



# APACPH NEWSLETTER

June Newsletter

June, Issue 6

## Special points of interest:

- APACPH accreditation program
- From the journal
- Indigenous health
- Global Health course
- News and Announcements

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## President's Message

Dear APACPH colleagues and friends,

Greetings from Thailand!

First of all, I am very happy to invite you to attend the 47th APACPH Conference on "Public Health Challenges in the Asia Pacific Region: Building Regional Initiatives from Local Experiences and Best Practices" in Bandung, Indonesia on the 21st – 23th October, 2015. For more info, please kindly log on to the conference website (<http://www.apacph2015.org>).

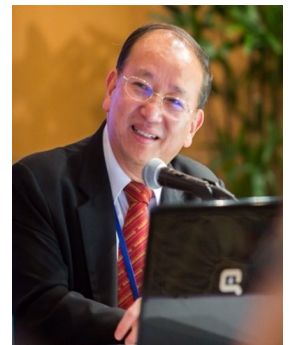
Secondly, I would like to share that the accreditation program is now officially running. The pilot institutions are from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Korea. I hope more member institutions will take part in the accreditation program in the near future. The Accreditation committees are now calling for volunteers to be APACPH accreditation reviewers as part of the program. My most sincere gratitude goes to all members, supporters and sponsors for all activities that have been going on in the past, present and also for future activities. I do

hope, APACPH can aim higher, particularly in the era of Global Public Health.

Last but not least, this newsletter will help us to strengthen the existing collaborations and create other potential opportunities among its members. Once again, let us work closely hand in hand and thrive for the best for our APACPH. Thank you.

Phitaya Charupoonphol DVM., MD., DM(HRM).

Dean of International College Mahidol University and President of APACPH.



## APACPH Accreditation Program Launched

By Dr. Indika Karunathilake, *Vice-President of APACPH and Co-chair of APACPH accreditation committee*

With the rapid growth of public health training institutions in most countries, the increasing number of new public health education programs, rapid changes in global health and emerging challenges to the health system, accreditation has become a major priority in the Asia-Pacific region. Current changes in health professions' education, explosion of information and global partnerships in education further highlights this need. Accreditation assures uniform quality in Public Health Education (PHE) and guides universities to regulate their educational programs and training experiences. The Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) has identified accreditation of PHE in the Asia Pacific Region (APR) as a priority area.

The APACPH accreditation programme was developed under the guidance of the Late Professor Walter K. Patrick, Secretary General of APACPH. The initial step was to identify the common competencies for PHE in the APR and to develop a model for accreditation of PHE in the APR.

*APACPH accreditation programme, led by Prof. Phitaya Charupoonpol, the President of APACPH will be a step towards improving and assuring the quality of PHE in the region.*



**Accreditation Exercise held in Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia (2015)**

Accreditation procedures of Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong, USA, Australia, UK and Europe were reviewed along with a survey on PHE core-competencies in the APR through a series of expert consultative meetings held in Thailand, Indonesia and Taiwan in 2012 and 2013. An iterative, consultative process and a modified Delphi technique was used to develop the competencies list. Mock site visits were conducted at two selected institutes.

A Competencies list for APR was developed and a three-circle PHE Accreditation Model was designed based on the identified competencies. The three concentric circles illustrate the core content areas in the inner circle; the different approaches in the middle circle and the global health competencies in the outer circle. Based on these a conceptual framework for accreditation of public health schools (PHS) with a Programme review and an Institutional review was

proposed and approved in 2013. The three-circle APACPH accreditation model formed the basis for the development of the proposed process for accreditation of PHS in the APR. The guidelines, standard Operational procedures and the process of the APACPH accreditation programme were finalized in 2014 during subsequent meetings held in Seoul, Korea and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. APACPH Accreditation Secretariat was established at Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Universitas Indonesia became the first Institute to undergo APACPH accreditation. The site visit of APACPH accreditation team led by Professors Maznah Dahlui and So Yoon Kim took place from 5th to 6th May 2015. Mahidol University of Bangkok Thailand and Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya has volunteered to be the next institutions to undergo APACPH accreditation.



