

WESTERN PACIFIC PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM

of the International Pharmaceutical Federation

2019 Annual Report of the Regional Pharmaceutical Forums to the FIP Council for the period June 2018 and May 2019

The **Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum** [WPPF] is based on WHO's Western Pacific Region which stretches from Mongolia in the northwest, to New Zealand in the south, and Fiji in the east. Home to approximately one-quarter of the world's population, the Region is very diverse economically, culturally and in pharmacy practice. It has some of the world's least developed and most isolated countries plus rapidly growing and highly developed economies. Of the 37 countries and territories in the Region, just 16 have pharmacy schools and pharmacy associations.

Executive committee members:

Position	Name	Country
President	Mr John Jackson	Australia
Vice President	Prof Wai Keung Chui	Singapore
Member	Dr Nobuo Yamamoto	Japan
Member	Ms Leonie Ocampo	Philippines
Member	Prof Jih-Heng Li	China Taiwan
Member	Dr Sang Hoon Joo	Korea
General Secretary	Mr Reynaldo Umali	Philippines
Executive Secretary	Dr Suzanne Caliph	Australia

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	Current Member Organisations	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	Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand	New Zealand
8	Pharmaceutical Society of Fiji	Fiji
9	Vietnam Pharmacists Association	Vietnam
10	Pharmaceutical Society of Papua New Guinea	PNG
11	Association of Pharmacy Professional Mongolia	Mongolia

Main activities and collaborations of the Forum

The WPPF has continued its work in supporting development of **Good Pharmacy Practice, competency statements and professional development frameworks in the Western Pacific Region.**

Ms Jun Kyung Lee from **Korea** completed her WPPF internship during which she undertook interviews with leaders of the major pharmacy association from the majority of the countries of the region to determine the status of competency standards and professional development frameworks.

Ms Lee also undertook a comparative analysis of the competency standards that exist in the Region, using the Global Competency Framework as a reference. This work has subsequently been disseminated through a series of workshops, conference posters, presentations and will be submitted for publication in a professional journal.

In mid-2018, the WPPF President undertook a study tour of pharmacy in Mongolia at the invitation of the **Association of Pharmacy Professionals of Mongolian**. It included presentations at a conference in Ulaanbaatar organised by the Association. He subsequently provided a reported to the Association on practice guidelines, implementation of Good Pharmacy Practice and the development of competency standards for pharmacists.

Posters on WPPF's work on competency in the region have been presented at the 2018 FIP Congress in Glasgow, Scotland, at a PharmAlliance meeting at Monash University in Melbourne and at the annual conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

At the 2018 FIP Congress in Glasgow, WPPF conducted a forum for delegates from the Region attending the Congress. At the Forum a workshop was conducted on the second Regional issue arising from the WPPF 2016 Leaders' Summit, namely how to **deliver effective medication therapy management.**

The WPPF Executive Committee continued to meet both face to face and via the web. Face to face meetings were held in **Brisbane, Australia** in association with the Life Long Learning in Pharmacy Conference and in Manila, Philippines. In Brisbane, the WPPF Executive met with the Vice President of the **Pharmaceutical Society of Australia** and with the Dean of the School of Pharmacy at University of Queensland.

Issues addressed at ExCo meetings include the alignment of undergraduate education with changing roles of pharmacists, the separation of prescribing and dispensing, regulatory change in countries and access to medicines via the web and the potential to stage a regional conference.

While in Manila, the WPPF President continued **engagement with WHO Western Pacific Regional Office**, holding discussions about cooperative arrangements with both Dr Escalante, Senior Technical Officer, Essential Medicines & Technologies and Mr Indrajit Hazarika, Senior Technical Officer, Health Workforce.

The President and Executive Secretary met with the FIP President and CEO in Melbourne in February to discuss further collaboration.

The WPPF President attended the inaugural **FIP Regional Conference in Amman, Jordan** in April. While there, he attended a **meeting with the FIP President and CEO with Forum leaders**. He argued that the purpose of the Pharmaceutical Forums is to:

1. Strengthen pharmacy practice particularly in developing countries.
2. Facilitate collaboration between pharmacy associations in the region.
3. Collaborate with the WHO Regional Office to advance pharmacy practice and the pharmacy workforce.
4. Support FIP policies in the regions.

He noted that the Forums exist as different types of entities including registered and non-registered associations and are dependent of membership income which is varied and in some cases inadequate. Strengthening financial viability is critical to the level of activity, effectiveness and sustainability of the forums, and the WPPF presented options for restructure the Pharmaceutical Forums as more sustainable entities, with greater alignment with FIP.

The WPPF President also attended the Biennial Conference of the **Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations** in the Philippines at which he presented on the *“Development of competency frameworks for the pharmacy workforce”*.

On behalf of FIP, the WPPF President gave the key note presentation at the **Philippine Pharmacists Association 2019 Congress** in Davao City, Philippines in May. The presentation was on the Congress theme *“Unleash the Hero in You: Pharmacists Rising Beyond Expectations”*.

WPPF has now established a second internship, with Mr Pradeep Mishra currently investigating **medication therapy management in the Western Pacific Region** with the intention of developing a tool kit that WPPF will be able to use to assist pharmacy associations implement MTM programs.

The **main challenges for WPPF** are to create a more sound structure by establishing the Forum as a registered association and engaging with all aspects of the profession, namely pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical sciences and education across the Region.