzu-Chi University as new members of APACPH. I hope that, in the very near future, and certainly before the November conference, we will be able to add the University of Auckland to our growing list of members. Our colleagues in New Zealand, through their strong, established public health programs in the Pacific, will be able to strengthen APACPH's links with public health institutions in this important part of the world. An official site visit to the University of Auckland will be planned as soon as possible, either by the Chair of the Membership Committee or another APACPH Executive Board member.

Another very interesting topic discussed in Jakarta was the proposed Health Leadership Institutes, which will hopefully be offered by APACPH and other collaborating institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region on a pilot basis, in several locations during 2008. Details on this topic will be available in the near future and will be distributed to all APACPH members.

We also had a very exciting report on the conference being planned by our Japanese colleagues for November. I commend the Local Planning Committee for their great accomplishments to date in the quality and quantity of invited speakers and attendees. I am sure it will be an enjoyable and stimulating conference and encourage as many people to attend as possible.

It will not be long before the Executive Board and the General Assembly will be meeting in Japan before the opening of the Conference. In the run up to these meetings, we have also arranged a series of conference calls and other forms of communication to ensure that all our goals will be accomplished in a timely manner.

I look forward to seeing you in Japan later this year.

Best wishes.



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

- **Minutes from Executive Board Meeting, Jakarta, 19-20 July 2007**
These Minutes can now be downloaded from the '**Members Only**' section of the APACPH website - www.apacph.org
- **Annual Subscription Payments**
The invoices for 2007 subscriptions were sent out in May and are due at the end of August. If you have not yet process your subscription payment, please contact the Directorate Office to make arrangements to extend the due date of your payments.
- **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 Desmond Gul at the APACPH Directorate Office - Email: desmond@apacph.org

40th APACPH Conference Announcement

The 40th APACPH conference for 2008 will be organised and hosted by the **Hanoi School of Public Health** in **Vietnam** under the leadership of **Prof Le Vu-Anh**. A tentative date has been set for **3-7 November 2008**. Preparation are currently taking place and more information will be unveiled at the coming conference this year in Japan.

APACPH 2007 Japan Conference Updates

Early Registration

Have you registered for the Conference yet? Early registration will close on **September 10**. Please visit Conference website to register www.apacph2007.org. If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat at apacph2007@ilcc.com.

Nearly 450 Presentations

The Local Organizing Committee is grateful to have received about 450 abstracts and would like to thank all of your contributions. We believe that fruitful discussions will be held in the forthcoming Conference in Japan, focusing on non-communicable and life-related diseases including food habits and nutrition as well as other important public health issues. The detailed program will be announced in early September on the website.

Poster Awards

Well-organized poster presentations will be assessed and awarded. So why not put yourself to the challenge?

Social Visit

After the Conference, a half-day program consisting of site visits and other public health activities will be organized on November 25. Sakado City where the main conference venue is located is happy to have us. Participants will have an opportunity to talk with local community leaders, elders and women about their health-related activities. Local government officers will also be present to tell us how they facilitate to formulate health policies for the City with the people.

APACPH Executive Board Meeting, Jakarta

The APACPH Executive Board held their recent meeting in July this year in Jakarta. The Board would like to thank our host, **Prof Hasbullah Thabrany** and his team at the **Faculty of Public Health, University of Indonesia** for their warm and generous hospitality.



Over the course of two days, the Board have progressed a number of exciting projects and developments that we can certainly look forward to in 2008. These include:

- Transition of the journal to Sage Publications and the official launch of its new profile at the Japan conference
- Developing the Resource Directory as a means of identifying expertise and resources among the APACPH members
- Initiating a Health Leadership Institute in the region, offering professional courses to public health professionals
- Advancing preparations for the coming conference in Japan this year
- Advancing preparations for the conference next year in Hanoi
- Progressing various steps for the Peace & Health initiative and other public health projects in developing countries

The meeting was also attended by other Indonesian APACPH member representatives and provided the opportunity for the Board to engage with them. In addition, we also received expressions of interest from other Indonesian institutions to join APACPH. Indeed, the meeting provided opportunities to explain more about APACPH and its activities as well as unite to create a stronger network with our Indonesian counterparts. The **Minister of Health, Her Excellency Siti Fadilah Supari** also hosted a special dinner for the Board members.



In conjunction with the Board meeting, the University of Indonesia also organised a series of public symposia in which Board members presented topics of their interest and expertise.

