Amidst sparks of hesitancy caused by earthquakes that struck Lombok, the neighboring island, 1,137 pediatricians arrived safely in Bali to attend The 16th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) Pre Congress Workshops. They were later joined by 3,139 others attending the congress, so there were 4,276 total participants recorded before the opening ceremony. The 16th APCP was held in conjunction with The 9th Annual Scientific Meeting of Indonesian Pediatric Society (ASMIPS/PIT-IKA IX) and The 6th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing (APCPN), so there were more registered participants. From 25th to 29th August 2018, more than 4,400 people from 40 countries engaged in a series of skills, knowledge, ethics, and perspectives exchange. These numbers reflect the enthusiasm of pediatric health care community in Asia Pacific region to grow and move forward together.

The opening ceremony was held on 26th August evening. It started with dinner then proceeded by prayers for people in Lombok Island, Indonesia, that recently had been hit with earthquakes. Remarks were given consecutively by Aman Bhakti Sidiartha, MD, Paed, Consultant, PhD as the Chairman of 9th ASMIPS 2018 and President of IPS Bali Chapter and Aryono Hendarto, MD, Paed, Consultant, PhD, as the Head of Indonesian College of Pediatrics hit the kulkul, a Balinese traditional percussion instrument. All of the foreign faculties were also given kulkul on their chair to be hit together to mark the opening of the congress. To officially open the event, all four gentlemen together with I Gusti Lanang Sari, MD, Paed, Consultant, PhD (chairwoman of Adolescent Task Force IPS, left, white) with Prof. Susan Sawyer (holding the mic) in pre-congress workshop about adolescent health.

The opening ceremony ended with the handling over from the Outgoing President of APPA to the Incoming President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA), Chairman of 16th APCP 2018 and President of Indonesia Pediatric Society (IPS), proceeded by Naveen Thacker, MD, PAED, Consultant as the Outgoing President of APPA, continued by Prof. Zulfiqar Bhutta, MD, Paed, Consultant as the President of International Pediatric Association (IPA) and by I Ketut Suarjaya, MD, MPPM, the Head of Health Office of Bali Province, Consultant as the Incoming President of APPA.

Scientific sessions started with seventeen pre-congress workshop on 25th and 26th August 2018. Breastfeeding, child protection, palliative care, fluid therapy and also infectious diseases were addressed at the workshop.
Distinguished fellow pediatricians,

It is a great honor to serve in Asia Pacific Pediatric Association for the next three years. I am humbled by the trust and opportunity given. I am also thankful for my association, the Indonesian Pediatric Society for allowing me to juggle the roles that has been bestowed upon me.

Connected together, we create the largest pediatric society in the world. Our association consists of 23 countries located next to each other, contributing to similarities in geography, culture, social norms and values. We celebrate diversity, and at the same time share several burdens of diseases.

In order to overcome various health problems in the Asia Pacific region, we need to stay connected and work together. Inequalities are to be addressed and networking adopted as a norm in building a strong regional base to reach Sustainable Developmental Goals in 2030.

A strong, committed network of pediatricians will enable us to find ways to better child health and happiness in Asia Pacific region. For this term, it will be a good start to focus on issues concerning the first 1000 days of life, including nutrition, stunting, breastfeeding, newborn screening, immunization, as well as managing and preventing further incidents of non-communicable diseases, continue fighting tuberculosis, and building good adolescent health services. These four main points interconnect with one another and it is essential for us to work together concerning these issues.

I am optimistic that Asia Pacific children will play more important roles in building a better world as adults in the not so far future. Let’s work together to achieve that by making sure they stay healthy and happy.

Sincerely,

Aman B. Pulungan
President - APPA

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Pakistan to host 17th APCP in 2021

Pakistan has won the bid to host the 17th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) in 2021. Voting was carried out during the 40th Council Meeting of National Delegates of APPA which was held on August 27, 2018 in Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre (BNDCC) in Nusa Dua-Bali, Indonesia.

The 17th APCP will be held in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

The Council Meeting was held in conjunction with the 16th APCP, 9th Annual Scientific Meeting of Indonesian Pediatric Society (ASMIPS)/PIT-IKA 2018 and the 6th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing (APCPN) organised from August 25th-29th, 2018 in BNDCC in Bali, Indonesia.

Congratulations to Pakistan!
The 39th and 40th APPA Council Meeting was also being held on 26th and 27th August 2018. At the 40th Council Meeting, it was decided that Pakistan will host the next APCP in 2021.

