



## ASIA PACIFIC PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

formerly known as Association of Pediatric Societies of the SouthEast Asian Region (APSSEAR)

Volume 92

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### HONORARY PRESIDENT:

- Dr. Chok-wan Chan - *Hong Kong*
- Dr. Mohd Sham Kasim - *Malaysia*

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- **President:**  
Dr. Joselyn Eusebio - *Philippines*
- **Immediate Past President:**  
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- **Secretary General:**  
Dr. Zulkifli Ismail - *Malaysia*
- **President-Elect:**  
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- **Treasurer:**  
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- **APPA e-Journal**  
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Fairos Nazri - *Malaysia*

### ACCOUNT ADMINISTRATOR

Che Surina Sulaiman - *Malaysia*

### SECRETARIAT ADDRESS:

Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)  
Unit 16-02, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Menara Arina Uniti  
97, Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz  
50300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Email: appa.kl.secretariat@gmail.com  
Website: www.a-p-p-a.org

### AFFILIATED TO:

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Suria Time Enterprise  
No 32, Jalan Tembaga SD5/2H  
Sri Damansara Industrial Park  
52200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Tel: 6011-3322 8830  
Fax: 603-6730 9062  
E-mail: suriatime@yahoo.com



18<sup>TH</sup> APCP 2024

## 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) Hosted by the Philippine Pediatric Society Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines

November 14 to 17, 2024

The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association Celebrates  
its Golden Jubilee in the Philippines



18<sup>th</sup> APCP Plenary Hall at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel

After 50 years, the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) returns to the Philippines, the country where the organization started with the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP). It was held last November 14 to 17,

2024 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel in Cebu City, Philippines.

APPA was formerly known as Association of Pediatric Societies of the South East Asian

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all!

As I embark on this exciting journey as the new President of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA), I am filled with a sense of both honor and responsibility. It is a privilege to lead such a distinguished organization, comprised of dedicated healthcare professionals who are passionate about advancing child health.

Our region is home to a diverse population of children, each with unique needs and challenges. It is our collective duty to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to quality pediatric care. Through our collaborative efforts, we can make a significant impact on the lives of countless young individuals.

In the coming years, APPA will continue to serve as a platform for knowledge sharing, innovation, and advocacy.

**We will strive to:**

- Promote excellence in pediatric care: Setting high standards of practice and encouraging continuous learning.
- Facilitate collaboration: Fostering strong partnerships among healthcare providers researchers and policy makers across the region.

- Advocate for children's rights: Championing policies that prioritize the health and well-being of children.
- Disseminate timely information: Sharing the latest advancements in pediatric medicine to improve clinical practice.
- Empower pediatric professionals: Supporting the professional development of our members through education and training opportunities.

I am eager to work closely with our esteemed officers, standing committee members and council of delegates to achieve these goals. Together, we can create a brighter future for the children of the Asia Pacific.

Let us embrace this opportunity to make a lasting difference. By working together, we can build a healthier, happier, and more prosperous future for generations to come.

With my warmest and sincerest regards,

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Joselyn A. Eusebio, MD**  
**President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)**  
**2024-2026**

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2025  
TO ALL!



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Region (APSEAR). APSEAR was established in Manila, Philippines on April 30, 1974.

The 18<sup>th</sup> APCP was proudly hosted by the Philippine Pediatric Society. The Congress was a scientific, academic, social and cultural event that showcased the 50-years achievement of APPA, the wealth of expertise in the region, the camaraderie of the member countries and the warmth and hospitality of the Philippines amidst the rich heritage, vibrant culture, breathtaking natural venues and historical landmarks of Cebu City.

At the Welcome Reception held at the Marco Polo Plaza Cebu, the delegates were welcomed by the Overall Chair of the 18<sup>th</sup> APCP, Dr. Joselyn Eusebio, APPA President, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Memon, President of the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS), Dr. Cesar Ong and APPA Secretary General, Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail. The Cebu City government also welcomed the delegates with the representative of the Honorable Mayor Raymond Alvin Garcia, Councilor Edgardo Labella II.

Prof. Dr. Iqbal presented the Plaque to the Host Nation to Dr. Cesar Ong and Dr. Joselyn Eusebio and initiated the welcome toast. With the theme "Handaan: Pistang Pilipino" to represent a Filipino celebration the "fiesta," the guests were treated to a night of rondalla music and a game of Asia Pacific Region trivia. The highlight of the program was the Sinulog Festival dance by the Maharlika Dance Group provided by the Philippine Tourism Promotions Board.



Opening Ceremony

**Congress officially opened on November 15, 2024**

The Congress officially opened on November 15, 2024 at the Pacific Grand Ballroom of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. With the theme, "Mabuhay" which is a traditional Filipino welcome greeting, the delegates were welcomed by Dr. Joselyn Eusebio, Dr. Cesar Ong, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Memon and Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail. For the first time, the APPA flag was hoisted alongside the Philippine and the Philippine Pediatric Society flags. The APPA 50 year history was featured in a video produced by the 18<sup>th</sup> APCP Organizing Committee. The delegates were treated to a vibrant dance by Lapu Lapu City's Arnis de Abanico, which featured the Filipino national martial arts, Eskrima Kali Arnis.

The Congress was attended by a total of 1900 registrants, 1772 were local delegates from all over the Philippines and 128 were foreign delegates from 26 countries. The Congress featured 8 regular pre-congress sessions and the Vaccinology Masterclass conducted by the Immunization Partners in Asia Pacific (IPAP).

