



BREAKING NEWS

Tragedies of Myanmar's Cyclone Nargis and The Killer Earthquake in Sichuan Province, Southwest China

On May 3, 2008, the killer Nargis cyclone had hit Myanmar. An estimated 2.4 million people were made destitute by the cyclone and sea surge had left nearly 134,000 people dead or missing.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative in Myanmar, Ramesh Shrestha, said the agency believes the number of children left without guardians is more than 600 and could rise.

And on May 12, 2008, a devastating earthquake hit the southwestern province of Sichuan in China. Some five million people were left homeless by the killer earthquake.

More than 70,000 people have died in the tragedy while 32,000 were missing or buried under the rubble. About 247,000 people suffered physical injuries due to the earthquake.



Two boys trapped under the rubble after the devastating earthquake in Sichuan province.



Children were also victims of the Nargis cyclone.

STATEMENT FROM APPA AFFILIATES IN MYANMAR AND CHINA

President of the Myanmar Paediatric Society, Prof. Aye Maung Han, May 29, 2008:

Dear Fellow Paediatricians, "We would like to thank all the Paediatricians from the National Paediatric Societies all over the world who had shown their deepest sorrow and compassion for victims of cyclone hit areas in Myanmar and earthquake areas in China. We have been doing our best with all the resources we have since early May, to help save lives of children and their families in these areas. We have much support from the local authorities as well as international NGOs here. Your support and encouragement has made our commitment stronger and I'm sure we will be able to do more with all your cooperation. Apologies

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CONDOLENCES

The Asian Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) Secretariat office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, extends its deepest condolences to the victims and families affected by the killer Nargis cyclone that hit Myanmar on May 3, 2008 and the devastating earthquake that hit the southwestern province of Sichuan, China on May 12, 2008.

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President of the Chinese Pediatric Society, Prof. Gui Yonghao on May 14, 2008:

Dear colleagues, "Thank you so much for your message and your concern and support towards the people affected by the recent disastrous earthquake in China. Your message has left us feeling heart warming. We will forward your message to the paediatricians working in the affected area. We send our sympathy and condolences to those who had lost their lives and loved ones. I believe with the Government's leadership and peoples' support around the world, we will finally overcome this tragedy and rebuild strong community and normal life soon. Thank you again."



A young boy is given emergency medical attention after the devastating earthquake in Sichuan.

CONDOLENCES FROM APPA AFFILIATES & MEMBERS

Prof. Perla D. Santos Ocampo – Honorary President, APPA:

Dear, dear friends, "I am privileged to be able to find a way to help Myanmar. A Jesuit priest, Father Tom O'Gorman who was in Myanmar, initiated a collection for the victims and we are sure that whatever we give, will be able to reach those who need help the most."

Jane G. Schaller, MD – Executive Director, International Pediatric Association (IPA):

Dear friends of the Chinese Pediatric Society, "I was so sorry to learn of the disastrous earthquake that has befallen your country, yet another blow for Asia after the recent cyclone disaster in Myanmar. Please let us know if there is anything that the IPA could do to help. We do have a good course for pediatricians about how pediatricians can respond to disaster – this has been supervised by Prof. Karen Olness, who is now our technical adviser in this field, and her colleague Sivieng Pairjokul of Thailand, and their committee – and presented in a number of countries where disaster has struck. If your Pediatric Society would be interested in collaborating with such a course in the near future, we would be happy to try to facilitate it. If there is anything else that we could do realistically, please let us know. Please convey our great concern for and our best wishes to your pediatric and child health colleagues in Sichuan Province. We pray for their safety, and the safety of all the people in their communities."

Prof. Pongsakdi Visudhiphan, Immediate Past President, APPA:

Dear Prof. Aye Maung Han, Assoc. Prof. Win Myat Aye and Prof. Samuel Kyaw Hla, "My sincere condolences to the great loss in Myanmar. I am lost for words. Johnny Chinnapha (my secretary), Prof. Karen Olness (Case Western Reserve University & Health Frontier) & Prof. Sivieng Pairjokul (Khon Kaen University), whom Prof. Samuel met last November in Bangkok, would like to

offer help with teaching paediatricians and allied health professionals in your country on disaster management and rehabilitation of children. They will finance themselves. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to let me know what else I could do as our neighbour."

