AFPA President’s Message

The 6th World Congress of Asian Psychiatry of the Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 24-26 March, 2017. See the website announcement at www.afpa2017.com. A really fulfilling, fascinating programme is to be expected by the scientific committee centering on Norman Sartorius (Switzerland). The overflowing programme of the 6th WCAP will provide a unique opportunity for delegates to see and to learn. Delegates from other international societies such as the World Psychiatric Association, The Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists, European Psychiatric Association, etc. will join us at the 6th WCAP in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

As in the past, the 6th WCAP will begin with a substantial pre-congress programme with special designs for young psychiatrists. Seven young psychiatrists from various countries will receive travel awards. I hope that at Abu Dhabi, we will build and enforce the young psychiatrist network of the AFPA.

The AFPA is an important association for Asian psychiatrists. It is a core organization around which we get together to exchange problems and ideas for solutions of mental health from each countries. Although Asia is characterised by its diversity and differences, we also have many similarities as well. An experience of one country can be useful as a great lesson to another country. Therefore, the 6th WCAP is a perfect platform to make new friends and to see old friends.

In Asia, industries and economics are expanding and growing. Therefore, the importance of mental health will be further increased, especially in the policy of public health promotion, and in the issue of changes in socio-economic structure.

Two years ago, we had a successful the 2015 5th WCAP, 3-6 March, 2015, in Fukuoka, Japan, where more
than 30 Asian societies were represented. Then, we also had a successful international congress (IC) of the AFPA in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where those who attended had an exceptional experiences of academic, social and cultural events in beautiful surroundings. We hope that the 6th WCAP in Abu Dhabi Congress will come up as another successful get-together for delegates from AFPA and other mental health professionals in 2017. I am looking forward to the pleasure of meeting and see you all in Abu Dhabi.

An Overview of Scientific Programme of the 6th WCAP, 24 - 26 March 2017, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations (www.afpa.asia) is pleased to announce 6th World Congress of Asian Psychiatry being held, 24 -26 March 2017 at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The theme of the WCAP is “Psychiatry in Asia: Unity in Diversity” It is our great privilege and honour to host the 2017 6th WCAP in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Our local host, Emirates Society of Mental Health, is enthusiastic to greet you all at Abu Dhabi, a city that is full of cultural heritage and an exciting place for meeting, shopping and enjoying.

The AFPA has been actively involved in many areas of development of mental health in Asian region along with contributing towards improving teaching, training, and capacity-building in mental health. Since the start of AFPA, many collaborative initiatives have in fact emerged in Asia and AFPA congresses have always emerged as an important platform for meeting, discussing, and sharing thoughts for future collaboration in many areas of mental health.

We are pleased that 2017 PAFPA World Congress will address all these issues and we hope your participation in the scientific programme will add value to our efforts for strengthening AFPA’s mission to promote mental health in our region.

The scientific programme will include 11 plenary lectures, 3 Round table sessions, 1 special session on “regions in the world,” 2 presidential symposia, 25 symposia covering most of the academic and clinical areas in psychiatry, 4 satellite industry-sponsored symposia and poster presentations, and exciting social programmes.

Special programme for the young psychiatrists and psychiatrist trainee has also been developed with workshops on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), learning disability disorders and examination skills. Additionally “Meet the Experts” sessions is to provide an opportunity to the young psychiatrists to meet the distinguished psychiatrists and international leaders in psychiatry. What’s more, “Postgraduate Teaching and Training Updates in Asia” will add further value to the academic programme.

It is worth noting that the 6th WCAP is attended by presidents and representatives from many national psychiatrists associations from Asian region (Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Iran, Armenia, UAE, etc.) and many senior and notable psychiatrists from Asia as well.

Scientific programme includes prominent speakers like Dinesh Bhugra (UK, president of the World
Psychiatric Association), Helen Herrman (Australia, WPA president-elect), Norman Sartorius (Switzerland, a past WPA president), Malcolm Hopwood (Australia, president of Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists), Kym Jenkins (Australia, president-elect of RANZCP), Sir Simon Wessely, (UK, president of Royal College of Psychiatrists of UK), Saul Levin (USA, medical director of the American Psychiatric Association), Wolfgang Gaebel (Germany, president of European Psychiatric Association), Silvana Galderisi from EPA), Ahmad Okasha, Walid Sarhan, Naseer Loza and Nasser Shurique from Arab Federation of Psychiatrists, Solly Rataemane from African Association of Psychiatrists and Allied Professional, Rodrigo Cordoba immediate Past President Association of Psychiatrists of Latin America, Prasad Rao President SAARAC Psychiatric Federation and Eka Viora ASEAN Psychiatric Federation besides notable office bearers from AFPA and prominent psychiatrists from Asia including S Kanba (Japan), N. Shinfuku (Japan), Pichet Udomratn, Yongyud Wongpriorsarn (Thailand), Yanling HE (China), Nor Zuraida Zainal (Malaysia), Eric Chen (Hong Kong), Rene Samaniego (Philippines) Peminder Sachdev, Samir Ibrahim (Australia), E. H. Kua (Singapore), Cheng Lee (Singapore), Golam Rabbani (Bangladesh), Raveen Hanwella (Sri Lanka), Nalaka Mendis (Sri Lanka), Nasar Khan (Pakistan), M.S.V.K. Raju (India), Mukesh Jaggiwala (India), S. K. Chaturvedi (India), M. Thirunavukarasu (India), Roy Kallivayalil (India), and T. V. Asokan (India).