The draft minutes from the Executive Board meeting in Jakarta can be found on the **'Members Only'** section of the website - www.apacph.org

A Western Australian Perspective on Health Impacts of Climate Change

Western Australia (WA) is likely to experience a climate in the near future that is more variable, more extreme and significantly different from our recent past. These changes are almost certain to impact on our health. The type and extent of health impacts that may arise from climate change are a reflection of the unique environmental, climatic and socio-economic parameters of WA. A joint project, between the **WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Impact Assessment** at Curtin University and the **Environmental Health Directorate of the Western Australian Department of Health**, addressed the issue of climate change and health in WA. In this project, a range of stakeholders from health and non-health sectors identified potential health impacts of climate change, vulnerable groups and regions. A qualitative assessment of each of these potential impacts was carried out and a range of possible adaptation measures considered. Adaptation measures included the identification of a range of future research and information that will enable a greater understanding of the potential health impacts of climate change in WA. The results from this project will help to form the basis of future planning for adaptive responses to climate change in relationship to public health.

The project is being conducted by **Prof Jeff Spickett** and **Helen Brown** from the **WHO Collaborating Centre in the School of Public Health at Curtin University of Technology** and **Dianne Katscherian** from the **Environmental Health Directorate in the Department of Health Western Australia**

For any queries regarding this project please contact **Helen Brown** at H.Brown@curtin.edu.au

A Word from the Editor- and Deputy Editor-in-Chief, APJPH

The **Asia-Pacific Journal for Public Health** (APJPH) is now publishing volume 17 and is well established as the most important public health journal in our region. Over the years it has been edited in Hawaii, Bangkok and Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. APACPH is very grateful for the contributions made over the years by the host universities who have provided resources for the editorial office. Now the journal is entering a new era when it will become a more significant and prominent publication. The editorial office will remain at the **University of Malaya**, but the actual publication will be managed by **Sage Publications**. The number of issues each year will increase and the journal will become available on electronic databases. Sage will use its international resources to promote circulation and the reputation of the journal. The journal has applied to have a citation ranking and increasing the number of issues will bring this closer to reality.

The editorial policy of the journal will remain the promotion of **"health for all"** in the Asia Pacific Region, particularly through population based initiatives. We will promote health for the most disadvantaged, including the rural poor and women and children. The journal will serve the members of APACPH and enable academics to publish their work in a high quality international refereed journal. To help us achieve our goals please implement the policy of citing at least one reference from the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health in every article published by your School. The new look journal will be launched at the Tokyo APACPH conference in November and details of the new online submission system will be available there.

At the Executive Council meeting in Jakarta, tributes were paid to the work of the outgoing editor **Prof Anuar Zaini Md Zain** who made an outstanding contribution to the journal.

Now we have a new editorial board for the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health:

Editor in Chief

Prof WahYun Low

Professor of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. She has been the editor for APJPH since 1998.

Deputy Editor in Chief

Prof Colin Binns

Professor of Public Health, Curtin University, (Foundation Head of School for 21 years). Former Vice President of APACPH

Associate Editors:

Prof Sian Griffiths

Professor of Public Health and Dean of the School of Public Health, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She was President of the UK Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians from 2001-4.

Prof Masamine Jimba

Professor of International Health, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Japan. He is an advisor to JICA and is associated with projects in many countries including Cambodia, Vietnam and Nepal

Prof Seung Lee

Dean, School of Public Health, Seoul National University, Korea. Seung has a background in biostatistics and has recently been given an award by the National Statistics Office of Korea for his contribution to the development of health statistics in Korea.

Prof Malcolm Sim

Director, Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health. Malcolm is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

We believe that this will be the beginning of a new era for the APJPH, building on our past achievements and moving forward to make an even greater contribution to health in our region.

WahYun Low and Colin Binns
August 2008

Inaugural Opening of GCEOHRD



Caring for the needs of the population and enhancing the oral health and oral cancer prevention in the Asia-Pacific region

On July 27, the **Global Center of Excellence for Oral Health Research and Development (GCEOHRD)** held its inaugural ceremony. APACPH members, **Prof Wen-Ta Chiu, Prof Young Moon Chae** and **Prof Walter Patrick** were present at the ceremony.