Prof. Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Treasurer, International Pediatric Association (IPA):

Dear Colleagues in China, "I would like to convey my personal heartfelt condolences at the tragedy. Having encountered a similar disaster not so long ago, we have a host of Pakistani paediatricians with the training and skills to assist, and would like to offer our full assistance to our colleagues in the Chinese Pediatric Society."

Prof. Chang Hwi Kim, M.D, President, The Korean Pediatric Society:

Dear All, "We, all the members of The Korean Pediatric Society, are very sorry to hear about the sad news. We would like to express our heartfelt condolences to all the victims and families in Myanmar and China."

Dr. Patricia Hamilton, President, Paediatrics and Child Health Division, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP):

"I want to add the sympathies of the members of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, United Kingdom (UK)".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Neil Wigg, Immediate-Past President, Paediatrics and Child Health Division, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP):

Dear All, "Your paediatric colleagues in Australia and New Zealand, share your concerns and offer best wishes to those affected in Myanmar and China."

Prof. Shumpei Yokota, President, Japan Pediatric Society:

Dear All, "The Japan Pediatric Society would like to express our deepest sympathy for the victims of cyclone in Myanmar and earthquake in China. According to the news, many precious lives were lost and we especially feel sorrow for the child victims."

Prof. Dr. Nguyen Thu Nhan, President, Vietnam Pediatric Association:

Dear All, "The Vietnam Pediatric Association would like to express our deepest sympathy for the victims of cyclone in Myanmar and earthquake in China. Many lives were lost and we feel sad for the children."



An aerial view, showing the devastation caused by the killer earthquake in Sichuan province.



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Dr. Chandra Abeysekera, President, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians:

Dear All, "The Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians would like to express our heartfelt condolences to all the victims and families, affected by the killer Nargis cyclone that hit Myanmar on May 3, 2008 and the devastating earthquake that hit China on May 12, 2008.

Prof. Iqbal Memon, Vice President, Pakistan Pediatric Association (Centre):

"We, the pediatricians from Pakistan, join to offer our heartfelt condolences to the friends in China and Myanmar. We are extremely saddened at the colossal loss of lives and property as well as difficulties that citizens especially children confront in these areas. Our prayers are with all the concerned. We would also like to know as to how we may be able to further help in any way possible."

Dr. Marion Aw, Honorary Secretary, Singapore Paediatric Society:

To members in Myanmar and China, "The Singapore Paediatric Society echoes the sentiments from APPA and sends our condolences to all families and victims affected by the cyclone and earthquake in Myanmar and China. Our heart goes out to all affected by these disasters as well as the sorrow and devastation it has caused."

Dr. Sukman Tulus Putra, President of Indonesian Pediatric Society:

Dear Prof. Mohd Sham Kasim, "Regarding to our great concern to the situation in Myanmar and China after unexpected disasters affected so many people including infant and children in both countries since the last few days, I wonder whether APPA could initiate a certain relief efforts particularly in helping infant and children in the affected areas. I am sure all of our colleagues would be happy to act soon for helping children in Myanmar and China."

- Compiled by Fairos Nazri

NEWS NOTE

More than 10,000 schools in Sichuan badly damaged

According to data recently collected, more than 10,000 school buildings in Sichuan province in China were badly damaged by the May 12, 2008 devastating earthquake. Almost 7,000 schools were completely destroyed and many others suffered partial damage.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), estimates that the number of school children affected is in the millions. Most of these children are now trying to continue their schooling in temporary shelters and tents. Precise figures are still very difficult to obtain.

An education assessment mission organized by Chinese authorities with UNICEF participation concluded yesterday. The purpose of the mission was to assess the situation of schools, students and teachers in Sichuan and identify urgent needs.

