

WESTERN PACIFIC PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2009

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum for the year 2009.

The Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum was established at the FIP meeting in Singapore in 2001 and has entered a period of consolidation in its role as a networking agent with the FIP member organisations in the Western Pacific Region and the World Health Organization regional office in Manila.

Two major overarching roles have emerged for the Forum. Firstly, as co-ordinator and activator for developing and transitional countries to achieve modern standards of pharmacy practice and education and secondly, as acting as a reporting and information agent by bringing together the various pharmacy associations from all countries in our region with the regular flow and interchange of reports from each country being circulated throughout the region. Through these roles, the Forum is able to support WHO in its programs relating to quality standards of medicine supply in the region.

The 2020 Vision statements of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) adopted and developed in 2008/2009 fit perfectly with the plans and objectives of the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum. In developing the 2020 Vision plan, FIP identified the following guide its future actions.

- there is an increasing globalisation of healthcare
- healthcare is becoming more and more patient focused
- the gap in healthcare services between developing and developed countries needs to be urgently addressed
- the demand on limited resources, both human and financial within FIP is growing

The three strategic objectives of the Vision statement reflect the objectives of the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum's statutes. The Vision statements strategic objectives are –

- 1 Advance pharmacy practice in all settings
- 2 Advance the pharmaceutical sciences
- 3 Increase FIP's role in reforming pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education

The Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum is playing a significant role in FIP's tactical approaches by –

- building constructive partnerships
- increasing the visibility of FIP in the global environment
- increasing effective communications between the pharmaceutical associations within the region

To create an understanding of the 2020 Vision statements, the Forum has arranged the translation of the statements into regional languages and we are pleased to report the translation into Japanese, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese. The Forum encourages all member organisations in the Western Pacific Region to study these vision statements and activate them where possible.

To support constructive partnerships the minutes of each meeting of the Forum Executive are sent to the Presidents and CEOs of pharmaceutical associations in the Western Pacific Region. These minutes contain the reports from each country and the Forum hopes that they are circulated as widely as possible to the Councils and their members and also to the pharmaceutical publications within the member countries. The Forum also supports interactive visits and consultations between the pharmacy associations in the region as well as holding each Executive meeting in a different country in association with the pharmaceutical associations.

The Forum continues to encourage the development of links with countries such as Mongolia, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea and is pleased to say that the newly established Pharmaceutical Society of Papua New Guinea is slowly gaining strength under the astute leadership of Dr Stella Tulo.

Pharmacy Practice

Changes to the practice of pharmacy in both community and hospital settings continue throughout the region, particularly in the areas relating to the division of prescribing and dispensing of medicines.

The Forum has encouraged and supported this philosophy in the belief that such programs ensure better economic and health outcomes for the patients in our region.

Japan, Korea, the Philippines and China Taiwan have undergone many changes in relation to the prescribing and dispensing of medicines, particularly in relation to pharmaceutical patient care.

Patient directed services such as medicine reviews and other similar pharmaceutical care programs are making great strides in Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

China Taiwan has taken a huge step forward by appointing a pharmacist to develop a national program of pharmaceutical care. The Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum was pleased to learn that Executive member Dr Tony Tarn was selected to lead this innovative development in this country.

Japan changed its undergraduate degree from a four year course to six years. The extension of the degree covers two years' clinical studies and graduates emerge with a PharmD. As Japan has already developed a program of medicine reviews, these clinical changes should accelerate the project. Similar changes to the undergraduate degree in pharmacy are being undertaken in both Korea and Singapore.

The re-structuring of pharmacy practice in Vietnam at both community and hospital levels continues to move steadily forward in its master plan targeted for completion by 2015.

Following the Forum's initial introductory training programs in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Drug Administration Vietnam and the Vietnam Pharmaceutical Association have, to date, trained over 3,000 pharmacists in the new requirements. Lack of resources prohibits the Forum from having long term activity in the country, but continues support with advice and encouragement. The Forum would be happy to interact with any pharmacists and pharmacy academics who are intending to undertake projects in Vietnam or are interested in providing help and support.

