

REPORT ON
GLOBAL INDIGENOUS COLLABORATION INITIATIVES

by

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INTRODUCTION

Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) had joined the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) in 2012. Its Dean Professor Dr. Osman Ali has been a long term executive member of the APACPH Committee. Since joining APACPH in 2012, RCMP has actively participated and contributed at its annual conferences every year, and last year 2013, it was able to host a symposium on 'Indigenous Health', at the 45th APACPH Conference in Wuhan.

UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) has agreed to be a collaborating partner in the 'Global Indigenous Collaboration Initiatives' to develop an "APACPH Collaborating Center for Excellence in Global Indigenous Health (GIH)". The aim of the centre is to create a network of globally renowned Institutions in indigenous health to promote research, training and advocacy for improvement of health of the aboriginal /indigenous populations globally through research, training and service.

In view of the above commitments, UniKL RCMP has been actively involved in the establishment, collaboration and engagement in activities to promote research and health of indigenous and transitional populations.

1. Establishment of Research Niche on Health of Indigenous and Transitional Populations

A research niche on 'Indigenous and Transitional Populations' was created under the Organization Structure of UniKL RCMP with committee members consisting of academicians with research interest on the health of Indigenous and Transitional Populations. This niche serves as a platform for planning, coordinating, collaborating activities related to research and health promotion works for indigenous and transitional populations.

The research niche has been involved in facilitating and conducting research on health of indigenous and transitional populations in collaboration with other departments.

2. Rural Medical Mobile Mission (RM3) Works of UniKL RCMP in Collaboration with Malaysian Relief Agency and Department of Orang Asli Development

The University Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak's Rural Medical Mobile Mission (RM3) was launched on 13th June 2010 by Dato' Haji Mohd Shafie Bin Haji

Afdal, Malaysian Minister of Rural and Regional Development with the objective of providing primary health care and health promotion to the rural communities. In addition, the RM3 promotes research on health problems of these communities.

RM3 mission collaborated with the Malaysian Relief Agency and Malaysian Department of Orang Asli Development in promoting the health of several Orang Asli communities in the state of Perak and Kelantan during the past year.

The team of RM3 mission comprising of lecturers and students had conducted programs in Orang Asli villages Hulu Tembeling, Kampong Kuching, and the semi nomadic Batik communities in Taman Negara, those residing along the Sg. Tahan river in Pahang, Orang Asli villages in Kuala Kangsar in Perak, and Gua Musang in Kelantan.

The program provided mobile medical services to the villagers, including health screening and counselling for hypertension, diabetes and body mass index (BMI), treatment of minor illnesses, and home visiting of the elderly and disabled. Stool sample collection and examination was conducted as part of research on prevalence of intestinal parasites. Those with scabies were given treatment and parents were advised on the application of medication. They were given medicated shampoo for lice infestation and single dose albendazole for deworming.

Children were taught personal hygiene with demonstration of proper technique of hand washing, and oral hygiene through the proper technique of tooth brushing. They were involved in recreational and fun games and sport activities with prizes for the winners. The primary school children were given guidance in drawing, reading and basic mathematic lessons as well, with emphasis on the importance of education.

3. Current Research Projects on Health of Indigenous and Transitional Populations.

The current research works in UniKL RCMP on the health of Indigenous and Transitional Populations together with the name of Principal Investigator and source of funding are listed in following table.

No.	Title of Research	Principal Investigator	Research Grant	Remarks
1.	Metabolic syndrome in transitional community	Prof. Dr Osman Ali	STRG* UniKL/IRP S/str 12051	Completed. RM 18,500.00
2.	Pharmco-epidemiological study of the use of prescription medicines as well as alternative medicines/herbal drugs/food supplements in geriatrics population in Malay community.	A P Dr. Basanta Kumar Mohanty	STRG UniKL/IRP S/str 12032	Completed RM 19,500.00
3.	Ability profiling of Orang Asli children in Perak.	Dr. Ku Yussof	STRG UniKL/IRP S/str	Ongoing RM 15,800.00

			12033	
4.	Study on Parasitic infections & Association with nutritional status among children of urban poor population in Perak, Malaysia.	AP Dr. Myint Myint Soe	STRG - UniKL/IRP S/str 12036	Ongoing RM 15,000.00
5.	Co-morbidities and associated drug utilization in geriatric population.	A P Dr. Giryappanava Chandrashekar	STRG UniKL/IRP S/str 12050	Ongoing RM 9,000.00
6.	Intestinal and ecto-parasitic infestations and its association with physical growth among Orang Asli school children.	Dr. Johari bin Mohamed	-	Applied for STRG grant
7.	Survey on Pediculus Humanus Capitis at Foster Home in Kuala Kangsar	Students supervised by Prof. Dr. B Sinniah	-	Students' project

STRG* - Short term research grant from UniKL

4. Publications and Presentations on Health of Indigenous and Transitional Populations

Publications and presentations related to the health of indigenous and transitional populations are given in table below.