"We were very impressed to see government, private enterprise and volunteers working together tirelessly to set-up temporary classrooms throughout the affected area," said David McLoughlin, Deputy Representative for the UNICEF China office, "It is very important to also ensure the supply of appropriate educational materials as well as sound facilities for water supply and sanitation."

While no figures are available on how many school aged children are not yet back in school, resumption of formal classes has been made a top priority by education authorities. Many students have been relocated from remote communities to study in town and city school facilities.

To cope with the increased number of students, most schools are operating on double shifts, except for third year middle and high school classes now preparing for entrance exams. Education authorities will also bring forward the summer holiday period with an expected start of the next school year on August 1.

The most urgent education needs as identified by the mission are:

- temporary shelters and tent classrooms
- toilets and safe water facilities
- teaching and learning equipment such as books, computers, classroom supplies and sports equipment
- training of educational professionals to cope with child psychosocial stress
- school based emergency preparedness and injury prevention education

UNICEF will undertake a series of additional missions to further plan support to the Government of China to restore the education sector in Sichuan.

"We are glad to see that the government has put a priority on getting children back to school," said Dr. Yin Yin New, UNICEF Representative and UN Disaster Management Team Chair in China. "This will be great help in getting them back to a sense of normalcy."

UNICEF, Beijing,
June 5, 2008.

AT A GLANCE: MYANMAR

A month after deadly cyclone, classes resume in Myanmar

A new school year has begun as children head back to classes, just one month after the deadly Cyclone Nargis damaged or destroyed more than 4,000 schools in Myanmar.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Ministry of Education and local communities have been working together to distribute building materials to schools that were damaged or destroyed by the cyclone. Essential school supplies, learning materials and recreation kits for primary schools also have been distributed.

Dressed in school uniforms, the children – some accompanied by their parents – strolled into the lane leading towards Post Primary School No. 32 in Hlaingtharyar township, one of the worst affected areas in the Yangon division. The children, excited by this return to normalcy, began to arrive at six in the morning, an hour before classes were scheduled to start.

Some students and parents helped the school to reopen by carrying benches into the classrooms. As some were still registering, other children looked for their friends or sat on the benches awaiting their lessons.

"I am very thankful to UNICEF," said school principal Daw Khin Thandar Aung. "UNICEF provided us with 200 roofing sheets, two sets of School-in-a-Box, and a recreation kit. We also received 5 roofing sheets for building an extra latrine.

"These supplies have allowed us to repair the roof in time, and today I am glad to know that 95 percent of the registered students are attending school," the principal added.

Sense of security

In any disaster, the opening of local schools is an important recovery measure. Children in particular rely on their daily routines for a sense of security, including the routine of attending school.

"Getting children back to school is an essential step in helping children recover from distress and improve their quality of life," said UNICEF Representative in Myanmar, Ramesh Shrestha.

However, not all children in Myanmar can head back to school just yet. Due to the extent of damage in the hardest-hit areas, the Ministry of Education has delayed the opening of schools in seven townships in the Irrawaddy division and in one township in Yangon division.

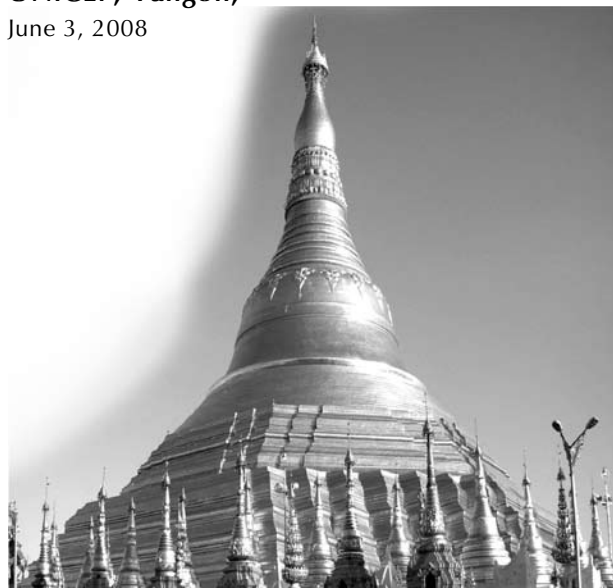
Parents face new challenges

Parents in Myanmar traditionally place a high value on education. The estimated national net primary school enrolment rate is 80 percent for boys and 92 percent for girls. Education is considered a priority across different socio-economic, ethnic and political groupings, and amongst all levels of society.

