



WESTERN PACIFIC PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM

of the International Pharmaceutical Federation

Regional Leaders Summit

Improving the capability of pharmacy associations of the Western Pacific Region to implement Good Pharmacy Practice.

Regional pharmacy leaders identify national competency standards and professional development framework as priority issue.

The Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum [WPPF] hosted a **Regional Pharmacy Leaders Summit** in Manila, Philippines on 26th & 27th September 2016. Held to coincide with World Pharmacists Day and commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the foundation of WPPF, the primary objective of the Summit was to identify significant Pharmacy Practice related issues of the countries in the Region and to develop a strategy and work-plan that addresses the common priority issue.

Using a multilateral, collaborative approach, secondary objectives were to strengthen the cooperation between the national pharmacy associations of the Region, to strengthen the governance of pharmacy organisations and to establish a methodology that could be applied to other multilateral issues and by other FIP Regional Pharmacy Forumsⁱ.

The Summit was supported by funding and in-kind support by the International Pharmaceutical Federation [FIP] Foundation, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited [PDL Australia], Unilab Philippines and the Philippine Pharmacists Association.

Methodology

The 31 participants included Presidents from the major pharmacy association from twelve countries of the Region or their nominees, together with delegates from FIP and WHO. Using the 'World Café' concept, the delegates participated in two series of facilitated focus groups. Each stage in the first series corresponded to one of the four pharmacist roles described in the joint FIP/WHO Good Pharmacy Practice Guidelines [GPP] [see attachment]. The delegates were requested to describe issues that arise for pharmacists in their respective countries in relation to each role.

Following evaluation of the individual issues, two Region-wide issues were identified for each role. These eight issues provide WPPF a consensus statement in relation to implementation of GPP in the Western Pacific Region. The eight issues were assessed by the delegates and the common priority issue for pharmacists of the Region was identified.

Results

The priority issue in relation to the implementation of GPP for pharmacists of the Western Pacific Region as identified by Regional pharmacy leaders is that:

National Competency Standards should be established to enable the formulation of a professional development framework that leads to enhanced pharmacy practice including patient care.ⁱⁱ

Advancing pharmacy in the Western pacific Region

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Rationale for selecting this issue

Competency standards underpin pharmacists' professional practice and their capacity to address all GPP goals. Currently not all countries in the Western Pacific Region have competency standards or a professional development framework for pharmacists. It was resolved that individual countries should develop national competency standards balancing the pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacists' practice and undergraduate curricula should reflect the competency standards focusing on patient care. Furthermore, Continuing Professional Development activities aligned with competency standards should be formulated and facilitated by national pharmacy associations in order to guide and support individual pharmacists to maintain competence and enhance their practice.

Development of a Strategy

The delegates participated in a second series of four facilitated focus groups in which they were requested to identify strategies to address the common priority issue considering the following issues: the pharmacist's role in relation to the priority issue, policies and regulation relevant to the issue, education and training necessary to address the issue and the desired outcome from a strategy and work-plan that addresses the issue.

Based on this process, it was recommended that the WPPF and FIP should provide support and expertise to national organizations to develop competency and professional development frameworks and assist in the formulation of mutual recognition agreements among countries in the region with regard to harmonized descriptors of competencies.

Evaluation

The delegates representing the national pharmacy associations unanimously determined that all objectives of the Summit were met with all attendees indicating a willingness to participate in implementation of the strategy. There was an extremely high level of satisfaction with the conduct of the Summit [94% very good or excellent] with a similar level of support for a further regional meetings to sustain the project.

Future activities

WPPF will further develop the strategy and action-plan. Following evaluation of the plan, the WPPF will consult national pharmacy associations, WHO and FIP regarding implementation. The potential to stage a follow-up meeting at the time of the 2017 FIP Congress in Seoul, Korea to report on subsequent developments and consider strategies for more of the Regional issues prioritised in this summit is under consideration.

Appreciation

WPPF would like to express appreciation to the delegates for their contribution, the sponsoring organisations for their support and the group of young Philippine pharmacists who provided invaluable assistance.

ⁱ The International Pharmaceutical Federation [FIP] is the global federation of national associations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. In cooperation with the World Health Organization, FIP established six Forums based upon WHO's regions. The Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum [WPPF] is the regional Forum based on WHO's Western Pacific Region which includes 15 countries and 22 territories stretching from Mongolia in the north west, to New Zealand in the south, and French Polynesia in the east.

ⁱⁱ Competencies: the distinct set of knowledge, skills, behaviours attitudes and values that an individual accumulates, develops and acquires through education, training and work experience and that is essential to the practice of a profession. [Quality Assurance of Pharmacy education: the FIP Global Framework]