APACPH has recognised the importance of oral health and its relationship to general health. In the Asia-Pacific, some countries lack adequate oral health facilities and there is a higher prevalence of oral cancer associated with betel chewing. Outstanding achievements in improving oral health and prevention of oral cancer have been accomplished at the **College of Dental Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University (KMU)**. Hence, APACPH decided to collaborate with KMU to establish GCEOHRD. Under the approval of the APACPH delegates at the 2006 General Assembly, the Presidents of APACPH and KMU, **Prof Richard Southby** and **Prof Hsin-Su Yu** respectively, jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Prof Tien-Yu Shieh, Dean of the College of Oral Medicine at KMU has been appointed as the Director of GCEOHRD. He is an internationally renowned expert in oral cancer and FICD. Prof Shieh will lead the GCEOHRD to provide technical expertise in education, research and service of oral health care and oral cancer prevention for APACPH and in the region.



Message from the Director, Prof Tien-Yu Shieh:



The GCEOHRD, with financial support from some consortiums and caring persons, is a collaborative institution of the APACPH & KMU. In the early stages of development, there are a lot of persons of charity who contributed their financial support and capabilities. It is tough work to grow out of nothing. Here I would like to express my deep appreciation to **Prof Walter K. Patrick**, Secretary General of the APACPH, **President Hsin-Su Yu**, **Deputy President Ying-Chin Ko** of KMU and **Deputy President Wen-Ta Chiu** of the APACPH and TMU for their support and contributions, to **Chairman Wen-Liang Hsu** of **Yu-Hwang Ku Organization** for his kind donation, and to **Dr. Peter Chin-Shun Chang** as well as **Dr. Judy Hsu** for their precious planning work. Under their effort, we promptly recruited so many specialists from domestic and foreign countries to create such a strong expert team.

The Center comprises five divisions in terms of Administration, Academic Research, Education & Training, Medical Care Services, and a Volunteer Group. According to the spirit of inter-schools, universities, nations, as well as inter politics and religion, we will take the mission of improving oral health in the Asia-Pacific Region. Meanwhile, we will try to master the global impulse and tendency and to integrate the **International Cyber University** (network on the air), Colleges of oral Medicine in the member nations (network on the ground) and distinguished experts (network of human resources) collaboratively to achieve the goals. In addition, we will also try to consolidate the connection of the Colleges of Oral Medicine, the Association of Oral Health Sciences and the Network of International Medical Care to initiate a caring and harmonious global village of oral health.

ECN Qualitative Research Methods Workshop, Colombo

The Early Career Network (ECN) of APACPH has launched a programme to promote qualitative research methods among medical and public health professionals in the region. This programme is conducted with the participation of academic experts from APACPH member institutions under the guidance of the Research and Development Committee of the ECN.

The first activity under this series was conducted in Sri Lanka and was organized in collaboration with its member organization, the **Core Group for Disaster Relief of Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo**.



The facilitators were **Dr Ilse Blignault** (University of New South Wales) and **Prof Colvin Goonaratna** (University of Colombo).

The objectives of this workshop were that after completing the seminar and course, participants should be able to;

- Apply the principles, theory and processes of qualitative research
- Discuss the contribution of qualitative research methods in health
- Use different qualitative health research methods, and the concept of triangulation
- Critically evaluate a qualitative health research study
- Design a qualitative health study, including ethical aspects
- Apply the principles of scientific paper writing.

The workshop consisted of a 1-day open seminar on the first day to give an overview on qualitative research methods in which about 100 participants took part. This was followed by a 3-day short course for small groups of about 40 participants to further extend the use of qualitative research methods.

Topics include:

- Qualitative approaches in health research
- Theory and design issues
- Ethical issues
- Qualitative methods of data collection
- Analysis, interpretation and presentation of qualitative data, including writing for publication
- Critical appraisal of qualitative research studies

There was a wide range of participation which included senior academics and young researchers from both academic and clinical institutions as well as senior academics and researchers from the medical faculties in Sri Lanka, representatives from the Ministry of Health and young graduates from Sri Lanka and other foreign medical schools.



Feedback and follow up

All participants appreciated the knowledge and skills they developed in this new research method. Most of them wanted to be involved with qualitative studies to gain more experience and it was suggested to establish a forum for qualitative researches to gain more knowledge and continue these activities.

After discussing with WHO, Sri Lanka who appreciated this initiative, five proposals on qualitative studies were requested to help these participants gain further training. Dr Blignault agreed to provide further advice to these participants to complete these tasks successfully.

The ECN membership launching programme was also highly successful that day and many participants applied for ECN membership.

This workshop was made possible with funding obtained from **APACPH, World Health Organization Sri Lanka** and the **University of Colombo**.


The main workshop of this programme will be held in Saitama, Japan in November this year.