Unfortunately, the disaster that lashed some parts of Myanmar on May 2, posed new challenges for many parents. In the midst of dire hardship, some children from poor backgrounds will likely drop out of school in order to help their families cope.

UNICEF, Yangon,

June 3, 2008




NEWS FROM MPA

6th National Symposium on Adolescent Health (6th NSOAH) March 22-23, 2008, Kuching, Sarawak in East Malaysia

The 6th National Symposium on Adolescent Health (6th NSOAH) successfully organized in Kuching, Sarawak in East Malaysia, was attended by about 400 participants, consisting of doctors, paramedical personnel, teachers, parents, representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as well as students.

Dr. Ueli Buhlmann, the president of the International Association for Adolescent Health (IAAH) was able to attend the symposium and he gave a short speech advertising the World Congress of the IAAH in 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The theme of the symposium, 'Adolescent Health and Safety: A Collective Responsibility' was chosen in view of the fact that there had been a surge of violence and kidnappings committed against children and adolescents in the country.

Fingers were pointing in many directions especially to the parents for neglecting the safety of the child and to the police for being impotent and inefficient in dealing with the safety of our children and adolescents. But whose responsibility is the safety of our children and adolescents? Blame shouldn't be put solely on the shoulders of parents and police. It should be the responsibility of all.

The first plenary delivered by Prof. Susan Sawyer titled 'School Matters For Health as Well as Education', the Gatehouse project gave an interesting view of how to implement certain health education policies through the schools. Schools are not merely an avenue for imparting school curriculum but can serve as portal to introduce health education relating to adolescent issues. There were many examples given that could be implemented locally.

The keynote address delivered by Dr. Nazeli Hamzah, outlined how multifaceted the issues of adolescent health and safety really is. All levels of society must play a role in addressing this complex issue. To effectively handle these issues there should be a central coordinating body with a well-planned road map to follow. This would involve many ministries, NGOs and all stakeholders of adolescent health. Adolescent health and safety should be a collective responsibility.

The first symposium was on behavioural issues. Dr. Toh Chin Lee, a consultant adolescent psychiatrist talked on antisocial behaviour, followed by Dr. Thiagar Nadarajan who spoke on 'Disordered Behaviour: Think Medical Too' reminding us to look for medical problems that could have caused certain behaviour problems.

This was followed by a psychologist, Ms Manjari on her experience in motivating adolescents to comply with the law. The second symposium 'Bullying and Living Skills' was started by Assoc Prof Dr. Aili Hanim Hashim who spoke on 'Why Bullies Bully and the Consequences of Bullying'. It brought back memories of the bullies in our own lives, as well as outlined the profile of victims of bully. Mr. Anuar from the Education Ministry shared with us the anti-bullying programmes in school. Another interesting topic on 'The Teens who Stay Away; A Cry for Help?' was delivered by Dr. Harjeet Kaur. Dr. Aminah shared some of her experience in building the resilience of adolescents in her talk, 'Resilience: Living Skill for Schooling Teens.'

The second day began with a plenary by Dr Farouk on 'Say No and Still Be Friends'. It was very skillfully and humorously done, imparting advice and situational skills to empower adolescents especially girls to say 'No'. However, one participant objected to the fact that it did not address the perpetrators i.e. boys.

This was followed by Prof. Sawyer's talk reminding us of the physical as well as the psychosexual changes that adolescents go through. Mrs Margaret, a teacher gave a very honest, simple and interesting perspective of a teacher's problem in handling adolescent sexuality. She voiced out the dilemma of a teacher when faced with situations pertaining to sexual health, which they are ill-equipped to handle.