**First APACPH Accreditation Conference-Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand (2012)**

## Indigenous Health: An Outreach Community Engagement Program at Pos-Legap Orang Asli Villages in Perak State

By Professor Dr. Osman Ali, *Dean of Faculty of Medicine, UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak*

**A**s an initiative to render Community and Health Service to the indigenous population, an Outreach Community Engagement Program was organized by Faculty of Medicine, UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) under the leadership of Dean Professor Dr Osman Ali, and collaborated by various departments within the faculty, and also involving NGOs and other departments, such as the Department of Orang Asli (JAKOA), Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA), Perak Religious Department, and Hospital Sungai Buluh Volunteer Group.

*The program while promoting the health of indigenous population, inculcated the spirit of volunteerism among the students, and fostered collaboration between the University and other departments and non-governmental agencies.*

'PROGRAM JALINAN KASIH' was a three days and two nights program at Pos-Legap from 8th - 10th May 2015, in an outreach Orang Asli community of approximately 1600 population, resident in 10 neighbouring villages. The 65 member team consisted of professors, lecturers, medical doctors and student volunteers from Faculty of Medicine and collaborating NGOs and departments.

The program activities included;

- Mobile clinic for health screening and consultation, treatment of common minor ailments, and referral of those requiring further investigations and management.
- Health promotion activities included giving motivational and health talks on wellness and disease prevention, demonstration on oral hygiene and tooth brushing sessions, personal hygiene and hand washing demonstration and practice sessions.

- Activities to build rapport and bonding with the indigenous community include house to house visits to invite them to the events, engaging with community in sports activities, karaoke sessions, cooking and serving meals to all, engaging children in games such as coloring contests, distribution of clothes and utilities obtained from donations.

The program was a success. A huge crowd of adults and children totalling about 600 turned up and participated in the activities. Some photographs of activities are shown below. The program while promoting the health of indigenous population, inculcated the spirit of volunteerism among the students, and fostered collaboration between the University and other departments and non-governmental agencies.

UniKL RCMP is committed to the health of indigenous populations and would like to welcome other interested Universities under APACPH to form partnerships in establishing a Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Health under the APACPH organisation.



## Global Health Certificate Course in University Malaya

*From the participants:*

*“Very interesting course. Global Health made easy. Thank you”*

*“Overall, it was very useful course. It was easy to follow”*



**Dr Don Eliseo (seated fourth from right) and Professor Maznah (seated fifth from right) with the participants at the end of the course**

A 2-day global health course was held in University Malaya on the 11th and 12th June 2015. The course was sponsored by APACPH-KL and Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya. This inaugural certificate course saw the participation of academicians and researchers from the public health sector and also officials from the

Global Health Unit, Ministry of Health Malaysia. The short course introduces theories and concepts including current trends, issues, challenges and debates in global health to provide a critical understanding of the determinants that shape the current global health situation. This course employed a cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approach in understanding global health issues.

Speakers of the course includes Assoc. Prof. Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III, Prof. Maznah Dahlui and Assoc. Prof. Sanjay Rampal. Dr Don is a medical doctor who specialises in global health and public health and currently a Associate Professor of Public Health at the Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Prof. Maznah Dahlui is the Regional Director of Kuala Lumpur and current Honorary Secretary of APACPH, and Dr Rampal, the head of Julius Centre University of Malaya.

### *From the Journal...*



I am pleased to announce that the impact factor has again moved up. APJPH saw a 31% increase from the 2013 impact factor of 1.111 to 1.459 in 2014. The 5-year impact factor is 1.378. This number puts APJPH at 90 out of the 162 journals in the Public, Environmental & Occupational Health (Science) category and at 64 out of the 145 journals in the Public, Environmental & Occupational Health (Social Science) category.

From this year, we have also increased the number of issues from 6 to 8, adding a new issue for April and October. In January, we published a commemorative issue for the late Professor Walter Patrick, former Secretary-General of APACPH, which included articles written about causes he was passionate about as well as testimonials from colleagues and friends.

As a way of clearing the backlog of papers waiting for print, our March issue included a list of e-articles that are available online only but is assigned a Volume, Issue and page numbers (<http://aph.sagepub.com/content/27/2.toc>). Thanks to China Medical Board, New York for the publication sponsorship.