The scientific program continued on 27th until 29th August with various sessions ranged from neonatology, pediatric critical care, immunization, adolescent health, pediatric training across Asia and many more. Young pediatricians in Asia Pacific (Young APPA) were among the hot topics on the scientific program as the committee also invited young pediatrician as far as Turkey to share experience. On 28th August evening, the Cultural Night was held on Peninsula Island where the winners of the oral presentation, poster presentation and best paper award were announced.

Participants were still eager to learn as the congress sessions were still full with participants until the last day. The closing ceremony was held on 29th August afternoon with the announcement by Prof. Iqbal Memon from Pakistan about the upcoming APCP 2021.

Hopefully all participants can benefit from the congress and apply it in daily practice so together we can achieve SDGs.
International Paediatric Events 2018

2018

MALAYSIA
Adolescent Health - Paediatric Professional Updates 2018
Dates: November 1-2, 2018
Venue: Auditorium TJ Danaraj, Level 3, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Jalan Universiti, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Jointly organised by the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaysia and the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA)
E-mail: Dr. Chew Xin Yee: chewxy@ummc.edu.my/Nur Madirah: nurmadirah@um.edu.my
Website: https://mpaeds.my/mpaevents/adolescent-health-paediatric-professional-updates-2018

THAILAND
Asia Pacific Pediatric Endocrine Society (APPES) Biennial Scientific Meeting 2018, 10th Biennial Scientific Meeting
Dates: November 7-10, 2018
Venue: Chiangmai, Thailand
Website: www.Appes2018.org
E-mail: conference@appes.org

JAPAN
The 9th Asian Congress of Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ACPID)
Dates: November 10-12, 2018
Venue: Fukuoka International Congress Center, Fukuoka Sunpalace, 2-1 Sekigomachi, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka, Fukuoka Prefecture 812-0032, Japan
Website: www.c-linkage.co.jp/jspid50-acpid9/en/index.html

THAILAND
2 Days Training Course on All Aspects of Severe Dengue Based on Evidence-based Data to Optimise Clinical Practice
Dates: November 17-18, 2018
Collaboration between the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand with the Asian Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Website: www.asianpids.org/index.php E-mail: aspidsecretariat@gmail.com

PAKISTAN
24th Biennial International Pediatric Conference
Theme: “Nurture the Child- Build the Nation”
Dates: November 21-25, 2018
Venue: Peshawar - Islamabad, Pakistan
Website: pakpedicscon2018.com E-mail: Ppa24biennial@gmail.com

THAILAND
2nd Bangkok International Pediatrics Update
Theme: “Practical Pediatrics State of the art”
Dates: November 28-30, 2018
Venue: The Sukosol Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Website: www.bispuconference.com E-mail: bispuconference@gmail.com

2019

PAKISTAN
4th Annual Surgical Conference (Global Surgery)
Dates: February 1-4, 2019
Venue: Department of Surgery, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan
E-mail: shariq.charania@aku.edu Tel: +92 21 34864374 / 34864 759

SINGAPORE
1st Asia Pacific Echocardiography Course on Congenital Heart Disease
Dates: March 8-10, 2019
Venue: Singapore City, Singapore
Fax: 65 6779 7486 E-mail: paev15@nus.edu.sg
Website: www.nuh.com.sg

SINGAPORE
Forum for Healthcare Professionals- Inaugural Paediatric Respiratory and Sleep Medicine Symposium
Paediatric Sleep Medicine Workshop
Date: March 8, 2019 (Friday)
Time: 8am-5pm
Paediatric Respiratory Medicine Symposium
Date: March 9-10, 2019 (Saturday-Sunday)
Time: 8am-5.30pm
Venue: KK Auditorium (Training Centre) Level 1, Women’s Tower, 100 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 229899
Website: kkh.com.sg/events Registration form: marcoms@kkh.com.sg

MALAYSIA
15th Asia Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology (AOCCN) and 41st Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) Annual Congress
Theme: “Synergy to Challenge Boundaries in Child Neurology”
Dates: September 19-22 September 2019
Venue: Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
Website: www.aoccn2019.com Email: secretariat@aoccn2019.com
Phone: 603 7931 2131 Fax: 603 7921 2132