The role of the child protector was delivered by Mrs Nor Amni Yusof from the Department of Social Welfare Malaysia. She shared her vast experiences in dealing with troubled teens and how sometimes she had to bend the law to accommodate her young offenders. Deputy Supritendent Police (DSP), Choo Lily, from the Royal Malaysian Police, gave reports on violence against adolescents.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

May 31st, 2008

APPA Honorary President / Exco Members / Advisory Board Members
President / Secretary General of National Paediatric Association / Society
affiliated to the Asian Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)

Dear All APPA Members,

Re: Please Be Aware of Unethical E-mails

Greetings from the APPA Secretariat office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

APPA would like to inform, that recently it has received several e-mails from "unknown sources", using some of APPA members' names and e-mail address to solicit money in an inappropriate and unethical manner.

Thus, APPA would like to advise all its affiliates and members to PLEASE BE AWARE of such spam e-mails with the subject: "ITS AN EMERGENCY" or "AN EMERGENCY".

Please ignore or delete such e-mails, as what APPA have been doing.

The (e-mail) modus operandi usually goes like this:

- The culprit (sender of the e-mail), will use one of APPA members name and e-mail address and will inform that he or she has just attended an international conference or is on an official visit to a particular country, such as Nigeria in Africa.
- He / she would then inform that all of his / her money would either be "stolen at the hotel" or "left in a taxi".
- He / she would then ask for some cash (a few thousand US Dollar) to so-called "pay the hotel bill" and some extra sum (a thousand US Dollar) to "return home."
- Not only that, he / she would even provide information as to where to send the money, usually via Western Union Money Transfer.

Once again, APPA would like to advise all its affiliates and members to PLEASE BE AWARE of such culprits@e-mails, soliciting money in an unethical manner, by using APPA members' names & e-mail address.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Regards,

Fairos Nazri, Executive Secretary, APPA
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



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The last plenary was by Assoc Prof Datin Noor Aziah, a lawyer, on 'Teen Sex and the Law'. She defined certain terminologies in accordance with the law relating to child and adolescents complete with interesting and real life examples.

It was a fitting end to two days of a very good symposium. Topics which were current and interesting coupled with speakers who are experts in their own field delivered talks with passion and conviction made the event successful.

All the participants headed home with renewed vigour and let's hope that the knowledge gained during the two

days will be translated into action, which will improve adolescent health and safety in our own country.

The 6th NSOAH was jointly organized by the Adolescent Health Committee, Malaysian Medical Association (MMA), Malaysian Association for Adolescent Health (MAAH), Sarawak State Health Department, Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH), National Population & Family Development Board, Malaysia (LPPKN) & Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA).

Dr Nazeli Hamzah

President, Malaysian Association for Adolescent Health



WHO

The impact of climate change on human health

Statement by WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan

Last year, marked a turning point in the debate on climate change. The scientific evidence continues to mount. The climate is changing, the effects are already being felt, and human activities are a principal cause.

In selecting climate change as the theme for this year's World Health Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) aims to turn the attention of policy-makers to some compelling evidence from the health sector. While the reality of climate change can no longer be doubted, the magnitude of consequences, and – most especially for health – can still be reduced. Consideration of the health impact of climate change can help political leaders move with appropriate urgency.

The core concern is succinctly stated: climate change endangers health in fundamental ways.

The warming of the planet will be gradual, but the effects of extreme weather events – more storms, floods, droughts and heatwaves – will be abrupt and acutely felt. Both trends can affect some of the most fundamental determinants of health: air, water, food, shelter and freedom from disease.

Although climate change is a global phenomenon, its consequences will not be evenly distributed. Scientists agree that developing countries and small island nations will be the first and hardest hit.

WHO has identified five major health consequences of climate change:

First, the agricultural sector is extremely sensitive to climate variability. Rising temperatures and more frequent droughts and floods can compromise food security. Increases in malnutrition are expected to be especially severe in countries where large populations depend on rain-fed subsistence farming. Malnutrition, much of it caused by periodic droughts, is already responsible for an estimated 3.5 million deaths each year.

