



# WESTERN PACIFIC PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM

of the International Pharmaceutical Federation

## Report to members

This is a report to member associations of the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum [WPPF] for the period July 2015 to June 2016.

The WPPF is the regional Forum affiliated with the International Pharmaceutical Federation and based on WHO's Western Pacific Region which stretches from Mongolia in the north west, to New Zealand in the south, and French Polynesia in the east.

The WPPF has an Executive Committee of six members who are appointed for two year terms and is supported by an appointed General Secretary based in Manila and an appointed Executive Secretary based in Melbourne.

### Executive Committee Members

Position	Name	Country
President	Mr John Jackson	Australia
Vice President	Dr Tony Tarn	China Taiwan
Member	Prof Wai Keung Chui	Singapore
Member	Ms Leonie Ocampo	Philippines
Member & FIP Liaison	Mr Nobuo Yamamoto	Japan
Member to 12/2015	Mrs Kyung-Shin Baek	Korea
Member from 12/2015	Dr Sanh Hoon Joo	Korea
General Secretary	Mr Reynaldo Umali	Philippines
Executive Secretary	Dr Suzanne Caliph	Australia

### Member organisations

	Name of Organisation	Country
1	Japan Pharmaceutical Association	Japan
2	Korean Pharmaceutical Association	Korea
3	Pharmaceutical Society of China Taiwan	China Taiwan
4	Philippines Pharmacists Association	Philippines
5	Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore	Singapore
6	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia	Australia
7	Pharmacy Guild of Australia	Australia
8	Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand	New Zealand
9	Pharmaceutical Society of Fiji	Fiji
10	Vietnam Pharmacists Association	Vietnam
11	Pharmaceutical Society of Papua New Guinea	PNG

### Advancing pharmacy in the Western pacific Region

President:	Mr John Jackson	<a href="mailto:jjackson@interpharm.com.au">jjackson@interpharm.com.au</a>	+61 [0]425 725 286
General secretary:	Mr Reymond Umali	<a href="mailto:rumali0618@gmail.com">rumali0618@gmail.com</a>	+63 905 364 9355
Executive secretary:	Dr Suzanne Caliph	<a href="mailto:Suzanne.caliph@monash.edu">Suzanne.caliph@monash.edu</a>	+ 61 (0)401 316 850

While there are 37 countries and territories in the Region, many are very small island groups which do not have national pharmacy organisations.

### **Main activities of the Forum**

The Executive Committee met on five occasions during the report period, two occasions face to face and three occasions using the web based GoTo meeting facility provided by FIP.

The WPPF 2015 AGM was held during the FIP Congress in Dusseldorf, Germany with twenty two delegates from member countries in attendance. The meeting was followed by an **Open Forum**, providing an opportunity for member countries to inform WPPF how it may work with local organisations, the FIP, the WHO Regional Office and other stakeholders to assist pharmacist of the Western Pacific Region and to promote the role of pharmacists. The forum considered three topics, namely:

- Good Pharmacy Practice
- WHO programs such as AMR, UHC and access to medicines
- Education

Further details on the outcome of the Open Forum are presented below.

With the assistance of the FIP Foundation, the WPPF grants two **scholarships** every year for pharmacists from developing countries to attend the FIP Congress. In 2015 the successful applicants were Ms Arianne Diane Aninon from the Philippines and Dr Gereltuya Dorj from Mongolia who was the first ever scholarship winner from Mongolia. With support from Ego Pharmaceuticals of Australia, WPPF was able to grant a third scholarship in 2015 to Mr Avnil Shiva Naraya from Fiji.

During the report period the Executive sought to contact all past scholarship winners and obtain their responses to a short questionnaire aimed at assessing the perceived benefit of having been awarded the scholarships and to determine career achievements which could in part be attributed to the scholarship. A total of 23 scholarships have been awarded to pharmacists of the Region since the program was instigated. WPPF received responses from 16 past recipients who were all grateful for the assistance that the scholarships had provided. A report on the perceived benefits has been compiled and all respondents agreed to act as an ad hoc advisory group for the WPPF.

With the support of the **Pharmabridge** program and in association with WPPF, two pharmacists from the Philippines were hosted at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne for one month in October - November 2015. Ferlien Baula and Cherrie Muana from the Pharmacy Faculty of the University of the Immaculate Conception received training and exposure to antimicrobial stewardship and clinical teaching.