The pre-congress and Vaccinology Masterclass featured 24 local speakers and 20 foreign speakers and was held at the Marco Polo Plaza Cebu. The Main Congress held at the



Pre-Congress and Main Congress Sessions and Poster Presentations

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Waterfront Cebu City Hotel featured 10 plenary lectures and 44 lectures from the 12 simultaneous sessions. The different pediatric subspecialties were featured by 18 foreign and 36 local experts.

The Congress also showcased the wealth of pediatric researches with 33 oral presentations and 140 poster presentations from researchers from the Philippines and different member countries. The scientific program was well commended by the delegates. One of the Congress' main

highlights was the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting of National Delegates of APPA, held on November 15 and 16, 2024.

Celebrating the rich culture and camaraderie among member nations, the Gala Dinner with the theme "Magkaisa" capped the Congress on November 16, 2024. The theme "Magkaisa" which is a Filipino word that means "to come together or to be united" set the mood for the night. The parade of colors at the start of the evening introduced the different countries in attendance that night.



44<sup>th</sup> APPA Council Meeting



Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Awardees during the Gala Dinner

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Dressed in their beautiful national costumes, the delegates marched proudly waving their national flag. The most important part of the program was awarding the 2024 Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Award (OAPA) to 18 pediatric experts and luminaries from the region.

The turnover ceremony was also held that night. Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Memon passed on the APPA Presidency to Dr. Joselyn Eusebio. The hosting of the next APCP was passed on to Prof. Dr. Asiri Abeygunawardena, Chairperson of APCP 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and APPA President Elect. The night was also filled with laughter and enjoyment with the program featuring the Hinablón sa Cebu fashion show, the Filipino parlor games of “calamansi relay” and “going to the market” and the cultural dance by the Maharlika Dance Group. Both foreign and local delegates had fun in the parlor games and in trying out the Filipino dance, the “Tinikling”.

With the theme, “Pasasalamat” or thanksgiving, the Congress ended with its closing ceremony on November 17, 2024 after the last plenary session. The pending typhoon in the eastern and northern parts of the Philippines did not deter the delegates who filled up the Pacific Grand Ballroom for the last plenary sessions. Dr. Joselyn Eusebio thanked all the speakers, the delegates, the sponsors and the Organizing Committee for all the support and hard work that made the 18<sup>th</sup> APCP a very successful event. Prof. Dr. V. Pujitha Wickramasinghe, the President-Elect of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians



Cultural Dance by the Maharlika Dance Group

ended the ceremony with an invitation to the APCP 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

All in all, the 18<sup>th</sup> APCP was a resounding success credited to the hard work and collaborative efforts of the Organizing Committee, the APPA Secretariat and officers and the Philippine Pediatric Society advisers, officers, administrative staff and members.

For this, the Organizing Committee headed by Dr. Joselyn Eusebio is truly grateful. The Congress indeed was a fitting celebration of the 50 years of achievement and collaborative partnerships of the distinguished members of the APPA!

**- By Jacqueline Navarro, MD, FPPS, FPSDBP  
Congress Secretary, 18<sup>th</sup> APCP**



Group photo after the Closing Ceremony



# NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024-2026

## HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Dr. Chok-wan Chan (*Hong Kong*)  
Dr. Mohd Sham Kasim (*Malaysia*)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### President, APPA

Dr. Joselyn Eusebio (*Philippines*)

### Immediate Past President, APPA

Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Memon (*Pakistan*)

### Secretary General, APPA

Dr. Zulkifli Ismail (*Malaysia*)

### President-Elect, APPA

Dr. Asiri Abeyagunawardena (*Sri Lanka*)

### Treasurer, APPA

Dr. Selva Kumar Sivapunniam (*Malaysia*)

## APPA STANDING COMMITTEE

### Oceania Region

Dr. Niroshini Kennedy (*Australia*)

### East Asia Region

Dr. Mike Kwan Yat Wah (*Hong Kong*)

Dr. Sun Kun (*China*)

### South East Asia Region

Dr. Alvin Chang (*Singapore*)

Dr. Vitharon Boon-yasidhi (*Thailand*)

### South Asia Region

Dr. Pujitha Wickramasinghe (*Sri Lanka*)

Dr. G V Basavaraja (*India*)

### APPA e-Journal

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Sultan (*Pakistan*)

(Co-Opted member as Editor-In-Chief of APPA e-Journal -  
*Asia Pacific Journal of Pediatrics and Child Health (APJPCH)*)

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Fairos Nazri (*Malaysia*)

## ACCOUNT ADMINISTRATOR

Che Surina Sulaiman (*Malaysia*)

### Thailand to Host the 20<sup>th</sup> APCP in 2028

Thailand has won the bid to host the 20<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) in 2028.

Voting was carried out during the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting of National Delegates of APPA held on November 16, 2024 at the Coral Function Room, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu in Philippines.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) that was held from November 14-17, 2024.

Note: The 19<sup>th</sup> APCP will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from July 26-28, 2026. The poster of the Congress is at the back page of the Bulletin.

### Congratulations to Thailand!

### APPA Newest Members

APPA welcomes its two newest members:

- **The Lao Pediatric Association (LPA)** is our newest member to join APPA. The LPA Board meeting has decided to accept the invitation to join APPA on September 11, 2024.
- **The Brunei Paediatric Society** is awaiting approval from the Registrar of Societies.

The decision to accept both the BPS and LPA as APPA members was carried out during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting of National Delegates of APPA that was held on November 15, 2024 at the Coral Function Room, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu in Philippines.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) that was held from November 14-17, 2024.



