

APACPH President's Report (September 10, 2018) at the 50th APACPH Conference

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This is my second report as the President of APACPH.

On March 30 and 31, 2018, APACPH executive council meeting was held in Tokyo, and the members discussed major issues, as shown below. Some progress after the meeting is also added in this report.

1. Quality

Several specific proposals have been made about improving the quality of APACPH activities. Below is one suggestion to improve the quality of the conference.

a) Poster session: Strengthening more interaction between senior and junior scholars will be possible in the 50th APACPH conference. This year, I attended a few academic conferences of other organizations which used e-posters. E-posters sound cost-effective but were losing the spirit of poster session. Poster session should be a place to meet with different researchers and to interact with each other.

b) Mentoring junior researchers is an important issue. Each research institution should do it, but even in Japan, it is not going well. I welcome any specific ideas about what to do at each regional office level and at APACPH region level.

c) Others

2. Management

a) Central Level:

a-1) APACPH's mission, vision, and strategies have been drafted by the Vice-President. They should be finalized and shared at the General Assembly in September, 2018. Then we take actions based on them in the coming years.

a-2) Center-level management has been greatly improved. In particular, decision-making process among EC members gets improved for selecting conference sites and other key issues. Regular Skype meetings have been also held among key EC members for different management issues.

a-3) Membership issues: We have inactive members, but little specific actions have been taken about how to improve the situation. It is time to move.

b) Regional Level:

b-1) In March 2018, the following issues have been discussed but these activities needed to be undertaken more specifically in the coming year: conduct geographical mapping the regions, carrying out common regional activities, and identifying minimum tasks of each region.

b-2) Renaming of regional director has been discussed. Renaming, such as 'Regional Director General,' should be done as soon as possible. However, as this is linked with APACPH's constitutions, action should be taken carefully.

c) Country Level: To improve the presence of APACPH, we may work together with national conferences, etc. This point is generally agreed but, a specific plan of action is necessary at each country. The Korean public health conference is a good example to make it successful.

3. Journal

It is going well. How to continue to improve its quality can be more discussed. If APACPH strengthens implementation research, a special mechanism is necessary. For example, at least one implementation research article may be published in each issue of the journal.

4. Website

Several suggestions have been made, including the importance of sending newsletters. We need to take more specific actions.

5. New Initiatives

'Capacity building for health promotion' by the Taiwan regional office is going well. Other specific initiatives are welcome.

6. Meeting results sharing and action implementation

So far, it has taken time to write up the minutes of meetings. It should be written within one month after the meeting, shared among members and necessary actions should be taken at latest within two months after the meeting.