Upcoming Supplement issues include the Asian Collaboration for Excellence in Non-Communicable Disease (ASCEND) Supplement, which will be published as a special open-access

issue, sponsored by the National Institute of Health, USA and WHO (Sri Lanka) and will only be available online. This open-access issue will be a first for APJPH, and is scheduled for publication in the October 2015.

The 46th APACPH Conference (2014) held in Kuala Lumpur, the Supplement issue will also be published in November of this year. This issue is sponsored by University of Malaya with additional funding by Health Insurance Review and Assessment (HIRA) and Korea Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC).

APJPH was also proud to share its experience in journal publishing with colleagues from Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam in early April this year. During this meeting, APJPH shared its knowledge regarding upholding high quality journal standards and how to maintain its ISI rankings.

We are also looking forward to the 47th APACPH Conference in Bandung, Indonesia in October this year. As always, Professor Colin Binns and myself will be conducting a Pre-conference workshop on Scientific Writing for all participants. We hope to see you there in Bandung !

Wah-Yun Low  
Editor-in-Chief  
Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health



## News and Announcements

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### Call for proposal

Researchers from member institutions are invited to send proposal for Public Health Research on current issues under the following themes:

- Oral Cancer Prevention
- Peace and Health
- Obesity Prevention
- Public Health Law & Ethics
- Island and Rural Health
- Indigenous Health

A seed money of USD 5,000 will be awarded to successful applicants. Collaborations between member institutions will be given priority.

### Calling for Volunteers as reviewers for the APACPH's Public Health Education accreditation programme

Currently APACPH is in the process of developing a pool of reviewers for the APACPH accreditation initiative. APACPH accreditation council calls for applications from the volunteer reviewers.

A pool of reviewers will be selected by the APACPH accreditation council. APACPH accreditation Secretariat will conduct a short training programme on APACPH accreditation programme for the selected reviewers. The Accreditation Council will nominate panels of reviewers for each accreditation exercise. A panel will consist of three reviewers and one of the reviewers will be appointed by the council as the lead reviewer.

The selected panel of reviewers is expected to assess the Self Evaluation Report submitted by the Institution or the programme under review, conduct a site-visit and compile review report with recommendations and the accreditation decision. The lead reviewer should submit the report to the APACPH accreditation Secretariat within two weeks of the site-visit.

Reviewers will maintain confidentiality regarding all aspects of the review.

This is an entirely voluntary activity. The expenses regarding travel and accommodation will be borne by APACPH and the institution under review.

For more information, please visit [APACPH](#) website.



### Upcoming APACPH Conference

The 47th Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) Conference will be held in Bandung on the Island of Java in Indonesia. The theme for the conference is "Public Health Challenge in the Asia Pacific Region: Building Regional Initiatives from Local Experiences and Best Practices". The 47th APACPH Conference is organised by the Faculty of Public Health, Universitas Indonesia.

For more information please visit the [47th APACPH Conference](#) website

### OBESITY PREVENTION SHORT COURSE

Satellite meeting to the 47th APACPH Conference, Bandung Indonesia



The WHO Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention and Deakin University Australia will be organising the Obesity Prevention Short Course in conjunction with the 47th APACPH Conference in Bandung Indonesia. The course is designed for managers and practitioners working in physical

activity and/or nutrition promotion including staff from the fields of health promotion, community health and public health including GPs, dietitians, nurses, teachers, physical activity practitioners, government staff and others working/interested in the area of physical activity, nutrition and the promotion of healthy weight. The course will also be valuable for academics and researchers working at the intersection of research and practice.