# Recipients of The Outstanding Asian Paediatrician Award (OAPA) 2024

(in Country Alphabetical Order)

**Eighteen recipients received the Outstanding Asian Paediatrician Award (OAPA) 2024 on November 16, 2024 in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) & 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatric Nursing (APCPN), that was held at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel in Cebu City, Philippines from November 14-17, 2024.**



**Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain  
(Bangladesh)**

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain received his professional training as Post Graduate Student & Trainee in Paediatric at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow and clinical attachment under Dr. E N. Cleman (Paediatric Cardiologist) and Dr. K. M. Goel (Paediatric Rheumatologist) from July 1, 1983 till February 28, 1986.

He is currently President of the Bangladesh Society of Paediatric Infectious Diseases (BSPID), Standing Committee member for the Asian Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ASPID), International Society of Tropical Pediatrics (ISTP) and South Asia Pediatric Association (SAPA). Prof. Dr. Manzoor was formerly APPA Standing Committee member for 2022-2024.



**Prof. Dr. Sun Kun  
(China)**

Prof. Dr. Sun Kun is the current Vice Chair of the Pediatric Society of the Chinese Medical Association (CMA), Standing Committee Member of APPA and President, Xinhua Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, China.

He has made significant and concrete contributions to the compilation of pediatric medical textbooks, the promotion of science literacy and protection of community health in China.



**Prof. Dr. Chi-Kong Li**  
(Hong Kong)

Prof. Dr. Chi-Kong Li graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1981. He completed general paediatric training in Hong Kong and then specialised in paediatric Haematology/Oncology/BMT with further training at John Radcliff Hospital, Oxford, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London in 1986 and Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, USA in 1992.

Prof. Dr. Li is the founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Society of Children's Palliative Care in 2017 and is among others, Research Professor, Department of Pediatrics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Deputy Director (External), Hong Kong Hub of Paediatric Excellence in CUHK, Executive Council Member of the Asian Pediatric Haematology Oncology Group (since 2018) and member of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) Essential Medicine Group, aiming at helping children in low middle income countries.



**Dr. Lilian, Hiu Lei Wong**  
(Hong Kong)

Dr. Lilian Wong graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in 1994 and attained further trainings in Adolescent Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) of US in 2002, Diploma in Practical Dermatology at the Cardiff University in Wales in 2007 and Master of Public Health at CUHK in 2008.

Dr. Wong was President of the Hong Kong Paediatric Society (2014-2016) and Secretary General of the Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation. She was appointed as Member of the Commission on Children by the HKSAR Government in 2018 and has just finished her six-year term in May 2024. She was also formerly APPA Standing Committee member for 2022-2024.

Dr. Wong is actively involved in child advocacy work and global child health and composing a number of Position Statements on ad hoc child health crisis and issues on children's rights.



**Prof. Dr. G V Basavaraja**  
(India)

Prof. Dr. G V Basavaraja is the current President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) as of November 2024, and Professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health in Bengaluru, India.

Throughout his tenure, he has exemplified excellence and leadership, significantly advancing paediatric health care across Asia.

Prof. Dr. Basavaraja has made significant contributions to paediatric research and his unwavering dedication to paediatric health, combined with his contributions to research, education and advocacy, continues to make a profound impact in the field of pediatrics.



**Dr. Nina Dwi Putri Asrol**  
(Indonesia)

Dr. Nina Dwi Putri Asrol is a lecturer at the Division of Infectious and Tropical Disease, Universitas Indonesia and also Head, Antimicrobial Stewardship Department of Pediatric, Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia. She is also Field coordinator of Pediatric Infectious Disease Clinical Research Unit, University of Indonesia.

Her Research Projects include: Neonatal Sepsis in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Project, Meningococcal and H. influenza carriage, Immunopathogenesis and immune cell profiling in Covid-19 associated MIS-C patients.

Dr. Nina Dwi Putri has published numerous articles in local and international journals and is the Editorial board member of BMC infectious diseases, Reviewer of British Medical Journal and Reviewer of Lancet Asia Pacific region.





**Dr. Takashi Igarashi**  
*(Japan)*

Dr. Takashi Igarashi obtained his Ph.D in Pediatric Nephrology from the University of Tokyo in 1989. He was Chairman and Professor of Pediatrics in the University of Tokyo in 2000 and Vice President from 2003-2012.

He is currently President, National Center for Child Health and Development in Tokyo and also Honorable member of the Pediatric Academic Society since 2006.

Dr. Igarashi's research findings have introduced innovative approaches to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of pediatric illnesses exerting a profound influence on healthcare systems across Asia.



**Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yazid Bin Jalaludin**  
*(Malaysia)*

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yazid Bin Jalaludin is the Deputy Dean (Undergraduate Studies) at the Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur and also Senior Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist and Senior Consultant Paediatrician at the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC).

He is also currently the Chairman of the Malaysian Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes Group (MPEDG), Vice President, Malaysian Endocrine and Metabolic Society (MEMS 2022-2024) and Executive Council member of the Diabetes Malaysia (2023-2025).

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yazid work has been published in various academic journals including the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM).



**Prof. Dr. Pe Thet Khin**  
*(Myanmar)*

Prof. Dr. Pe Thet Khin who is the Patron of the Myanmar Pediatric Society, obtained his MMedSc (Paediatrics) from the University of Medicine (1), Yangon in 1992, MRCP (UK) from the Royal College of Physicians (London) in 1996 and MRCPCH (UK).

He was former Union Minister for Health of Myanmar from 2011 till 2014 and then served as an Advisor to the President's Office until 2016. In that capacity, he also served as a member on the Executive Board of the WHO from 2011 to 2014 and as an alternate member of the GAVI Board from 2012-2014, among others.

Prof. Dr. Khin is currently Chair of the Research and Ethics Committee of the University of Medicine (1) Yangon, the University of Medicine, Mandalay and the University of Medicine, Taunggyi respectively.