The Forum has discussed at length the FIP leadership debate in Istanbul and particularly the paper delivered by Dr William Zelmer.

The paper referred particularly to the danger of corporate interference in community pharmacy practice. The Forum supports the message of the leadership seminar that pharmacists and pharmacy organisations in relation to community pharmacy should take care to balance between health professionalism and retail commercialism to maintain an image of healthcare and not a retail store.

Development of Pharmacy Education in the Western Pacific Region

Since its inception, the Forum is of the view that the education of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists in the Western Pacific Region is a key objective, hence it followed with a review of pharmacy schools and pharmacy undergraduate education, registering and licensing requirements and standards of competence relating to each country in the region. A balance of pharmaceutical science and pharmacy practice is essential in undergraduate education to establish the future on a foundation for pharmacist-delivered patient care and pharmaceutical scientist-delivered research.

The development of the FIP/WHO/UNESCO global pharmacy education taskforce has given impetus to this role identified by the Forum.

Curriculum Development Seminar

The Forum became aware that many new schools of pharmacy were being established in the region and identified problems relating to development of undergraduate curriculum. To this end, the Forum is organising a seminar on the development of curriculum and competency standards at the National University of Singapore in April 2010. The seminar has been made possible with the support of the National University of Singapore, Monash University Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Melbourne, Australia and the FIP global pharmacy education taskforce, headed by Dr Ian Bates of the School of Pharmacy, University of London.

The Forum has invited the South East Asian regional forum to join with it in this seminar and Dr Teera Chakajnarodom, President of the South East Asian Forum, Mr Prafull Sheth, General Secretary of the South East Asian Forum and Professor Suresh, President of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association, strongly support the program. Although the Forum understands that this program is outside the direct parameters of WHO's responsibility, the Forum hopes that WHO from both regions in the interests of better health outcomes, may be able to fund attendance of academics from some developing countries within the region to help them develop curriculum that will reflect in WHO's programs.

The Forum is grateful to Vice-President, Associate Professor Wai Keung Chui and his committee of Dr Jennifer Marriott, Chair of FIP's Pharmacy Education Section, Dr Kay Stewart, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia and Associate Professor Shigeo Yamamura, Josai International University, Japan.

Training in Pharmacy Support in Pacific Islands

The development and support of the practice of pharmacy in the Oceania region of the Western Pacific has been of great concern. There are currently only two schools offering pharmacy degrees in Papua New Guinea and in Fiji and one pharmacy assistant training centre in Tonga. There are few indigenous pharmacists in these island nations, many roles being undertaken by expatriate pharmacists from other countries.

Mr Andrew Brown from the University of Canberra, Australia, a PhD candidate supported by Dr Gabrielle Cooper, Head of Pharmacy, University of Canberra are endeavouring to develop a program to undertake the training of pharmacy assistants to support a quality distribution and supply of medicines in these small islands. The Forum has met and held discussions relating to this project. The Forum will give this program every support it can within its limited resources. Although the program is targeted at training pharmacy assistants, it would hope that there will be a vertical approach that will lead from certificate courses to diploma courses, to an ultimate degree and establishment of fully educated professional pharmacists, in time.

Collaborative Practice and Education

The Forum was pleased to review the WHO document 'Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice'. The Forum recognises that with an ageing population with increasing healthcare costs, all health professionals must join together in collaborative practice, recognising each others' skills to produce better patient outcomes. This would be impossible without some action on interprofessional education

Hospital Pharmacy Practice

The Forum undertook to work with the FIP section of Hospital Pharmacy Practice to support the Basel statements on the future of hospital pharmacy practice through the Western Pacific Region. The statements were derived from the special global meeting of hospital pharmacists held prior to the FIP Congress in Basel and the subsequent publication of the agreed statements from this conference attracted worldwide interest. The Forum is working with Dr Rebekah Moles, Vice-President, Australasia, Hospital Pharmacy Section of FIP in support of the international project.

