

Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum

2020 Annual Report of the Regional Pharmaceutical Forums to the FIP Council

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 worlds' 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	Dr Yaw-Bin Huang	China Taiwan
Member	Dr Sang Hoon Joo	Korea
Member	Ms Zuzaan Zulzaga	Mongolia
General Secretary	Mr Reynaldo Umali	Philippines
Executive Secretary	Dr Suzanne Caliph	Australia

	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

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Governance of the Forum between June 2019 and May 2020:

Elections for the Executive

Two new members were elected to the Executive at the biannual elections in February 2020; Ms Zuzaan Zulzaga, Head, Association of Pharmaceutical Professionals of Mongolian and Dr Yaw-Bin Huang, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Taiwan. Dr Ji-Heng Li of Taiwan did not stand for re-election and the Executive expresses its appreciation for Dr Li's contribution to the WPPF over recent years.

Executive meetings

The Forum elected to hold monthly virtual meetings of the Executive and limit face to face meetings to twice per year. The February face to face meeting was cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic. Subsequent meetings have been held by videoconference.

Key collaboration with other stakeholders of the region

Regional consultation

The Forum was represented by its General Secretary at the consultation session for the Draft Framework for Regional Action and Multi stakeholder Accountability to Combat ANTIMICROBIAL Resistance in the Western Pacific held at the WHO Regional Office in Manila, Philippines in July 2019.

Activities of the Forum between June 2019 and May 2020:

Strengthening Pharmacist Associations

The Forum developed a proposal for a senior leaders Regional Meeting on Tackling Health Needs by Strengthening Professional Pharmacist Associations. The proposal was submitted for funding but has yet to be successful.

Regional Conference

In response to an invitation from FIP the Forum submitted a proposal in association with the Philippine Pharmacists Association to stage a 3-day Regional Conference in Manila in August 2020.

COVID-19 funding

The Forum has prepared a proposal to be submitted to the Australian – ASEAN Council for funding to conduct a study of the impact and response to COVID-19 of community pharmacies.

Projects

A workshop on Good Pharmacy Practice Principles Underpinning Pharmacists' Practice was conducted in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea by WPPF with a contribution by the WHO in-country representative. WPPF Executive members (JJ & LO) subsequently contributed to the PSPNG Biannual Conference.

WPPF has undertaken two significant projects aimed at developing resources to support its work in promoting the FIP/WHO Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) Guidelines. As reported previously, a comparative **analysis of the competency standards and professional development frameworks** that exist in the Region was completed by WPPF pharmacy intern from Korea, Ms Jun Kyung Lee, using the Global Competency Framework as a reference.

A pharmacist with detailed knowledge of pharmaceutical forum activities, Mr Pradeep Mishra has also investigated **Medication Therapy Management in the Region**. The GPP Guidelines state that one of the roles of pharmacists is providing effective **Medication Therapy Management (MTM)**. WPPF has conducted a survey of 16 countries in relation to MTM services and the results demonstrate wide variation in terminology and scope of services across the Region. The outcomes of the survey are being used to develop a tool kit that may assist countries develop MTM.

As a preliminary scoping project, the impact and response to the coronavirus pandemic has been undertaken.

Publications

A paper written by members of the Executive (JJ, SC, WKC, LO) titled *Using a collaborative decision making approach to identify, priorities and respond to issues affecting Good Pharmacy Practice caross countries of the Western Pacific Region* was published in the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice. This paper arose from the Regional Summit conducted by the Forum in Manila in late 2017.

A manuscript titled *Assessment of the feasibility of a regional competency framework for pharmacists in the Western Pacific Region*, arising from the study of competency standards and profesional development frameworks in the Region has been submitted for publication

Main challenges:

The ability to contribute to events in countries of the Region has been hampered by the coronavirus pandemic.