**Prof. Dr. RP Bichha**  
*(Nepal)*

Prof. Dr. RP Bichha is Professor of Pediatric with considerable experience in academy, health systems, leadership and governance, providing strategic directions to health systems reform and health care delivery in Nepal.

He was formerly Director General of the Department of Health Services in the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Government of Nepal and has also held various important positions such as Director, Family Health Division, Department of Health Services, MoHP, Principal Advisor, International Vaccine Institute, Nepal (August 2019 - July 2023) and Director, SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (August 2018 - July 2019).

Currently, he is Visiting Professor, National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), Nepal, Professor in Paediatrics and Senate Member at National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), Bir Hospital, Nepal.



**Prof. Dr. Tufail Muhammad Khan**  
(Pakistan)

Prof. Dr. Tufail Muhammad Khan has more than 34 years-experience in Clinical rights and protection, public health, medical and community-based research, teaching and training, Board of Governance and management.

He is currently APPA Technical Advisory Group Chair of Child Rights, Environment & Child Health, Member Executive Board and Past President, International Society of Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) since September 2018 and Vice President of the Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA).

Prof. Dr. Tufail Muhammad has more than 70 original Research papers and reports on child health, child abuse and neglect and reproductive health published in international and national accredited journals.



**Prof. Dr. Trevor David Duke**  
(Australia/Papua New Guinea)

Prof. Dr. Trevor David Duke is a Professor of Child Health at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Papua New Guinea. He is also Professor in the Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne and Head of General ICU at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, respectively.

He is a Member of the Strategic Technical Advisory Group of Experts, advising WHO on child health policy and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Child and Neonatal Health at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Each year, Prof. Dr. Duke will produce a compendium of all randomized trials in child health in developing countries, now in the 21<sup>st</sup> edition. This is distributed free to over 2000 health workers, academics, WHO and UNICEF throughout the world.



**Dr. Socorro De Leon-Mendoza**  
(Philippines)

Dr. Socorro De Leon Mendoza is the Active Consultant Pediatrics/Neonatology at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and is also the Visiting Consultant at the Medical Center Manila.

She is a Member of the Care of Preterm of Low-Birth Weight Infants Group at the World Health Organization (WHO), Steering Committee Member of the International Network on Kangaroo Mother Care (INK) and Chairman & President, Kangaroo Mother Care Foundation, Philippines Inc.

Among the academic honors and awards that Dr. Leon-Mendoza received was The Most Outstanding Pediatrician of the Year 2020, Most Outstanding Alumni Award 2021 and Most Outstanding Physician for Contribution to Modern Medicine in 2019.



**Clin. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Kee Chong**  
(Singapore)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Kee Chong graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, National University of Singapore in 1989. He pursued specialty training in Paediatrics and joined KK Women's and Children Hospital (KKH) in 1997.

He was Chair of the Emergency at KKH from 2005-2016, setting up KKH's mass casualty response plans for both civil and Hazmat emergencies and also led the hospital's disaster responses including the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.

Dr. Ng is currently Chief Executive Officer, Changi General Hospital, Deputy Group Chairman, Medical Board (Disease Outbreak & Preparedness) and SingHealth as well as Vice-President of the Ministry of Health (MoH) Singapore Resuscitation & First Aid Council (SRFAC).



**Prof. Dr. Ji-Hong Kim**  
*(South Korea)*

Prof. Dr. Ji-Hong Kim was Executive Director of the Korean Pediatric Society (tenure ended on November 2024).

He is also Professor of Pediatric Nephrology, Department of Pediatrics, Gangnam Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea.

As a clinician and researcher, he has published more than 100 scientific articles in various international journals and book chapters.



**Prof. Dr. Pujitha Wickramasinghe**  
*(Sri Lanka)*

Prof. Dr. Pujitha Wickramasinghe is President-Elect of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP) and currently Senior Professor in Paediatrics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

He has been on numerous WHO Technical Consultation such on hospital nutrition practices in South-East Asia (SEA-NUT-179), WHO-UNICEF toolkit for policy-makers to implement the WHO recommendations on food and non-alcoholic beverages in children and is a member of TEAM, a WHO-UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory group on nutrition Monitoring.

Prof. Dr. Pujitha who has made significant contributions to the field of paediatrics in Sri Lanka and Asia Pacific region, received 39 awards for excellence in research/recognition of services.



**Prof. Dr. Yuh-Jyh Jong**  
*(Taiwan)*

Prof. Dr. Yuh-Jyh Jong is a pioneer in pediatric neuromuscular diseases (NMD) in Taiwan and played a crucial role as part of a collaborative team in developing the world's first spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) mouse model with Dr. Hung Li and colleagues at Academia Sinica (Nature Genet 2000).

Between 1985 and 1986, he specialized in neuromuscular diseases (NMD) at the Tokyo Women's Medical University in Japan, where he earned his D.M.Sci, degree in 1993.

Prof. Dr. Jong is actively exploring the application of precision medicine in SMA clinical settings, with a focus on newborn screening, biomarkers, smart devices and innovative treatment and care strategies to improve outcomes and quality of life for SMA patients.



**Prof. Emeritus Dr. Ladda Mo-suwan**  
*(Thailand)*

Prof. Emeritus Dr. Ladda Mo-suwan is a pioneer in childhood obesity research in Thailand. She graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital Mahidol University, Thailand and a Master's Degree in Human Nutrition from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, England.

She then received the certified Thai Board of Pediatrics and Sub-board of Pediatric Nutrition from Thai Medical Council.

Currently, she is Adjunct Faculty of Department of Pediatrics Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand and a member of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions.



