



**WESTERN PACIFIC
PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM**



2014 Annual Report

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1. The WPPF Executive

The Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum [WPPF] Executive consists of six members; Mr John Jackson, President [Australia], Dr Tony Tarn, Vice President [China Taiwan], Mrs Kyung-Shin Baek [Korea], Mrs Leonila Ocampo [Philippines], Mr Nobuo Yamamoto [Japan] and Prof Wai Chui [Singapore]. Mr Rey Umali is the General Secretary and Mrs Nariel Bennetts-Ware is the Executive Secretary.

The Executive met in March this year in Manila where Dr Klara Tisocki, Team Leader, Essential Medicines and Health Technologies, World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office provided a briefing on current WHO programs in the Region relevant to pharmacists. The programs include responding to the emergence of non-communicable diseases in developing countries, managing communicable diseases including malaria and HIV-AIDS, responding to health emergencies, developing health system capacity and implementation of universal health coverage. The WHO concept of universal health coverage aims to provide health care to more people, to provide a greater range of health care services and to reduce the cost burden to individuals.

Dr Tisocki sought advice from the meeting in relation to a WHO project to study the understanding of pharmacists of the region of antimicrobial resistance. She also stated that the small Pacific Island nations are a particular focus of the WHO which aligns with the WPPF Executive's interest in implementing projects to support pharmacists in these countries.

During the meeting, the Executive also received the recommendation of the selection committee for the two 2014 FIP / WPPF Scholarships which support pharmacists from developing countries to be able to attend the annual FIP Congress. Applications were received from five countries this year the two winners are Dr Vanny You of Cambodia and Mr Arnold Ram of Fiji.

The proposal for a workshop on Good Pharmacy Practice to be conducted in Cambodia was also approved at the meeting. This workshop was held in Phnom Penh in late May and further details are provided below.

The Executive congratulated Mr Nobuo Yamamoto on being elected incoming President of the Japan Pharmaceutical Association and expressed its appreciation for the work of Mr Michael Wei-chih Liu of China Taiwan for maintaining the WPPF Web-site.



WPPF Executive Meeting March 2014

Front row:

Mrs Nariel Ware
Mr Nobuo Yamamoto
Mrs Kyung-Shin Baek
Dr Sang Hoon Joo

Back row:

Mr Rey Umali
Mrs Leonila Ocampo
Prof Wai Keung Chui
Dr Klara Tisocki
Mr John Jackson
Ms Anne Rongen
Mrs Lyn Sung
Absent:
Dr Tony Tarn

The Executive will meet again in Bangkok in August, immediately prior to the FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Elections will be held for membership of the Executive at the AGM which is also scheduled to be held at the 2014 FIP Congress in Bangkok.

2. Working with the WHO

The WPPF President and General Secretary attended the 64th session of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Committee in Manila in October 2013. The major topics considered by the regional health ministers and bureaucrats that were relevant to pharmacists included the increase in non-communicable diseases [NCD] in developing countries and hepatitis B control throughout the region. The WPPF provided a statement to the meeting on the role that pharmacists can play in NCDs. The statement identified pharmacists as a workforce of well-educated, accessible and trusted health care professionals who can be utilized to address non-communicable diseases. Using as an example the growing problem of diabetes, the statement illustrated how pharmacists can assist in areas of medication management, primary care and public health activities.

Following the briefing at the March Executive meeting by Dr Tisocki regarding the WHO's work in the Western Pacific Region [WPR] in relation to antimicrobial resistance, WPPF has provided assistance in the design and content of a questionnaire to study pharmacists' understanding of this topic. Particular issues relevant to pharmacists in relation to antimicrobial resistance include the role of pharmacists in providing counselling on the appropriate use of prescribed antibiotics and in some countries, the supply without prescription of medicines including antibiotics.

Over the last twelve months, the WPPF has also provided assistance to Brenda Wraight, a consultant undertaking a study on behalf of the WHO on the status of the regulation of health practitioner education and practice across the 37 countries of the Region. Key matters relevant to pharmacists that are the focus of this project include:

- Processes for determining licensure and the entitlement to practice.
- Quality assurance of pre-license education.
- Setting and sanctioning the standards of practice.
- Dealing with non-adherence to practice standards.

Further input has been sought from member associations in relation to this project.