2020

VIETNAM
The 17th ASEAN Pediatric Federation Congress (APFC) 2020 & the 23rd Annual Congress of Vietnam Pediatric Association (VPA)
Theme: “Assuring equal access to quality healthcare services for all children”.
Hosted by the: Vietnam Pediatric Association (VPA)
Dates: October 22-24, 2020
Venue: Hanoi, Vietnam
E-mail: secretariats.apfc2020@gmail.com

- Compiled by Fairos Nazri, Executive Secretary, APPA

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APPA HONORARY PRESIDENTS, EXCO MEMBERS & STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2018-2021

HONORARY PRESIDENT:
- Dr. Chok-wan Chan - Hong Kong
- Dr. Mohd Sham Kasim - Malaysia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
- President
  Dr. Aman B Pulungan - Indonesia
- Immediate Past President
  Dr. Naveen Thacker - India
- Secretary General
  Dr. Zulkifli Ismail - Malaysia
- President-Elect
  Dr. Iqbal A Memon - Pakistan
- Deputy Secretary General
  Dr. Hung Liang Choo - Malaysia
- Treasurer
  Dr. Koh Chong Tuan - Malaysia

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
- East Asia
  Dr. Lilian Wong - Hong Kong
  Dr. Takao Takahashi - Japan
- South East Asia
  Dr. Daniel YT Goh - Singapore
  Dr. Melinda M Atienza - Philippines
- South Asia
  Dr. Iqbal A Memon - Pakistan
  Dr. Binod Bajracharya - Nepal
- Oceania
  Dr. Catherine Choong - Australia

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
Fairos Nazri - Malaysia

ASSISTING APPA PRESIDENT:
Dr. Ayu Utami - Indonesia

ACCOUNTS ADMINISTRATOR:
Hayati Ramli - Malaysia

Introducing the new APPA logo which was passed during the 39th Council Meeting of National Delegates of APPA on August 26th, 2018 in Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre (BNDCC), Bali, Indonesia.
CONGRATULATIONS TO RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING ASIAN PEDIATRICIAN AWARD (OAPA) 2018
(In Country Alphabetical Order)

Nineteen recipients received the prestigious Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Award (OAPA) 2018 during the 16th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) 2018. The award ceremony was held at Peninsula Island, near Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia on August 28th, 2018. It was held in conjunction with the 16th APCP, 9th Annual Scientific Meeting of Indonesian Pediatric Society (ASMIPS) and the 6th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing from August 25th - 29th, 2018 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia.

1. Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Elliot (Australia)

Prof. Elizabeth Elliot is a distinguished Professor in Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Sydney; Consultant Paediatrician at the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network (Westmead) and holds a prestigious and highly competitive NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship funded by the Medical Research Futures Fund (her 3rd such Fellowship). During 35 years, Prof. Elizabeth has established and sustained a reputation for high quality laboratory, clinical and public health research and demonstrated leadership in research in the fields of paediatrics, gastroenterology, evidence-based paediatrics, rare disorders and FASD. She vigorously promotes gender equity in relation to mothers, women in medicine and women in society. She is frequently approached by the media as a spokesperson on behalf of children; is widely published and has been recognised for her work.

2. Prof. Dr. Nazmun Nahar (Bangladesh)

Prof. Nazmun Nahar is a very senior teacher in Paediatrics. She is Professor of Paediatrics and the Director General of the Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation for Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Her Research Project (Bangladesh Medical Research Council) as Principal Investigator includes: A comparative study on treatment outcome as per WHO guideline of severe pneumonia in well-nourished and severely malnourished children under- 5 years, A risk assessment of transfusion transmitted infection in thalassaemia in Bangladesh children and Incidence of low birth weight babies in certain communities of Bangladesh. Prof. Nazmun is the Advisor of the Bangladesh Neonatal Forum and Co-Chairperson of the Academic Council of Institute of Child Health, Mirpur Dhaka (till December 31, 2018). She has also published several books.