No.	Title of Research Paper	Principal Author	Journal/ conference	Remarks
1.	A Community Based Study on Utilization of Prescription Medications (PM) Among Elderly Malays.	AP Dr Basanta Kumar , Prof Dr Osman, AP Dr CR Giri, Dr Sandheep	Geriatric Conference 2014, 12-14 2014 Hotel Impiana, Ipoh Perak.	Oral presentation
2.	Prevalence of self reported diabetes, knowledge, attitude and practice on diabetes and diabetes care in a rural community in Malaysia	Sandheep Sugathan, Davinder Singh, Umabalan Tirupathy	International Journal of Preventive and Therapeutic Medicine, IJPTM Vol 1 (1) / Nov-Dec, 2013	Publication
3	A Cross sectional study on Prevalence, Knowledge and practice on Diabetes in a Village in Kinta district, Perak, Malaysia	Davinder Singh Bagher Singh, Sandheep Sugathan, Myint Myint Soe	7 th National Public Health Conference, Shah Alam, Malaysia, 2013	Oral presentation
4..	Prevalence of intestinal parasitic	Prof. B.	Tropical	Publication

	infections among communities living in different habitats and its comparison with one hundred and one studies conducted over the past 42 years (1970 to 2013) in Malaysia	Sinniah, AKR Hassan, Dr. Sabaridah, AP Dr Myint Myint Soe, Dr Ibrahim Zubil, Prof. Dr. Osman Ali.	Biomedicine 31(2): 1-17, 2014	
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5. Engagement Projects in Indigenous Health in Collaboration with Health Department of Ministry of Health and other Agencies.

UniKL RCMP during the past year had been collaborating with other agencies and departments in engaging with the Indigenous Communities as follows;

i. **Health Campaign” on ‘Program Pencegahan Alkohol & Karnival Kesihatan “I Want” in Orang Asli Community of Kampung Karawat Village.**

This 2 days weekend community project was a collaboration between Community Based department of UniKL RCMP and the Kinta Health District office of Ministry of Health and Orang Asli Development Department.

A team of seven lecturers and 14 students participated in the health campaign providing health screening, counselling and treatment of minor illnesses, home visit for the elderly and disabled on the 26th and 27th April 2014.

ii. **‘Community Outreach Program’ at Kampung Sungai Cadak, Ulu Kinta, Perak.**

This outreach program was conducted in collaboration with iM4U, anon profit non-governmental organization helping to nurture and cultivate volunteerism amongst Malaysian youth.

The UniKL RCMP team of Lecturers from the Preclinical Department and medical students had a one day engagement on 16th August 2014, with Orang Asli villagers of Kampung Sungai Cadak in Ulu Kinta, Perak. The activities included health screening and counselling for all, cooking demonstration and preparation of lunch together with the womenfolks of the village, fun games and colouring contest, dancing competition etc. for children. etc. Home visits were made for the elderly and disabled.

6. Post APACPH Symposium on “Health of Indigenous & Transitional Populations’

UniKL RCMP had submitted a proposal to conduct a Post APACPH Conference Symposium on 20th and 21st October 2014, immediately following the 46th APACPH Conference in Kuala Lumpur, and was approved by the APACPH Committee.

The purpose of conducting this symposium is to create a platform which will bring together scientists and researchers with background and interest in promoting the health of indigenous and transitional populations in Asia Pacific region.

The objectives of the symposium have been are stated as follows:

- i. To share experiences on the health status, burden of disease, and disease trends among the indigenous and various transitional populations.
- ii. To identify priority areas for current and future research and health care for indigenous populations.
- iii. To explore opportunities for collaborative works in research and health care to improve the health of indigenous populations.
- iv. To facilitate the establishment, and to promote partnerships and growth of “The APACPH Collaborating Center for Excellence in Global Indigenous Health (GIH)”.

We expect that this symposium will attract collaborators and partners interested in health of indigenous and vulnerable populations, to form the APACPH collaborating centre.

7. Establishment of Global Indigenous Health Initiatives (GIH)

UNIKL RCMP is committed to work on Global Indigenous Health Initiatives, and as stated before, the main aim of conducting the post APACPH Conference Symposium is to facilitate the establishment “The APACPH Collaborating Center for Excellence in Global Indigenous Health (GIH)”.

Towards the end of the symposium, at the round table discussion with members of panel and participants, we expect that opportunities for collaborative works and forming partnerships for research and health promotion will be realized within the participants and panel members itself. We believe there will be a number of universities and organizations interested to join in the establishment of “the APACPH Collaborating Center for Excellence in Global Indigenous Health (GIH)”.



PROFESSOR DR OSMAN ALI

Prepared by AP Dr. Myint Myint Soe