3. Workshop on Good Pharmacy Practice

This major workshop was held in Phnom Penh over three days in late May 2014. It was organized by WPPF in response to a request from representatives of the Cambodian Ministry of Health and was conducted in association with the Ministry, the Pharmacy Council and the Pharmacist Association of Cambodia. It was supported by both the WHO WPR office and FIP and the WHO Technical Officer, Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies in Cambodia, Ms Lkhagvadorj Vanchinsuren provided invaluable assistance in coordinating the Cambodian agencies involved with the workshop.

The objective of the workshop was to provide education and training on Good Pharmacy Practice [GPP] thereby improving the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines delivered to patients in Cambodia. The program was able to use as a reference the Good Pharmacy Practice Guide which had recently been prepared by the Cambodian Ministry of Health. Day one consisted of lectures on the principles and practice of GPP including an introduction to GPP, the incorporation of GPP into undergraduate and on-going professional education for pharmacists and the role of support staff in GPP. Case studies were also presented on how a number of countries of the Region had introduced GPP.

Days two and three of the workshop consisted of a train-the-trainer program covering the management, practice and ethics of pharmacy and post-marketing surveillance. This training was conducted in the Khmer language and was aimed at developing the capacity of the attendees to spread knowledge and skills on GPP throughout Cambodia.

Presentations were made by WPPF Executive members Mrs Leonila Ocampo, Prof Wai Chui and Mr John Jackson, Cambodian Health Department representatives Dr Heng Dun Kiet, Mr Eav Dararat and Mr Kleang Sameth plus regional experts including Mr Richard Lim, a Cambodian now practicing as a pharmacist in Australia who has received national recognition for the quality of the service provided by his pharmacy.

The sixty attendees included pharmacy regulators and academics but also a significant number of government pharmacists with responsibility for monitoring and developing pharmacists' services, both in cities such as Phnom Penh and in the provinces. The combination of the GPP education, the trainer training and their particular responsibilities mean they are ideally placed to share the benefits of the workshop with pharmacists from throughout the whole country.

While in Phnom Penh, the WPPF President Mr Jackson took the opportunity to meet with the WHO Representative Dr Dong-il Ahn and Team Leader Dr Rasul Baghirov, the newly elected President of the Pharmacists Association of Cambodia, Dr Kruey Sun Lay and academics at a number of the local pharmacy schools.

4. 2013 FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

At the 2013 FIP Congress in Dublin, the WPPF President, Vice President and General Secretary participated in a meeting of members of the FIP Bureau and the leaders of the six Pharmaceutical Forums. The purpose was to continue the work of the last two years aimed at strengthening the Forums. The WPPF President also met with the President of the South and East Asian Pharmaceutical Forum and the President of the Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations to discuss closer cooperation between the groups and the need to ensure a strong regional presence at the 2014 FIP Congress in Bangkok.

While at the Congress, Mr Jackson also met with Pharmabridge to determine how pharmacists of the Western Pacific Region could more actively participate in the book donation program and the practice exchange program. In addition to distributing pharmacy reference material from developed to developing countries, Pharmabridge conducts a practice exchange program whereby pharmacists from developing countries are supported to spend brief periods of work with colleagues in other countries to learn knowledge and skills. While pharmacists from the WPR have benefited from this program, participation has been limited compared with participation for African or South Asia.

The two winners of the 2013 FIP / WPPF scholarships, Mr Sheldon Silva of the Philippines and Mr Nibhay Nand of Fiji who were supported to attend the Dublin Congress both reported benefiting greatly from the “once in a life time opportunity” to participate in the world’s largest gathering of pharmacists from different fields of practice. Establishing links with colleagues at the Young Pharmacists Group Business meeting will provide an on-going network of support for both Sheldon and Nibhay.

5. FIP Pharmaceutical Science World Congress.

The WPPF was well represented at the PSWC held in Melbourne in April 2014 with numerous speakers and delegates from the countries of the Region and three Executive members of the WPPF in attendance. Prof Chui led a congress session titled Singapore Showcase which provided an overview of pharmaceutical education, research and development in Singapore.

Mr Jackson participated in a FIP*Ed* Education Initiative held concurrent with the Congress. The focus of the initiative was the interface of science and practice in an education context with the aim of generating a consensus in relation to collaboration and integration of scientific teaching and learning for pharmacists’ health care mission.

6. WPPF Annual General Meeting

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum will be held during the FIP Congress in Bangkok. The meeting will commence at 1215pm on Tuesday 2nd September in Room 224 at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre, 88th Bangna-Trad Road, Bangna, Bangkok. An election for membership of the Executive is scheduled to be conducted at the AGM and delegates at the Congress from the countries of the Western Pacific Region are welcome to attend.