Coming ECN Workshop, Saitama, Japan


ASIA PACIFIC ACADEMIC CONSORTIUM OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S

EARLY CAREER NETWORK FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Presents the 3rd Annual Pre-Conference Workshop:



“Application of Qualitative Research methods to the public health challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region”




Are you a new researcher, health professional or student in the field of public health?
Do you wish to learn more about Qualitative research (QR) methods?
Do you seek to explore how QR can be used to answer public health research questions?
Then this is the workshop you cannot miss!

Facilitator: Dr. Ilse Blignault (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales, Australia)
Date: 22nd November 2007
Venue: National Institute of Public Health, Saitama, Japan
 Lecture Room 3-1, 3-2
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Participants will need to register for this workshop as places are limited.
 Contact **Sonja to Register** for Workshop: s.firth@qut.edu.au

More information is available on the ECN section of the APACPH website:
http://www.apacph.org/site/pages/ECN_Annual_Workshop



We look forward to seeing you in Japan for this workshop and other exciting ECN initiatives!
 Kolitha Wickramage, ECN chair

As part of the programme on Qualitative Research Methods organised by the ECN, the main workshop will take place on 22nd November 2007 in conjunction with the 39th APACPH Conference (23rd-25th November) hosted by Kagawa Nutrition University and the National Institute of Public Health (Japan). This ECN workshop is particularly aimed at improving the skills of students and early career professionals in using qualitative research methods. The workshop title is:

'Application of qualitative research methods to the public health challenges of the Asia and Pacific Regions'

The workshop will run from 9am-3pm and will be held at the National Institute for Public Health, 2-3-6 Minami, Wako City, Saitama 351-0197.

More information will be available on the ECN section of the APACPH website
http://www.apacph.org/site/pages/ECN_Annual_Workshop

Participants will need to register for this workshop as places are limited. Please email **Sonja Firth** for more information and a registration form- s.firth@qut.edu.au

ECN members may also be interested in the **Field Training in Public Health** workshop being run by the National Institute of Public Health, immediately after the ECN workshop from 3pm-5pm. This workshop will be an opportunity to present cases/activities at respective institutions and discuss the implications for field training as a method of educational training in public health.

More information can be found at <http://www.apacph2007.org/preconference.html>

For more information about the Early Career Network visit the website – www.apacph.org/site/pages/Early_Career_Network or contact Sonja Firth – s.firth@qut.edu.au

New Courses for 2007 Fall Semester at ICUH

In collaboration with APACPH, the International Cyber University for Health (ICUH) was established at Yonsei University, Korea in May 2004 to provide public health education in the Asia-Pacific region via a distance online learning program, offered free of charge. Lectures are conducted by invited internationally renowned experts and the courses are run on a credit exchange program that may serve the academic needs of graduate students. Credits earned by ICUH students are formally recognised and are counted towards a degree in the Master of Public Health. Certain universities under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement will also allow the transference of course credits to the student's respective university.

A problem-based learning approach will be adopted in these courses and all courses will be conducted in English although translation services may be available. The fall semester starts from **September 3 to December 21**.

Courses for Fall Semester, 2007:

- Introduction to Health Informatics
- Health and Peace
- Health Insurance Systems in Selected Countries
- Biostatistics
- Research in Women's Health: Theories and Issues
- Maternal and Child Health

For registration forms and more information, please visit the website <http://icuh.yonsei.ac.kr> or contact **Min Kyung Kim** at mkkim2006@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr

Calendar of Events

Oceania Tobacco Control Conference

Date: 4 - 7 September 2007
 Location: Auckland, New Zealand
 Website: <http://www.smokefreeoceania.org.nz/index.html>

Setting an Ethical Agenda for Health Promotion

Date: 18 - 20 September 2007
 Location: Ghent, Belgium
 Website: <http://www.healthpromotionethics.eu>

This conference intends to bring together scholars from both the fields of ethics and health promotion in order to identify and to examine the ethical issues that are at stake within the context of health promotion.

ANAPHI Teaching & Learning Forum

Date: 26 - 27 September 2007
 Location: Alice Springs, Australia
 Website: <http://www.anaphi.org.au/news/teach.htm>

The primary aim of the conference is to share knowledge, experience and ideas around teaching and learning in public health education in the tertiary sector in Australia. Drawing on state, national and international learning's, it is hoped that the forum will bring academic, industry and government together to discuss, share and ultimately work together to improve and enhance public health education, and in turn the public health workforce.

This year there will be two parallel sessions, one of which will be devoted to Indigenous Public Health Teaching and Learning hosted by Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit (University of Melbourne) and the Institute for Koori Education (Deakin University) who together manage the PHERP Indigenous Public Health Capacity Development Project.

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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