8<sup>th</sup> APCPN

# 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatric Nursing Organised by The Asia Pacific Paediatric Nurses Association and hosted by Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu, Philippines  
November 16 & 17, 2024

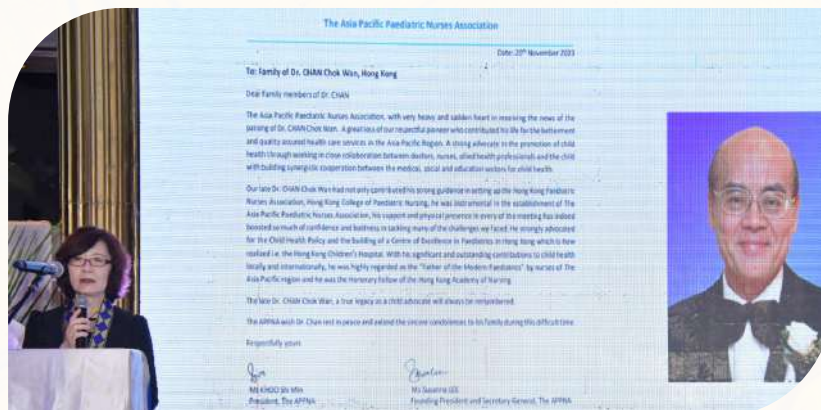


*Guest of Honour and Honourable Guests officiated the Opening Ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> APCPN*

The 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatric Nursing (APCPN) in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Paediatrics (APCP) was held on 16 and 17 November 2024 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu, Philippines. The 8<sup>th</sup> APCPN was organized by The Asia Pacific Paediatric Nurses Association (The APPNA) and hosted by the Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines (MCNAP).

We were privileged to have Hon. Raymond Alvin N. Garcia, City Mayor of Cebu, Philippines as our Guest of Honor to officiate the Opening Ceremony and deliver the welcome

address. We were most honored to have invited Hon. Ma. Esperanza Christina Frasco, Secretary of Tourism, Philippines; Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Memon, President, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA); Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, Secretary General, APPA; Dr. Joselyn Eusebio, President Elect, APPA, Chairman, Organizing Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> APCP as our Honorable Guests to kick off the Congress with ribbon cutting. Before the Opening Ceremony, a memorial service by APPNA members to pray for the loss of late Dr. Chan Chok Wan, our respectful and beloved honorary adviser and pioneer for child health was solemnly held. We, APPNA shall forever miss him.



*Memorial Services for respectful and beloved late Dr. Chan Chok Wan*

*continued on page 13 ...*



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The theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> APCPN is "Redesigning the Horizon of Paediatric Nursing in the Asia Pacific". This was the first physical AP Triennial Congress post pandemic. Everyone was so excited and happy to meet each other in person. The congress provided opportunities for all to reconnect friendships and more importantly, to address both current and emerging challenges in child health together and share the contemporary initiatives and best practice across diverse communities. The congress was attended by more than 200 delegates from Australia, China, Hong Kong SAR China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. A total of 21 speakers were invited from different countries/regions to deliver talks on a wide range of topics in child health such as genetic and genomics services, digital health, clinical nursing practices on various sub-specialties and nursing research. The first day was ended by the gala dinner, with a live-band singing and dancing, we all had an enjoyable time.

On the second day, besides plenary talks, the round table discussion on the topic "Redesigning the Horizon of Paediatric Nursing in the Asia Pacific", providing a stage for collaborative discussions and innovative solutions. Concurrent sessions for oral and poster presentations from selected abstracts were held. Awardees were proud of winning the Outstanding Oral and Poster Presentation Awards. The Congress ended with the Presidency handover ceremony and closing remarks. To have the 8<sup>th</sup> APCPN successfully held, we would like to thank the Organizing Committee and MCNAP Chapters for their dedicated hard work to realize the Congress. Last but not least, the unfailing support from the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA).

- Article written by Dr. Susanna Lee, Secretary General on behalf of Ms. Khoo Shi Min, President, The APPNA



Round table discussion by country representative



Overseas delegates



APNNA CD & MCNAP Chapters



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

# CONGRATULATIONS!



*Congratulations to Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) Committee Member and Asia Pacific Paediatric Association (APPA) Secretary General, for being conferred the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) Lifetime Achievement Award 2024, in conjunction with the 45<sup>th</sup> MPA Annual Congress held from September 26-28, 2024 in Kuala Lumpur.*



## INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC EVENTS

### NOTE:

These paediatric events are for Information purposes and does not constitute endorsements from APPA Secretariat.

## 2025

### INDIA

**62<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of Indian Academy of Pediatrics (PEDICON)**  
**Theme:** Equity in health care - Right of every child'  
**Date:** January 8-12, 2025  
**Venue:** HICC & HITEK, Hyderabad, Telangana, India  
**Website:** <https://pedicon2025.com/>  
**Conference Secretariat:** [secretariat.pedicon2025@gmail.com](mailto:secretariat.pedicon2025@gmail.com)

### MEXICO

**IPA Congress 2025**  
**Theme:** Bridging Borders for Child Health  
Facing Challenges & Global Solutions  
**Date:** May 8-11, 2025  
**Pre-Conference Workshops:** May 8, 2025  
**Conference Dates:** May 9-11, 2025  
**Venue:** Banamex Convention Centre, Mexico City, Mexico  
**Website:** [www.ipacongress.org](http://www.ipacongress.org)

### INDONESIA

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Indonesian PICU NICU Update, 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Pediatric Intensive Care Congress (APICC)**  
**Theme:** Pediatric Acute Critical Illness: From Pre-ICU to High Quality Intensive Care  
**Date:** May 8-11, 2025  
**Venue:** Grand Hyatt Bali, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia  
**Website:** <http://apiccbali2025.com>

