

## Welcome message

At this time I would like to welcome you all to our Executive Council Meeting. One of the major concerns of the Executive council is the gathering of additional members to this group.

All attendant matters are expected to be addressed. These include: collecting dues, finalizing a budget, and raising additional funds.

In emphasizing public health services and creating greater public awareness of the issue, society is finding its way to grappling with the health challenges we face today. Critical relevant research and implementing the conclusions of that research are the next logical step. Academic collaboration which leads to 'synergy' will play decisive part in determining the results achieved. In this sense, the Asia-Pacific region is poised to set an example for the entire world, enhancing the health of vulnerable populations everywhere.

According to its charter, the goal of the Consortium is to achieve the highest possible level of health of the respective populations of all the nations of the Asia-Pacific region. Ideally, through research, education and strategic action –as well as gatherings like this- APACPH can help to improve the quality of life for thousands, addressing major public health challenges throughout the entire region.

Confronting us now, are two predominant questions: how synergy and collaboration within the academic world can be further cultivated, and how funding can be accessed to promote assistance for vulnerable populations. Since its founding exactly 30 years ago, APACPH has been actively dedicated to achieving these noble goals.

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