Second, more frequent extreme weather events mean more potential deaths and injuries caused by storms and floods. In addition, flooding can be followed by outbreaks of diseases, such as cholera, especially

when water and sanitation services are damaged or destroyed. Storms and floods are already among the most frequent and deadly forms of natural disasters.

Third, both scarcities of water, which is essential for hygiene, and excess water due to more frequent and torrential rainfall will increase the burden of diarrhoeal disease, which is spread through contaminated food and water. Diarrhoeal disease is already the second leading infectious cause of childhood mortality and accounts for a total of approximately 1.8 million deaths each year.

Fourth, heatwaves, especially in urban "heat islands", can directly increase morbidity and mortality, mainly in elderly people with cardiovascular or respiratory disease. Apart from heatwaves, higher temperatures can increase ground-level ozone and hasten the onset of the pollen season, contributing on asthma attacks.

Finally, changing temperatures and patterns of rainfall are expected to alter the geographical distribution of insect vectors that spread infectious diseases. Of these diseases, malaria and dengue are of greatest public health concern.

In short, climate change can affect problems that are already huge, largely concentrated in the developing world, and difficult to combat. On this World Health Day, I am announcing increased WHO efforts to respond to these challenges.

WHO and its partners are devising a research agenda to get better estimates of the scale and nature of health vulnerability and to identify strategies and tools for health protection. WHO recognizes the urgent need to support countries in devising ways to cope. Better systems for surveillance and forecasting, and stronger basic health services, can offer health protection.

Citizens, too, need to be fully informed of the health issues. In the end, it is their concerns that can spur policy-makers to take the right actions, urgently.

WHO,
April 7, 2008

13th ASIAN PACIFIC CONGRESS OF PEDIATRICS

13th APCP, From Oct 14-18, 2009, Shanghai, China

Name of Congress:

13th Asian Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (13th APCP) and 3rd Asian Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing (3rd APCPN)

Dates:

October 14 (Wednesday) – 18 (Sunday), 2009

Venue:

Shanghai International Convention Center (SICC)

Theme:

Building a supportive environment for Child Health

Secretariat:

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Organisers

Under the auspices of the Asian Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) and International Pediatric Association (IPA).
The 13th APCP is organised by the Chinese Pediatric Society, Chinese Medical Association and Chinese Nursing Association.



LOC-Local Organising Committee

Congress President: **Xiaohu He, MD**
Congress Executive President: **Yonghao Gui, MD**
Secretary General: **Kunling Shen, MD**
Scientific Committee Chair: **Yonghao Gui, MD**
Secretariat Committee Chair: **Kunling Shen, MD**
Nursing Committee Chair: **Renjian Huang, MD**
Treasurer: **Jiong Qin, MD**

Pre-Congress Workshop

The Pre-congress workshop will focus more on issues like TB, HIV/AIDS and environment among children.

Plenary & Symposia topics

There will be at least 14 Plenary Lectures, covering topics like child abuse, adolescent problem, mental health, accident and injury, genetics, obesity, learning problem, environmental issues and etc.

At least 40 Symposia topics are being considered, and major ones are: Adolescent Medicine, Allergy, Behavioral Disorders, Cardiology, Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Community Child Health, Critical Care, Diabetic and Obesity, Genetic and Metabolic Disorder, Environmental and the Child Health, TB, HIV/AIDS, Developmental Pediatrics, Neonatology, Nephrology and Neurology.

Other major symposia topics being considered are: Nutrition, Essential drug access and safety for children in developing countries, Pediatric Surgery, Accident and Injury Prevention, Vaccines, Rheumatology and immunology, Gastroenterology, Pediatric Psychiatry and Pediatric Psychology, Medical Education, Nursing, Challenge for the Pediatric resident training, Evidence base medicine in pediatric practice, Perinatal care and child health, Information Technology in Health Care and Ethical.