### MALAYSIA

**The 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Vaccine Conference (ASVAC) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Pediatric Ethics Conference in conjunction with the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Malaysian Paediatric Association**  
**Hosted by:** The Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA)  
**Date:** October 9-11, 2025  
**Venue:** Setia SPICE Convention Centre, Penang, Malaysia  
**Enquiry Email:** [secretariat@mpa2025.org](mailto:secretariat@mpa2025.org)

**Asia Pacific Academy of Pediatric Allergy, Respiriology, and Immunology (APAPARI) conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Indonesian Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology (IPACI)**

**Theme:** From Global Challenges to Regional Perspective: Towards Better Care for Pediatric Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology  
**Date:** November 20-23, 2025  
**Venue:** Bali International Convention Center, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia

## 2026

### SRI LANKA

**The 19<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) 2026**  
**Date:** July 26-28, 2026  
**Venue:** Sri Lanka, Colombo  
**Website:** [apcp2026.com](http://apcp2026.com)



# APPA Webinar on: “Vitamin D Supplementation: Is There a Need for It In Asia?”

Sunday, October 6, 2024

**Webinar on**  
**VITAMIN D SUPPLEMENTATION:**  
**Is There A Need For It In Asia?**

6th October, 2024 (Sunday)  
02:00 PM Islamabad, Karachi, Tashkent (GMT+5)  
05.00 PM Malaysia/Singapore/Philippines (GMT+8)

Engage @ ZOOM webinar  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88037681815?pwd=ocVPf-MoiE7rz9afFqwOJbhK9fnVka7.1>  
Passcode : 194939

**Programme & Speakers**

**Welcome address**  
by Prof Iqbal Memon,  
President,  
Asia Pacific Pediatric Association

**Topic 1**  
**Physiology of Vitamin D Metabolism**  
by Prof Muhammad Yazid Jalaludin

**Topic 2**  
**Vitamin D Levels Among Asian Children**  
by Prof Dr Poh Bee Koon

**Topic 3**  
**The Argument for Vitamin D Supplementation: The South Asian Perspective**  
by Prof Dr Mansina Noor Ibrahim

**Topic 4**  
**Vitamin D Fortification & Supplementation**  
by Dr Nor Anni Jamil @ A.Wahab

**Q&A Session & Discussion**

**Closing remarks**  
by Prof Dr Zulkifli Ismail  
Secretary-General,  
Asia Pacific Pediatric Association

The aim of this webinar was to explore the need for Vitamin D supplementation in Asia specifically as the critical health issue of Vitamin D deficiency is rapidly increasing. Western countries like the UK have been recommending Vitamin D supplementation to all infants.

The webinar explored the case and discuss this pertinent issue, based on available data and research on Vitamin D deficiency and examining the best practice from various countries - to ensure a progressive improvement in nutrition, and giving our children the best start in life!

Resulting from this webinar, APPA will come up with guidelines on Vitamin D Supplementation, led by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yazid Jalaludin.

## APPA Webinar on Early Childhood Development (ECD): Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia Pacific Region, September 14, 2024

This Webinar explored the basic tenets of ECD but with specific focus on the socio-cultural context of child development and rearing especially with regards to the role of parents and other caregivers and the society. It also explore what could be the key areas of intervention that would be specially a boon for our communities- to ensure a progressive improvement in good health, nutrition, safety and security, responsive caregiving and early learning opportunities.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION**

**Prof. Dr Teck-Hock Toh**  
Malaysia  
SPEAKER: Impact of Nurturing care in ECD

**Prof Shazia Maqbool**  
Pakistan  
SPEAKER: ECD and Neurodevelopment

**Dr. Samir Hasan Dalwai**  
India  
Moderator

**Prof. Iqbal Memon**  
Pakistan  
President APPA

14 Sep, 2024  
15:00 (GMT +5)

Webinar ID: 845 1012 1747  
Passcode: 788888

ISI

# Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association organized a webinar on "The Burden & Prevention of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Children" on November 10, 2024 (Fig.1).



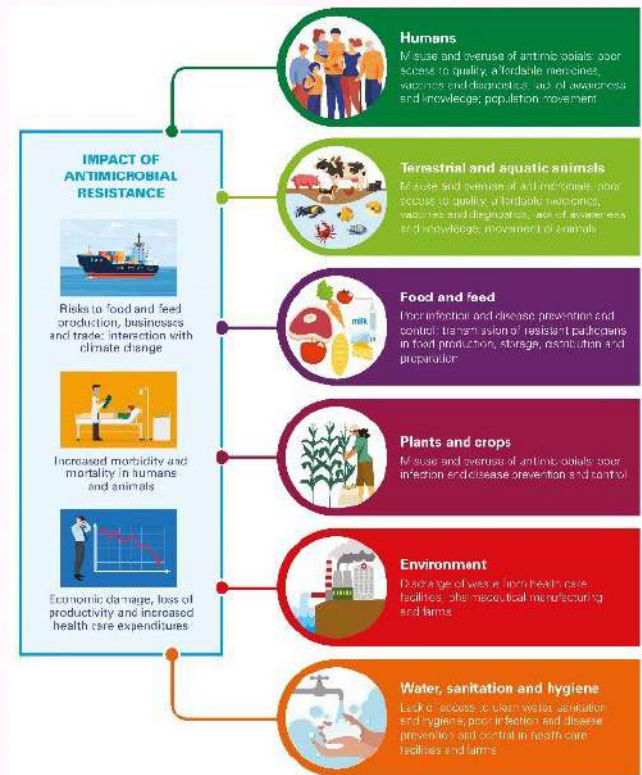
Figure 1

AMR is a major problem in the Asia Pacific region, and studies predict that by 2050, the highest mortality rates from AMR-related infections will be in South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.<sup>1,2</sup>

The key points from the webinar are as follows: Antimicrobials include antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a natural process that occurs when microorganisms undergo genetic changes.