3. Prof. Dr. Zhao Zheng-Yan (China)

Prof. Zhao Zheng-Yan has been working in the clinic, teaching and carrying out research work throughout 38 years. He is currently President of the Chinese Pediatric Society (CPS), Chairman of the Chinese Academy of Pediatrics and Chairperson, China National Children’s Health. He is very concerned about how to prevent children’s diseases and often goes deep into rural areas, mountains and islands to guide primary and community hospitals, doctors, help outpatient clinics, rounds, lectures and teach children practical techniques. Prof. Zheng-Yan has now established a nationwide screening system for newborn diseases and till today there have been 45 screening diseases and screening for maple diarrhea diseases and congenital muscular dystrophy that had been carried out. In 2016, he received the “Excellent Trainer Award”, from the Ministry of Health, The China Outstanding Contribution Award for Preventive Medicine and Public Health and The Chinese Physician Award. Prof. Zheng-Yan founded the World Journal of Pediatrics in July 2005, the only English language pediatric journal in China and is its Editor-in-Chief.
Prof. Mei-Hwan Wu is an expert in the cardiac electrophysiology, from cellular to cardiac catheterization theater. She is a pioneer in paediatric transcatheter arrhythmia therapy. Prof. Wu is currently Superintendent of the National Taiwan University Children’s Hospital in Taipei and a distinguished Professor at the Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University. She is also dedicated to promote health care for children and has been the President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Cardiology Society from 2012-2014, President of Taiwan Society of Pediatric Society from 2011-2014. Due to her contribution to child health care and health care education, Dr. Wu had received several awards, among them Excellent Teacher Award (Taiwan Education Administration), National Taiwan University Outstanding Teacher Award and Outstanding Professor Award (Far Easter Y.Z. Hsu Science and Technology Memorial Foundation). To date, Dr. Wu has published more than 300 SCI papers.

Prof. Godfrey Chi-Fung Chan is the Immediate Past President of the Hong Kong Paediatric Society (HKPS). He is an internationally renowned academic paediatrician especially on his specialty of Paediatric haematology and oncology. His contribution to improve the health of children does not confine to our local community but also many Asian countries as well. As an educator in clinical paediatrics, he has trained many young paediatricians from Southeast Asia countries and China since the 90's. Prof. Chan also serves as visiting professor, chairman or office bearer in many Asian and international universities or learned societies of paediatrics. He has published more than 270 full articles, 9 book chapters and 1 book and also has received multiple international awards for his clinical and laboratory research works on childhood neurogenic tumors and stem cells biology.

Prof. Santosh T. Soans is the Head of Department at the Department of Pediatrics, A.J. Institute of Medical Sciences in Mangalore, India. He is also Chief of Neonatal & Paediatric Intensive Care Division at A.J Hospital & also Research Centre in Mangalore. Dr. Soans is the current President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) and the APPA Ethical Committee member. He is also Founder Chairman of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine at the Canara Branch. Dr. Soans has authored many papers in many journals and a sought after Speaker in national conferences. He is Associate Editor of the *A.J International Medical Journal* and Senior Editor and Reviewer Journal of *Pediatric Critical Care since 2015*.

Prof. Jose RL Batubara is a lecturer in the Pediatric Department, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia from 1987 till today. He was trained at Pediatric Endocrinology at Vrije Universiteit in Utrecht, Netherlands from 1990 to 1992 and at Clinical Genetic KGCU Utrecht in 1991. Later, he completed a fellowship in Pediatric Endocrinology in 1993 at Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia. He accomplished Ph.D at Free University Amsterdam in 2006 and became a Professor in Pediatric of University of Indonesia in 2011. Prof. Dr. Jose Batubara was President of Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) from 1999 to 2002 and also President of ASEAN Pediatric Federation from 2002-2005. He is currently contributing in Immunisation Task Force of IPS. Prof. Jose Batubara’s research focuses on growth, adrenal, diabetes and osteoporosis.
Prof. Emeritus Seiji Yamaguchi is a pioneer in the field of inherited metabolic diseases (IMDs), especially organic acidoemias (OAs) and fatty acid oxidation defects (FAODs). He has used mass spectrometric procedures including tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) and gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC/MS) for his research works, as well as molecular techniques. He reported the defective enzyme protein in beta-ketothiolase deficiency (1988) and the first cases of glutaric acidemia type 2 due to a defect of beta-subunit of electron transfer flavoprotein (1992) and very-long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (VLCAD) deficiency (1993). He has been President of Japanese Society for Mass Screening since 2010 till date and has contributed to introduce expand newborn screening using tandem mass in Japan. Dr. Yamaguchi has dispersed the significance of metabolic screening in many Asian countries and since 2000, he has accepted urine and blood samples from Asian countries to be analysed by GC/MS or MS/MS for the diagnosis of OAs or FAODs. He has accepted samples from 8,600 symptomatic children and identified IMDs in over 1,100 cases. He has also accepted about 60 doctors and scientists for training of MS/MS and GC/MS from Asian countries including China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Kuwait, Iran and so on.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tang Swee Fong is currently Deputy Head, Department of Paediatrics and Head, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre (UKM Medical Centre). Since 2002 and to date, she is Secretary of the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) and since 2009 is Malaysian Paediatric Foundation (MPF) Member of the Board of Trustees. Her specialty is Paediatric Intensive Care/Paediatrics. Dr. Tang is also Secretary of the ASEAN Paediatric Federation Council from 2015 till to date and Board Member of World Federation of Paediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies from 2007-2017. Her research projects include: Post infectious glomerulonephritis, How do children die in Malaysian Paediatric Intensive Care Units and Health related quality of life in children after repair of congenital heart disease. Dr. Tang has also been Lead Instructor on Paediatric Advanced Life Support Providers Course from 2012-2017. She received awards and scholarships for her excellent service such as the UKM Excellent Award in 2014, UKM Commendation Award in 2000 and Federal Scholarship for Master of Medicine (Paediatrics) course in UKM. Dr. Tang has also published many articles in the local and international journals and invited to speak at Conferences, Courses and Seminars, locally and overseas.