The WPPF President was a keynote speaker at two major conference in the Region. In January 2016, Mr Jackson spoke on the topic of *WPPF Regional Perspectives on Alignment of Education with Good Pharmacy Practice* at the inaugural **International Conference on Pharmacy Education and Practice** hosted by Universiti Sains Malaysia and Hospital Pulau Pinang in Penang, Malaysia. In May 2016, Mr Jackson



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spoke on the topic of *Reducing the Global Burden of Disease – Optimising the Pharmacists' Contribution* at the 2016 **Philippine Pharmacists Association Convention** in Cebu City, Philippines.

The WPPF was represented by the President at the **WHO Bi-Regional Consultation on Good Governance for Improved Access to Medicines**, held in Manila, Philippines from 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Covering both the WHO Western Pacific Region and South and East Asia Region, the objectives of the meeting were:

1. To advocate for recognition of the importance of effective national medicines policies and their implementation under good governance.
2. To facilitate the exchange of information and collaboration among Member States on governance best practice.
3. To share experience with good governance programmes, transparency initiatives and other programmes such as the approach of situation analyses of medicines in health care delivery.

Mr Jackson was invited to speak to the meeting on the subject of *Implementing codes of conduct for pharmacists*

The WPPF has been awarded funding to stage a **Regional Leaders Summit** which will be held in Manila, Philippines on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The aim of the Summit will be to identify issues that pharmacists from across the region face in relation to GPP and to develop a strategy and work-plan for use by national associations to address the most common and pressing issue.

## Report on the WPPF Open Forum

The Open Forum was held following the WPPF AGM at the 2015 FIP Congress. The attendees at the Open Forum were divided into groups to discuss the following three topics:

Topic 1: What can WPPF do to assist countries with GPP?

Topic 2: What can WPPF do to assist countries with WHO programs such as Antimicrobial Resistance and Access to Medicines?

Topic 3: What can WPPF do to assist in education?

## Topic 1: What can WPPF do to assist countries with GPP?

This group reported that an option for WPPF to assist could be through developing and running GPP training workshops in countries. In addition, WPPF could provide guidance and assistance in lobbying governments to establish Pharmacy laws that are aligned with FIP/WHO GPP guidelines and standards for quality of pharmacy services. Other suggestions of the GPP group included WPPF to develop a GPP online training program for member countries and to run a Regional GPP Forum that could:

- Provide expertise and help facilitate an increased appreciation of GPP.
- Demonstrate how GPP can create savings for the government.
- Facilitate cooperation between countries – establish a “Council of Pharmacists” to assist with issues such as curriculum review for GPP.

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Leonie Ocampo reported how recent support and guidance of WPPF and FIP had assisted the Philippines Pharmacist Association to update the country's GPP Standards for advancement of roles and practices of pharmacists. This had subsequently led to successful lobbying for changes in national pharmacy law that are aligned with the GPP.

### **Topic 2: What can WPPF do to assist countries with WHO programs such as Antimicrobial Resistance and Access to Medicines?**

The WHO focused group proposed that WPPF should identify from the list of WHO priorities, specific targets of relevance. WPPF could create opportunities and provide assistance (with technical and sourcing of funds) for member countries to be engaging in WHO priority projects for the region such as antimicrobial resistance, universal health coverage and access to essential medicines. WPPF could also assist with strengthening capacity at country level through establishment of private public partnership to tackle infectious diseases and drug resistance problems (e.g. TB, HIV, Malaria) which are prevalent in a number of member countries of the WPPF region.

Other options included:

- Promotion of regulation through pharmacy organisations.
- Creation of a regional schedule of medicines to constrain access
- Address the issue of business income versus rational supply

### **Topic 3: What can WPPF do to assist in education?**

It was proposed that successful scholarship can be the 'agent for change' for practice. The "Education group" proposed that WPPF could assist member countries by providing access to an online platform capable of sharing and dissemination of educational resources. Monash University's Pharmacademy platform was mentioned as a valuable educational resource sharing site for which WPPF member countries could access and contribute. It was also suggested that the WPPF website could include an "education tab" for sharing and disseminating current education materials and resources for the advancement of pharmacy and pharmacist education in member countries.

FIP has a wide range of education resources however language is a problem for some countries. Other education related suggestions that WPPF could assist member countries included:

- access to clinical training scholarships,
- mentoring opportunities
- expert advice to assist with curriculum development and quality education.

For any questions on the above or any other matters in relation to the WPPF please contact the President at: [john.jackson@monash.edu](mailto:john.jackson@monash.edu)