The emergence and spread of AMR are rapidly accelerated by human activities, particularly the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials for treating, preventing, or controlling infections in humans, animals and plants.

**Globally, AMR is a leading cause of mortality in children**  
 Globally, AMR is a leading cause of mortality in children and impacts animal and plant health by reducing agricultural productivity. It threatens food security, leads to high costs for public health systems, and affects national economies (Fig.2). This problem impacts all countries, regardless of income level. The Asia Pacific region is at a critical juncture in combating AMR due to rising drug-resistant infections, posing a serious threat to public health and economic stability. Regional collaboration and commitment are crucial to addressing this issue effectively.<sup>3</sup>



## THE URGENT THREAT OF AMR

UNICEF. A UNICEF Guidance Note on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). [Cited 2024 Oct 28]. Available from: <https://www.unicef.org/documents/amr-urgent-threat-drug-resistant-infections>

Figure 2

Recognizing AMR as a major threat, global organizations have implemented specific prevention measures, including: In 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) listed AMR as one of the top 10 global public health threats and promotes the "One Health" approach by integrating human health, animal health, and environmental health to enhance AMR surveillance, prevention, and management. It encourages the inclusion of AMR in national development plans and strengthens intersectoral cooperation.<sup>4</sup>

UNICEF has addressed the increasing threat of AMR, particularly its long-term impact on child health, such as higher morbidity and mortality rates, developmental challenges, and obstacles to education. Through its programs, UNICEF collaborates with governments and other stakeholders to combat AMR.<sup>5</sup>

### Asia Pacific countries discussed AMR in the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland

In May 2024, health ministers and representatives from Asia Pacific countries convened at the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss AMR in the region's healthcare sector. A joint statement was prepared and

continued on page 17 ...



... continued from page 16

presented at the UN High-Level Meeting on AMR in September 2024.<sup>6</sup>

The Asia-Pacific Economic Communities (APEC) developed a strategic action plan to control and prevent AMR, focusing on six key components:

1. Establishing national surveillance systems for AMR and antibiotic usage to monitor resistance patterns effectively.
2. Raising awareness among the public and healthcare professionals about appropriate antibiotic use.
3. Promoting the responsible use of antibiotics in healthcare and agriculture to reduce resistance development.

4. Implementing strict infection prevention measures in hospitals to prevent the spread of AMR.
5. Strengthening vaccination programs to reduce infections requiring antibiotics.
6. Encouraging governments to prioritize AMR control through national health policies and regulations.<sup>7</sup>

Raising awareness of AMR among children can begin with teaching them about germs, proper handwashing, and completing vaccinations (Fig.3). The World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW), initiated by WHO in 2015, is observed annually from November 18-24 to enhance public understanding and promote good practices (Fig.4).



Figure 3

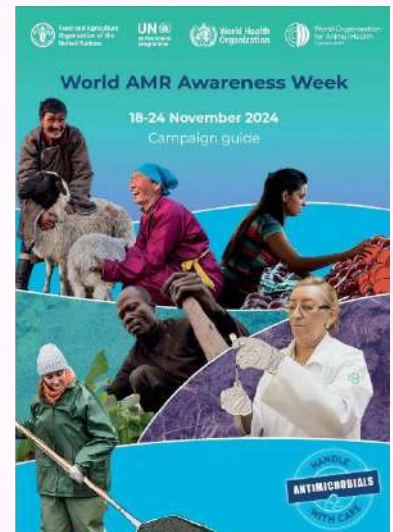


Figure 4

In summary, The Asia Pacific region faces immense challenges from AMR, necessitating urgent actions and multi-sectoral coordination involving governments, healthcare providers, and communities. Key measures include surveillance, public awareness campaigns, controlling antibiotic use, promoting vaccination, fostering collaboration, and investing in research to prevent and manage AMR effectively.

**References**

Thisyakorn U. (2024, November 10). Burden and Prevention of AMR in Children from APPA region [Webinar]. Asia Pacific Pediatric Association. <https://www.asianpids.org>

GBD 2021 Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators. Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance 1990-2021: a systematic analysis with forecasts to 2050. *Lancet* 2024;404:1199-1226.

WHO. Asia-Pacific countries sound the alarm and commit to tackling antimicrobial resistance. [Cited 2024 Oct 28]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/28-05-2024-asia-pacific-countries-sound-the-alarm-and-commit-to-tackling-antimicrobial-resistance>

WHO. One Health theory of change. [Cited 2024 Oct 30]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/one-health-theory-of-change>

UNICEF. A UNICEF Guidance Note on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). [Cited 2024 Oct 28]. Available from: <https://www.unicef.org/documents/amr-urgent-threat-drug-resistant-infections>

WHO. AMR in the human health sector in the Asia-Pacific region: a joint position paper for the United Nations High-Level Meeting on AMR in September 2024. [Cited 2024 Oct 31]. Available from: [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/wpro---documents/health-topics/amr/final-draft-amr-joint-position-paper-for-asia-pacific.pdf?sfvrsn=489c90fa\\_4](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/wpro---documents/health-topics/amr/final-draft-amr-joint-position-paper-for-asia-pacific.pdf?sfvrsn=489c90fa_4)

Asia Pacific Foundation for Infectious Diseases (APFID). APEC Guideline to Tackle Antimicrobial Resistance in the Asia-Pacific Region. [cited 2024 Oct 24]. Available from: <https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2014/11/apec-guideline-to-tackle-antimicrobial-resistance-in-the-asia-pacific-region/apec-guideline-to-tackle-amr-in-the-ap-region.pdf>

- Prepared by Prof. Emeritus Usa Thisyakorn  
Executive Director, Tropical Medicine Cluster,  
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

# 12<sup>th</sup> SiPPAC 2024

The 12<sup>th</sup> SiPPAC 2024 (Singapore Paediatric and Perinatal Annual Congress) was organised by the College of Paediatrics and Child Health Singapore between November 7-9, 2024. The congress was supported by the Singapore Paediatric Society (SPS) and the Perinatal Society of Singapore.