Prof. Ramesh Kant Adhikari is Professor of Paediatrics and Director, Postgraduate Programme and Medical Education at KIST Medical College, Imadol, Lalitpur, Nepal since October 2016. Prior to this, he was Professor of Pediatrics and In-charge of Neonatal Unit at the Kathmandu Medical College (KMC). He had joined KMC in 2012 after his retirement from Institute of Medicine where he had worked for more than 32 years. Dr. Adhikari was instrumental in establishing paediatric ward and strengthening neonatal services at Tribhuvan University (TU) Teaching Hospital during his work there as Professor of Pediatrics and Dean. Besides his work in the field of child and neonatal health, Dr. Adhikari has extensive involvement in the field of nutrition, medical education and ethics. He has published several books and articles related to child health, nutrition, medical education and medical ethics.

Prof. Thein Thein Myint is currently Senior Consultant Paediatrician at Bahosi Hospital and Shew-Gon-Dine Hospital in Yangon, Myanmar; President, Support Group for Elderly Doctors, Myammar Medical Association and Member, National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG). She served in the Ministry of Health, Myanmar in a career that spanned 39 years and has taught and mentored generations of young doctors and paediatricians, many of whom are serving in the country’s top clinical, academic and administrative posts. She was awarded the Outstanding Civil Service Award (Second Grade) by the Government in 1994 for her leadership and administrative skills. Prof. Thein Thein Myint, who retired from government service since 2003, has authored many publications. Her landmark research ‘Case control study on evaluation of BCG vaccination of newborn in Rangoon, Burma’, shows the significant benefits of birth dose of BCG vaccination in reducing the incidence of disseminated tuberculosis. In November 2017, the Myanmar Pediatric Society published the biography of Prof. Thein Thein Myint.
12. Prof. Dr. Tahir Masood Ahmad (Pakistan)

Prof. Tahir Masood Ahmad is Emeritus Professor and Professor of Paediatrics at the Children’s Hospital & The Institute of Child Health in Lahore, Pakistan. He is also Prof. of Paediatrics at Rashid Latif Medical College in Lahore. Dr. Tahir Masood among others is Immediate Past President of the Pakistan Pediatric Association; Chairman, National Certification Committee of Pakistan for Polio Eradication and Member, South Asian Pediatric Association (SAPA). Dr. Tahir Masood has also received several awards and honours, among them the President of Pakistan Gold Medal in 2010 for being an outstanding paediatrician. He is Chief Editor of Text Book of Paediatrics, Pakistan Pediatric Association and Editor and Contributor in Clinical Paediatrics. Dr. Masood also represented Pakistan and gave multiple presentations on situation of Pakistan in global Polio eradication initiative in international WHO meetings.

13. Prof. Dr. John Vince (Papua New Guinea-PNG)

Prof. John Vince is a paediatrician, educator and humanitarian and has made an outstanding contribution to paediatrics and child health in the Pacific and Asia. He has spent the last 4 decades in clinical, academic and public health service to the children of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Dr. Vince came to PNG from the United Kingdom in 1976, a young paediatrician, trained in Edinburgh, fresh from a Doctorate of Medicine and has stayed in PNG for 40 years. He has dedicated his life and career to improving child health in one of the highest mortality countries in the Asia Pacific region. Dr. Vince has published papers on among others, neonatal care, tuberculosis, HIV, social paediatrics, childhood cancer and public health. He has published more than 100 articles in peer reviewed medical journals and authored several books.