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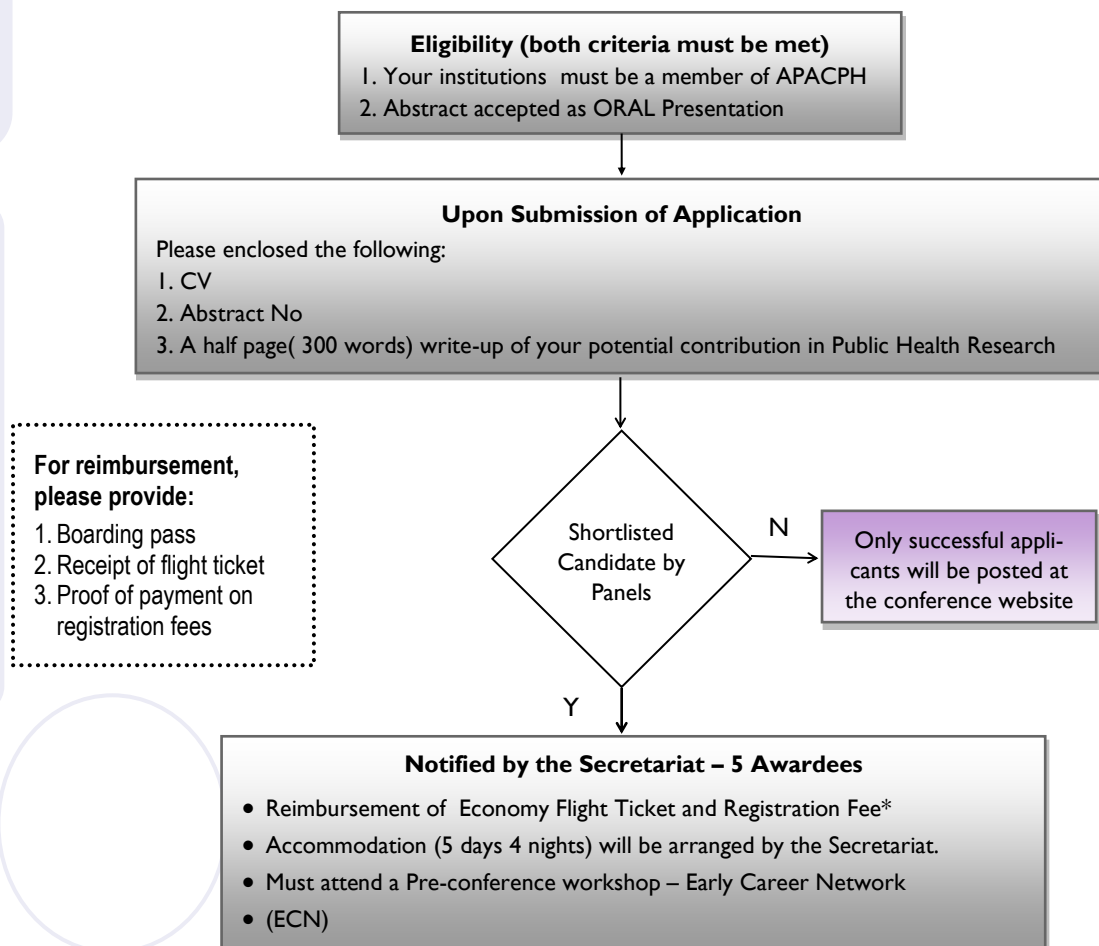
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## Young Investigator Traveller Awards (YITA)

The Young Investigator Travellers Award (YITA) provides funding to promising investigators to encourage and promote quality research in public health. The grants provide economy flight ticket, accommodation and registration fee waived to the awardee. There will be five (5) YITA offered in the APACPH 2015 Conference in Bandung, Indonesia. The awardees will be selected by appointed panels. The applicant must be a faculty of APACPH members' institutions and submission of abstracts has been accepted for oral presentation at the time of grant application. Please submit your CV, abstract number and a half page (300 words) write-up of your potential contribution in public health research to APACPH secretariat



\* Awardees would need to purchase their own air ticket and pay for registration fee in advanced. The Secretariat will reimburse the full amount during the conference. Accommodation will be arranged by the Secretariat.

## APACPH Elections 2015

The APACPH Elections 2015 will be held during the APACPH General Assembly (GA) in Bandung, Indonesia.

The Election 2015 is for the following four (4) vacant positions:

- President-Elect
- Vice President 1
- Vice President 2
- Secretary- General

We look forward to receiving your nomination papers as soon as possible and before the closing date of 1st September, 2015 at 12:00 noon Malaysian Time to the APACPH Secretariat Kuala Lumpur.

The voting will take place during the General Assembly. However, if you are unable to attend the GA, you may vote electronically (email). The ballot form will be sent to all the deans of member institutions.

Alternatively, you may nominate a proxy to vote on behalf of you during the General Assembly.

If you need any further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Dato' Dr. Khairul Anuar Abdullah ([khairulanuar@mahsa.edu.my](mailto:khairulanuar@mahsa.edu.my))