The theme **“Navigating Paediatric Care in an Uncertain World”** reflects the challenges this generation of children must contend with- the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the threat of climate crisis, the double-edged sword of rapid advancements in technology and increasing prevalence of mental and metabolic health issues. The congress was well attended with more than 300 delegates from Southeast Asia and rest of the world.

In addition to exciting plenary sessions, symposiums and poster sessions, there was a Young Doctors’ Forum to engage our next generation of budding paediatricians.

### Pre-Congress Workshops

The Congress started off with pre congress workshops:

- Point of Care Ultrasound Course
- SiPPAC Paediatrics Ethics Colloquium
- The two workshop topics highlighted the importance of POCUS and Ethical dilemmas in today’s world of clinical practice. The two workshops were attended by local and international delegates and were fully subscribed.

**Day 1** of the Main Congress started off with the plenary session ‘Avoiding unnecessary conflicts’ by Prof. Dr. Dominic Wilkinson from the Oxford Uehiro centre for Practical Ethics. This was followed by symposiums on varying topics of relevance to clinical practice in this day and age. This includes Law and paediatric practice, technology and innovation, mental health and the ethics interprofessional symposium.

Concurrent symposiums on Best Nursing practices, Neonatology and Palliative care were held on day 1.



**Day 2** kicked off with the prestigious Stuart Gan Lecture organised by the Singapore Paediatric Society (SPS) chaired by Dr. Liew Woei Kang, Immunologist and Paediatrician from Singapore.



**Prof. Dr. Tomohiro Morio**, Paediatric Immunologist from the prestigious Institute of Science, Tokyo was the invited speaker for the Stuart Gan Lecture this year. His talk on “What Clinicians can learn from Inborn Errors of Immunity” was very well received and relevant to practising Paediatricians.

This was followed by a symposium on Hyperinflammatory syndromes and a plenary session on sustainable medicine “Net Zero Health System” By Prof. Dr. Nick Watts from NUS centre of Sustainable Medicine. Concurrent sessions on sports medicine in Paediatrics, Young doctor’s forum, Genetics and Urological disorders were held.

Sessions on Hot Topics and Practical Paediatrics were useful for clinicians practising in the public sector and the private practice.

The Congress ended with the 17<sup>th</sup> College of Paediatrics lecture and dinner in the evening.

Prof. Dr. Quek Swee Chye, Head and Senior Consultant, Paediatric Cardiology, Khoo Teck Puat - National University Children’s medical institute, National University Hospital, Singapore delivered the College lecture on **“Emerging trends in the practice of Paediatric Cardiology”**.

The congress ended with the College dinner and Awards Ceremony for the young investigators and winners of the oral papers and poster presentations held earlier in the day.

Overall, the 12<sup>th</sup> SiPPAC 2024 drew appreciation from all quarters for choosing a theme relevant to today’s world of paediatric practice.

**- Dr. Sridhar Arunachalam**  
**Honorary Secretary,**  
**Singapore Paediatric Society**



ACPID 2024

# The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Congress of Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ACPID 2024)



ACPID 2024 opening ceremony

The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Congress of Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ACPID 2024) and Exhibition was held at the Henry Cheng International Conference Centre in Hong Kong from December 13-15, 2024. It was organised by the Hong Kong Society for Paediatric Immunology Allergy and Infectious Diseases (HKSPIAID).



Prof. Dr. Iqbal Memon, APPA Immediate-Past President



Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, APPA Secretary General



APPA President, Dr. Joselyn Eusebio delivering her talk



IPAC 2025



THEME

**BRIDGING BORDERS FOR CHILD HEALTH**  
FACING CHALLENGES & GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

**MAY | 8<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> | 2025**

Pre Conference Workshops : 8th May 2025  
Conference Dates : 9th - 11th May 2025

[www.ipacongress.org](http://www.ipacongress.org)

Banamex Convention Centre, **Mexico City**



**APCP 2026**  
**26 - 28 July**  
 Colombo, Sri Lanka



*Ayubowan*



Ayubowan! Sri Lanka – the Pearl of the Indian Ocean will host APCP 2026. This is a warm and cordial invitation to all dignitaries gathered here today to save the date to be part of this event.

We assure you a comprehensive scientific discourse that would cover the length and breadth of Paediatrics with focus on current and impending global and regional health issues. That's not all; visit Sri Lanka, to experience the warm hospitality, delectable cuisine, the diverse culture and the stunning landscapes. You, will certainly be enthralled by the pristine beaches, the exotic wildlife, the cascading waterfalls and the UNESCO heritage sites all which are reachable within a few hours.

Colombo awaits to welcome you at APCP 2026 from 26–28<sup>th</sup> July 2026, to share an unforgettable scientific and social experience which you will cherish in the years to come.



**19<sup>th</sup> ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS OF PAEDIATRICS 2026**  
 COLOMBO | SRI LANKA



[www.APCP2026.com](http://www.APCP2026.com)