14. Dr. Estrella Paje-Villar (Philippine)

Dr. Estrella Paje-Villar has proven herself dedicated as an active member of the Philippine Pediatric Society Inc. since 1966 and became a temporary adviser of the Joint WHO-UNICEF Expert Consultation on Pediatric Essential Medicines and WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Her contributions to multiple publications and her awards from many organisations and institutions, paved the way to her triumph. She received recognition for “Sustained and Committed Leadership in Research in 1996; was given the Award of Distinction “Excellence in Pediatric Therapeutics and Pharmacology” (2000), “Distinguished Achievement and Exceptional Performance in the field of Pediatric Medicine” in 2003 and the “Outstanding Service Award” of the 4th Gold Award for Excellence in Philippine Pediatric. In 2007, she received a “Lifetime Achievement Award” from University of St. Tomas and in 2014 she was awarded as an “Outstanding Professional in the field of Medicine” by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). Dr. Villar is Editor and Contributor to six Handbooks, Contributor to two reference books and has 26 articles in Medical Journals.

15. Prof. Dr. Quak Seng Hock (Singapore)

Prof. Quak Seng Hock has served the paediatric community in Singapore and the region for the past four decades. He was the pioneering paediatric gastroenterologist in Singapore when paediatric subspecialty service was in its infancy. As a paediatric gastroenterologist, he was the first to provide endoscopy services for children and later spear-headed the introduction of liver transplantation for children in Singapore with paediatric surgeons. Prof. Quak is regarded as one of the foremost paediatric gastroenterologist not only in Singapore but the region as well. He was instrumental in leading the development and recognition of paediatrics as a specialty. As the President of the Chapter of Paediatricians, he led the Chapter to be formally recognised as a College of Specialists within the Academy of Medicine, Singapore and was its inaugural President. He was recognised for his clinical standing and leadership when he served in the Exco of the Asian Pan Pacific Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition and later as its President from 1998-2004. He is also a long standing Council member of the Federation of International Societies of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. His areas of research include recurrent abdominal pain in children, diarrhoeal disease and liver transplantation. He also serves on Editorial board of a number of journals in the field of paediatrics, paediatric gastroenterology and transplantation and had received a number of University and National Awards.
16. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniel Goh Yam Thiam (Singapore)

Assoc. Prof. Daniel Goh Yam Thiam, Past President of the Singapore Paediatric Society-SPS- (2004-2011) the longest President of SPS, is currently Senior Consultant Paediatrician, Paediatric Pulmonary and Sleep Service, Khoo Teck Puat-National University Children’s Medical Institute (KTP-NUCMI) at the National University Health System. He was also among others, Past President of the ASEAN Pediatric Federation (2011-2014); Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Paediatric Sleep Alliance (2006 to present); Executive Committee member of the Asian Strategic Alliance for the Prevention of Pneumococcal Diseases (2010 to present); Member of the Asian Society of Sleep Medicine and Member of the World Society of Sleep Medicine. In the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), Dr. Goh is the first paediatrician to be appointed this position in the American College of Chest Physicians in United States. His research interests are Asthma in childhood, Sleep in childhood and Chronic respiratory diseases in childhood. Dr. Goh has over 145 journal articles, 156 Conference papers, 6 book chapters and is in the Editorial Board of many Journals such as the Asia Pacific Journal of Pediatrics and Child Health; American Research Journals and International Journal of Pulmonology & Clinical Research. He has also received numerous awards such as the Recipient of the NUHS-Mochtar Riady Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in 2015; National University of Singapore Long Service Award (for 25 years of service) in 2017; Special Recognition Award as a Role Model to the Medicine Graduating Class of 2017 and nominated for the National Medical Excellence Award 2018 (the National Medical Research Council, Singapore).

17. Prof. Dr. Asiri S Abeyagunawardena (Sri Lanka)

Prof. Asiri S Abeyagunawardena is the current President of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP) when the award was presented, Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka and Director, Centre for Research, Training and Education in Kidney Diseases. He is instrumental in initiating paediatric nephrology services in Sri Lanka and the first paediatric dialysis and renal transplant programme and has performed more than 100 transplants. For over 10 years he has been Convenor of the Paediatric Nephrology curriculum development team and course coordinator. Dr. Abeyagunawardena has carried out collaborative research work with the Institute of Child Health, University College London, UK; Tokyo University, Japan; Royal Free Hospital, London, UK and with the Dukes Medical School in USA. He also has over 50 full text publication in international and local journals including the Lancet, Archives Diseases in Childhood and Expert Opinion on Pharmacotherapy.