Registration Fees

| | | Early Bird Registration (up to October 1, | Pre Registration (up to June 30, 2009) | Late Registration (from July 1 to |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Full Participant | APPA Country | 250 | 300 | 350 |
| | Non APPA Country | 350 | 400 | 450 |
| Trainee/Resident Student | | 200 | 200 | 250 |
| Accompanying Person | | 100 | 100 | 100 |



8th ICTP

Report on the 8th International Congress of Tropical Pediatrics



Group photo of some delegates who attended the 8th ICTP in Manila, Philippines.

The 8th International Congress of Tropical Pediatrics (ICTP) was held at Manila Hotel, Manila, Philippines from April 11-13, 2008 with 1,800 participants from more than 20 countries. The theme "Improving Child Survival: A Continuing Challenge" covered a broad spectrum of relevant issues that influence child survival in both medical and non-medical settings.

The International Society of Tropical Pediatrics (ISTP) was founded 22 years ago, with the purpose of bringing together the chapters and members of the ISTP for bringing to children in the tropics, the blessing of good health and a better quality of life. Previous meetings have been held in Bangkok, Thailand (1987); Kenya (1990); Luxor, Egypt (1993); Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (1996); Jaipur, India (1999); Ankara, Turkey (2002); Sham El Sheik, Egypt (2005); Manila, Philippines (2008).

The opening ceremony of the 8th ICTP started in the early morning of the 11th April, 2008 with a "March for Children's Right to Survive" by a big crowd demonstrating for a much stronger commitment not just of medical staff but of government as well as international organizations and the private sector. An inspiring opening speech was delivered by Professor Hussein Bahaa El Din, the President of ISTP and the former Minister of Education, Egypt.

The scientific program focused on improving child survival worldwide expanding from support for

pregnant women and mothers, improved neonatal care, child feeding, immunizations, to management of childhood illnesses including dengue, malaria and tuberculosis. Eminent speakers from 5 continents presented the most recent information. Special attention was given to immunizations. Whereas in many resource-poor areas of the world, health services providing immunizations are deficient and cannot meet the task, in more developed areas an increasing lack of awareness and ignorance concerning immunizations is observed with great worries of pediatricians about future epidemics. At the closing, young investigator award was given to Dr. Wasana Hongkan from Chonburi, Thailand for poster presentation on "Transcatheter closure of patent ductus arteriosus: The initial experience in Chonburi Hospital".

The 8th ICTP was a successful event in opening dialogue of Tropical Pediatrics worldwide, exchanging ideas, sharing new informations. Most of all, it creates the worldwide partnerships that can cross borders not only to specialists, practitioners, researchers and scientists, but to the patients as well.

The next International Congress of Tropical Pediatrics will be held in Thailand during October 2011.

Professor Usa Thisyakorn, M.D.

President, the 9th International Congress of Tropical Pediatrics
Executive Committee, International Society of Tropical Pediatrics

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

17th ISPCAN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

XVIIth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, September 7-10, 2008, Hong Kong, China

The above Congress to be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), is being organized by The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) in collaboration with Against Child Abuse (ACA), Hong Kong.

Apart from removing and preventing abuse and neglect, the theme of the XVIIth ISPCAN Congress hopes to stimulate participants to move the world "Towards a caring and non-violent community" emphasizing "a child's perspective" along the way.

Social policies and practices are usually worked out by adults from an adult's perspective. This conference attempts to explore the theme and the best interest of the child notion also through the eyes of the child. Hopefully, communities in the future may strengthen a child perspective in policies and practices and in early child participation.

The scientific program of the Congress will cater to colleagues who just joined field to those looking for refinements in professional practices. The many concurrent sessions will offer participants opportunities to present innovative approaches to the subject and share well-trying evidence-based best practices.

The field is moving fast with increasing international collaboration. Invited experts will be highlighting latest developments and directions, be they practice or policy related.