The Forum, following the translation of the statements into simple Mandarin and traditional Mandarin, also arranged for the translation of the statements into Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese, to support facilitation of the project. The Forum has arranged two brief questionnaires to help facilitate the project and although most countries make timely responses, there is concern that some countries have difficulty in responding and there are concerns that it may inhibit the real progress of the project.

Dr Moles has announced that a PhD student will be appointed in March 2010 and it is anticipated that that PhD student will work closely with the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum.

The Forum supports a suggestion made by Dr Kamal Midha, President of FIP, that the Forum establish a working group to help facilitate this work in hospital pharmacy, spread from countries across the region. The Forum is of the opinion that such a group could be of considerable help to facilitate the work of the 2010 PhD student.

WPPF Website

The leadership of Dr Tony Tarn and his advisory committee continue to bring focus to the Forum through website development. Ms Jane Ho has, as Managing Editor, contributed enthusiastically and with skill to improve the website.

Ms Ho, with financial support from FIP and Pharmaceutical Defence Limited in Australia has transformed the structure of our website and has made it much visitor-friendly. The number of people visiting the website regularly increases and a twice monthly e-paper delivered to over 100 email addresses, helps to bring the message of the Forum of the pharmaceutical associations of the Western Pacific, to the world.

The reconstituted links to FIP and to the member associations gives added strength to the website. The website also gives the opportunity to bring a wider distribution of country reports, not only to the individual pharmaceutical associations of the Western Pacific region, but also to a broader group of individual pharmacists with international professional interests.

On behalf of the Forum, I wish to thank Dr Tony Tarn and Ms Jane Ho and the extremely active support committee, consisting of Shun-Lien Sung, Yow-Wen Hsieh, Kuang-Yang Hsu, Max Liu, Wen-Fu Wang, Chiung-Hui Tseng, Fang-Yu Su, Frank Shen, Hsin-Chun Chou, Meng-Shan Lu, Chih-Yu Hsu and Hui-Yun Tsai

Interaction with the World Health Organization

In the last year the term of Dr Shigeru Omi, Regional Director of WHO, Western Pacific, expired and the Forum expressed its appreciation of the work undertaken by Dr Omi in the Western Pacific region in healthcare during the term of his tenure. Dr Shin Young-Soo from Korea succeeds as Regional Director. The Forum has congratulated Dr Shin on his appointment and has assured him of our continued support for the principles of WHO and its development of healthcare within the Western Pacific Region.

The Forum also appreciates the support and advice of Dr Budiono Santoso, Pharmaceutical Advisor, Western Pacific Regional office of the World Health Organization who is a regular attendee at meetings of the Forum and frequently accompanied by members of his staff who have areas of special interest. At the last Annual General Meeting of the Forum held in Singapore, Dr Santoso graciously addressed the meeting on the work of WHO within the Western Pacific Region.

Counterfeit Medicines

Counterfeit medicines continue to be a considerable problem throughout the region and many of the pharmaceutical associations support us and the work of WHO in promoting programs of public awareness in many of the countries in the Western Pacific. Unfortunately many of the well developed countries in our region are now finding that they are not immune to the distribution of counterfeit medicines as unfortunately internet access has enabled people to source medicines from unknown sources, many of which are counterfeit.

Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum/FIP Foundation Scholarships

The FIP Foundation supports the Forum with two scholarships each year to the FIP Congress. In 2009 scholarships were awarded to Mr Sheldon Jagdon from the Philippines and Mr Muhammad Abdul Hadi from Malaysia, to attend FIP Istanbul. Private scholarships were also awarded by the Taiwan Society of Health System Pharmacists and the Australian College of Pharmacy Practice and Management to enable young pharmacists to attend the Congress. The Forum hopes that the fine example set by China Taiwan and the Australian pharmacy organisations will continue to be followed to give young pharmacists an opportunity to meet with their colleagues internationally. The stimulus from meeting with their international colleagues has been shown in the number of young pharmacists who have received these scholarships over the last few years, who have already emerged as leaders in the pharmacy communities in their countries.

Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum Executive Committee and its Meetings

Meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the year in Seoul, Korea; Manila, the Philippines; Tokyo, Japan and Sydney, Australia. Normally the Annual General Meeting would have been held late in 2009, but due to unforeseen circumstances, that was not possible.

The current members of the Executive Committee are –

Mr John Ware, President, Australia
Associate Professor Wai Keung Chui, Vice-President, Singapore
Mr Reynaldo Umali, General Secretary, the Philippines
Mr Nobuo Yamamoto, Japan
Dr Tony Tarn, China Taiwan
Mrs M S Park, Korea

During the year the Forum was delighted to receive the news that former member of the Executive member, Dr Mei Ling Hsiao, China Taiwan, had been appointed a Vice-Minister of Health in China Taiwan. The Forum has formally extended its congratulations to Dr Mei Ling Hsiao.

The Forum Executive Committee, together with the Japan Pharmacists Association, also celebrated the awarding of the Emperor of Japan's Medal of Honour to Mr Nobuo Yamamoto former Vice-President of the Forum and currently a member of the Executive. Members of the Executive were delighted to be able to attend and speak at a function held in support of Mr Yamamoto, held in Tokyo congratulating Mr Yamamoto on this most prestigious award.

Mr Reynaldo Umali, General Secretary since its inception, unfortunately became extremely ill in the middle of the year and had to have a quadruple bypass operation. The Forum is pleased to say that Mr Umali has now gained his full health again and is able to continue his work which is so valuable to the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum.

At an event held during the Pharmacy Australia Congress, the Vice-President, Dr Chui, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the President of FIP, Dr Kamal Midha, thanking him for his services to the FIP Policy Committee

Members of the Executive of the Forum would like to extend their thanks to the President, Mr Kodama of the Japan Pharmaceutical Association and members of JPA for their hospitality in hosting the July meeting of the Forum in Tokyo. It would also like to thank Mr Warwick Plunkett, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the members of the Society for hosting the Executive meeting of the Forum at the time of the Pharmacy Australia Congress in Sydney in October 2009.

As President, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to members of the Executive committee for their sacrifice and extremely hard work and support in the work of the Forum.

The Forum appreciated the attendance of the President of FIP, Dr Kamal Midha and General Secretary, Mr Ton Hoek at the Forum's Executive meeting in Tokyo in July and was greatly honoured to have the President of FIP attend the next Executive meeting held prior to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Congress in Sydney, October 2009. The Forum was greatly appreciative of the input to our meetings of these two gentlemen.

The Forum was represented at the following meetings –

- Japan Pharmacists Association celebration of the awarding of a Medal of Honour to Mr Nobuo Yamamoto in July 2009. The President addressed the meeting of approximately 500 person, speaking in glowing terms of Mr Yamamoto's contribution to pharmacy and to international pharmacy in particular.
- The President, Mr John Ware, attended and addressed the national conference of the National Association of Pharmacy Students of Australia as President of the Forum.
- The President attended the reception of the World Health Professions Alliance, Geneva, Switzerland, May 2009.
- The General Secretary, Mr Reynaldo Umali, represented the Forum and addressed the regional meeting of Health Ministers of the Western Pacific region in Hong Kong, 2009.
- The President attended the meeting of FIP Forum Presidents' meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, 2009
- The President attended the FIP Bureau meeting, with other Forum Presidents, May 2009
- The President attended the FIP Council meeting, held Istanbul, Turkey, September 2009
- The President represented the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum at the World Health Assembly, Geneva, May 2009
- The President attended the leadership meeting at FIP, September 2009
- The President attended the Pharmacy Education Taskforce meeting, FIP, Istanbul 2009
- Vice-President, Associate Professor Wai Keung Chui participated in the Policy Development meeting of FIP

John Ware OAM
President