18. Emeritus Prof. Dr. Chanika Tuchinda (Thailand)

Emeritus Prof. Chanika Tuchinda is a paediatric endocrinologist, who has devoted herself to health care and health promotion for Thai children, academic, administration and corporate social responsibility. Soon after her return to Thailand, while working at Siriraj Hospital, Dr. Chanika met a young patient who died of diabetes and inspired her for the rest of her career. She knew the key to improving child health across Thailand involved not only developing top quality child health care facilities but also teaching parents how to provide the best care at home. Dr. Chanika convinced doctors and nurses specialising in areas such as child nutrition, psychology and psychiatry, many with training from US, to donate their time to treat the poor. She developed her own protocol for educating and training and through her strong reputation she gained approval from the Dean at Siriraj to enact this programme over two years. Dr. Chanika has conducted researches and published more than 90 articles nationally and internationally. She authored more than 10 textbooks of endocrinology and paediatrics and served for the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD). She is currently Emeritus Professor at the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University in Bangkok and is among others, founder and President of Diabetic Education Programme, Siriraj Hospital from 1990-94; Member of American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and National Representation to the Committee on Diabetes in Youth of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF).

19. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Gia Khanh (Vietnam)

Prof. Nguyen Gia Khanh is the current Vietnam Pediatrics Association (VPA) President for the 2017-2021 tenure. He is a Senior Paediatrician lecturer of Paediatric Department of Hanoi Medical University. He has taught for 50 years since 1968 and worked in the Gastroenterohepatology Department in the National Children’s Hospital in Hanoi. He has served as the Head of the Pediatric Department of the Hanoi Medical University in Vietnam, the Head of Gastroenterohepatology Department of the National Children’s Hospital in Hanoi and the Consultant of WHO in Vietnam to participate in the programme on Control Diarrhea Diseases (CDD) and programme of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) in Vietnam. In 50 years of work, Dr. Gia Khanh has shown excellent achievements and contributed in the training of paediatricians as well as researches and treatment of common paediatric diseases in Vietnam.
Malaysia today (October 8, 2018) became the first country in the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region to be certified as having eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

“Thanks to Malaysia’s efforts over the past several years, parents can now ensure their babies are born free of HIV and syphilis and have a healthy start to life,” said Dr. Shin Young-soo, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific. “Elimination could not have been achieved without Malaysia’s strong commitment to ensuring access to quality and affordable health services for all women, children and families.”

WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Dr. Shin presented Malaysia’s Minister of Health, Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad, with a certificate of elimination during the session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, which opened today (October 8, 2018) in Manila, Philippines.

Malaysia’s two-decade-long effort pays off
Malaysia was among the early adopters globally of national prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis in maternal and child health services. The country started antenatal HIV screening in 1998. Today, antenatal testing and treatment for HIV and syphilis are provided free of charge, and virtually all women have access to quality health services including contraception and births assisted by skilled attendants.

As a result, the number of babies born with HIV or syphilis has reduced to the level compatible with global elimination criteria. The sustainability of services is ensured through full financial integration into the annual budget of the Family Health Programme.

“Achieving elimination is not the end of our struggle to ensure every Malaysian child starts life healthy and free of HIV and syphilis. It’s the beginning of a never-ending journey to provide exceptional quality of care to prevent all infections that pass from mother to child,” said Dr. Dzulkefly. “It is my sincere hope that this programme, which is a source of national pride and importance, shall be further enhanced in the years to come through strong political support and regular engagement with civil society.”

Protecting future generations
Some 13,000 women who become pregnant in the WHO Western Pacific Region each year are living with HIV, and one in four does not receive antiretroviral therapy (ART). Without these medicines, there is a 15-45% chance of transmitting the virus to the baby during pregnancy, labour, delivery or breastfeeding. When both mother and baby get the medicine, the risk of HIV transmission drops to just over 1%.

“This elimination is a remarkable achievement that puts Malaysia at the forefront of the global effort to ensure that no child is born with HIV or congenital syphilis. A combination of political commitment, stronger systems for health, and timely prevention, diagnosis and treatment is the key to success,” said Mr Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. “All countries should follow Malaysia’s example and ensure that every child has an HIV-free start to his or her life.”