**Congress Subthemes:**

1. Psychological Abuse – Identification, Assessment and Intervention
2. Multidiscipline Collaboration – Myth or Reality?
3. Evidence-based Intervention
4. Legal Protection of Children
5. Child Policy and Its Implications
6. Children with Special Needs and in Difficult Circumstances
7. Child Trafficking, Child Labor & Child Sex Tourism
8. Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
9. Role of the Mass Media in Child Protection
10. Children's Voices and Children's Rights

Pre-congress Events

The Developing Country Professional Forum (DC Forum) and skills training events may take place on September 5-7, prior to Congress. More information will be provided in the Call for Abstracts, Registration Brochure and on the Congress website: www.ispcan.org/congress2008.

For more information, please contact:**CONGRESS SECRETARIAT:**

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West Chicago, IL 60185,
United States of America (USA)
Tel: 1 630 876 6913
Fax: 1 630 876 6917
Email: congress2008@ispcan.org
Website: www.ispcan.org/congress2008



EVENTS

International Events For 2008

MALAYSIA

30th Annual Congress of the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA)

The above congress will be held in Holiday Inn, Melaka state, south of peninsular Malaysia from August 21-24th, 2008. The theme for the above meeting is: "Focus on Prevention and Vaccines 2008". It is organised by the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA).

For more information, please contact the MPA Secretariat at:
3rd Floor (Annexe Block),
National Cancer Society Building,
66, Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz,
50300 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.

Tel: 603-2691 5379

Fax: 603-2691 3446

Email: mpaeds@po.jaring.my

MALTA

Paediatric Gastroenterology Course

(Three days of intensive course at post-graduate level with formal lectures, interactive sessions and case presentations).

Date: September 25-27, 2008

Venue: Malta Institute for Medical Education
Mediterranean Conference Centre,
Valleta, Malta
Tel: 356 2122 6145 Fax: 356 2122 6563

Course

Coordinator: Mr Chris Fearne, MD, FRCS
Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Mater Dei
Hospital, Malta Lecturer in Paediatric
Surgery, University of Malta

Core subjects: Necrotizing Enterocolitis, Short Bowel
Syndrome, Inflammatory Bowel Disease,
Constipation and Bowel Continence &
Malabsorption States.

Registration: www.maltime.com

Enquiries: info@maltime.com

KOREA

The 59th Korean Pediatric Society (KPS) Congress

Date: Oct. 17-18th, 2008

Venue: Sheraton Walkerhill Hotel, Seoul, Korea

For details, please contact the Korean Pediatric Society (KPS) at:
1406, Seocho World Officetel 1355-3,
Seocho-Dong, Seocho-ku,
Seoul 137-070,
South Korea.

Tel: 822-3473-7305-6

Fax: 822-3473-7307

Email: pediatrics@pediatrics.or.kr
bypun@hosp.sch.ac.kr
pedsoon@schbc.ac.kr

NEW ZEALAND

The Paediatric Society of New Zealand - 60th Annual Scientific Meeting

The Paediatric Society of New Zealand will hold its 60th
Annual Scientific Meeting at Paihia,
Bay of Islands from 29-31st October 2008.
The theme of the meeting is entitled: "Improving Outcomes
for New Zealand Children & Young People."

For further details, please contact Conferences & Events Ltd at:

phone: 64-3-546-6022

email: paed@confer.co.nz

website: www.confer.co.nz/paediatrics08.

MALAYSIA

Breastfeeding: Advocacy & Practice (A Regional Outreach Course)

Organised by: Infant Feeding Consortium (IFC),
from the Institute of Child Health
London & World Alliance for Breastfeeding
Action (WABA), Penang,
Malaysia

Date: November 17-29 2008

Venue: Bayview Hotel, Georgetown,
Penang, Malaysia

Website: www.waba.org.my/resources/
trainingcourses/bap2008.htm

INDIA

46th National Conference of Indian Academy of Pediatrics (Pedicon 2009)

The above conference will be held in Bangalore, India, from
December 18-21, 2008.

Enquiries can be sent to:

Dr. Nisarga

Organizing Secretary, Pedicon 2009

KIMS Hospital & Research Centre, KR Road, VV Puram
Bangalore 04, India

Email: iap@pedicon2009.org

Website: www.pedicon2009.org