Additionally, each year an estimated 45,000 pregnant women in the Region are infected with syphilis, which can result in early fetal loss and stillbirth, low birthweight, serious neonatal infections and death. But simple, cost-effective screening and treatment with penicillin during pregnancy can eliminate most of these complications.

“UNICEF’s vision is a world where no child dies from a preventable cause and all children reach their full potential in health and well-being,” said Ms Karin Hulshof, UNICEF Regional Director, East Asia and the Pacific. “Early testing, early diagnosis and early treatment are key steps for attaining and sustaining elimination of mother-to-child transmission. Malaysia should be congratulated for being one of the first countries to introduce national initiatives to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis in maternal and child health services.”

“All countries should follow Malaysia’s example and ensure that every child has an HIV-free start to his or her life” said Mr Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific. - www.who.int, October 8, 2018
MALAYSIAN MEDICAL AND RELIEF TEAMS ASSISTING EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI VICTIMS IN PALU

Just as the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Palu, Sulawesi have started picking up the pieces to get on with their daily lives, several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from Malaysia have arrived to assist these victims devastated by the tragedy in the Indonesian province five days ago (September 28, 2018).

The Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia Response & Relief Team (IMARET) has already fact set up a mobile clinic 30 minutes away from the epicenter of the earthquake that shook up the Palu district and it is the first medical team to arrive from Malaysia at Ground Zero Wednesday morning (Oct. 3, 2018). It comprises two doctors whom got down to business and started treating victims straightaway with the help of the Indonesian Red Crescent Society (BSMI). Heading IMARET’s mission, Ahmad Rashidi Mohamed Tahir described the Ground Zero situation in Palu as still critical although it has been five days since the earthquake and tsunami occurred.

Mercy Malaysia has also deployed its first medical team to Palu (Oct. 3, 2018) to provide medical assistance to the victims. The medical team comprises 2 doctors and a nurse. They will set up a field hospital in Palu. Emergency medicines such as wound care supplies and ambulatory treatment equipment were packed and handed to the volunteers.

And a team of 15 volunteers from the Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organisation (MAPIM) are at the devastated city of Palu and its Emergency relief mission chief Dr. Ahmad Sani Araby Al Kahery, who is also Mapim CEO, said the team was tasked with digging water wells for the survivors after the earthquake had cut water supply to the affected areas.

"Our job is to provide clean water for the survivors. We expect to complete about 10 wells while we are there," he added. He said that the relief team would also link up with 10 other Mapim officers who were already stationed in Sulawesi, upon arrival and a second team would be mobilised to Sulawesi on Oct 10 to provide food and other basic needs to survivors, with an estimated 10 container-full of items to be donated.

On Sept. 28, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Palu, Indonesia and triggered tsunami waves of up to 5m in height, killing more than 2,000 people (as of October 9, 2018) and had displaced thousands. - Malaysian National New Agency (Bernama)/ thesundaily.com, Oct. 3, 2018.

Meanwhile, The Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) has sent an A400M aircraft in its humanitarian assistance mission in Palu, Sulawesi.

Subang Air Base commander Brig Gen Datuk Muhammad Mudzamir Ong Abdullah said on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018 that the A400M aircraft will be used to transport equipment such as heavy machinery from Jakarta to Palu for the rescue of victims. He said RMAF was concerned with the tragic situation in a neighbouring country and decided to embark on a humanitarian mission in the island.

“The Indonesian government has been waiting for help from RMAF which has the A400M aircraft to transport heavier load compared to the C130H,” he said. The mission is mounted by 23 RMAF personnel with three local media representatives as well as 22 tonnes of supplies.

- Sarawak.voice.com, October 8, 2018

And on October 9, 2018, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail met her Indonesian counterpart Jusuf Kalla at his office in Jakarta and they discussed among other top topics, the humanitarian aid for victims of the earthquake and tsunami in central Sulawesi.

She said, the Malaysian government contributed RM1 million to the Indonesian government and had set up the Sulawesi Earthquake / Tsunami Disaster Fund on Oct. 4 to help the victims. - BorneoPostOnline, October 9, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENT

The next issue of the APPA Bulletin will be in soft copy (digital), as decided during the 39th Council Meeting of National Delegates of APPA, held in Bali, Indonesia on August 26th, 2018.