The notable speakers from Arab and Gulf Region include Peter Woodruff (Qatar), Suhaila Ghuloum (Qatar), Ziad Kronfol (Qatar), M. A. Zhaid (Kuwait), Mohamamd Alsweedeen (Kuwait), Qassim Al Awadi (Iraq), Ahmad Alzaharran (Saudi Arabia), Abdullah Alqahtani (Saudi Arabia), Sami Almalki (Saudi Arabia), Elie G. Karim (Lebanon), Hisham Ramy (Egypt), and Reham Aly (Egypt).

The conference is also privileged for having full local support from Samia Abul (President of Emirates Society of Mental Health), and her UAE colleagues (Adel Karrani, Nadia Dabbagh, Khawla AlMeer , Tarek Abdel Gawad, Talaat Matar, Hamdy Fouad Moselhy, Mohamed Fayek, Hind Majid AL Al, Ghanem Ali Al Hassani, Medhat El Sabbah, Mohamed Al Gabry Gamal Mousa, Samer Makhoul, Hussain Maseeh, Mona AlMonsoori, Amna Turki, Khawla Al Mee, Ahmed Al Kashef, and Ahmad Mohammed Al Mai), as well as many other senior and distinguished psychiatrists working in UAE.

What to Do in Abu Dhabi: Samples of Tourist Attractions While Attending the 6th WCAP

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi is the world’s first Ferrari-branded theme park. It is the only place on the planet where you can be blasted to 240 km/hour in 4.9 seconds. Beneath its gigantic iconic red roof, it houses numerous high-adrenaline rides including the spectacular new Flying Aces ride, featuring the highest rollercoaster loop in the world, the world’s fastest rollercoaster, Formula Rossa, family-friendly attractions, state-of-the-art simulators, electric-powered go-karts, live shows and an inspiring treasure of racing memorabilia!
Abu Dhabi Desert. The Al Badeyah desert camp, nestled in the desert dunes of Al Khaznah, gives visitors a unique insight into UAE traditions and customs and allows them to enjoy an authentic Arabian experience under the stars. Most desert safaris include a thrill-a-minute spot of breathtaking dune bashing, sand skiing, quad biking, a visit to a camel farm, camel riding, and a traditional meal under the stars. Overnight stays let you enjoy smoky sunsets and luminous sunrises. With high dunes and long sand valleys, you will never get bored of adrenaline fuelled dune bashing.

Arabian Wildlife Park in Abu Dhabi. On Sir Bani Yas Island, the Arabian Wildlife Park is home to more than 10,000 free roaming animals and takes up more than half of the island. Visitors can now get up close and personal, at eye-level, with the island’s giraffes from a purpose-built viewing platform made completely from recycled materials. There are many Arabian Oryx, gazelles and giraffes, along with hyenas and cheetahs.

Corniche Beach. Abu Dhabi’s pristine Corniche beachfront has been awarded coveted Blue Flag status: the internationally renowned eco-label for beaches and marinas that guarantees clean and safe bathing water.
The above-shown pictures are only samples to highlight the tourist attractions in Abu Dhabi. The readers are reminded to read features on Abu Dhabi [1] and United Arab Emirates [2] in the summer 2016 issue of the Bulletin of the AFPA, showing the Emirates Palace and Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque [1], as well as describing geography and history of the UAE [2], respectively.

For more detailed tourist pursuit, the delegates should consult website “10 Top-Rated Tourist Attractions in Abu Dhabi” or a tour book for more information.

References

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FROM THE OFFICE OF AFPA

Asian Federation of Psychiatric Association Is Officially Registered in Tokyo, Japan

I am pleased to announce that Asian Federation of Psychiatric Association was officially registered in Tokyo, Japan on 12 December, 2016.

At the executive board council of the 2013 4th World Congress of Asian Psychiatry of the AFPA in Bangkok, Thailand, the registration AFPA was decided. The purpose of having an official registration at any government in Asia was intended to protect the AFPA propriety rights from any unauthorized use or impingement of the title of AFPA and its logo. The board council later agreed to register in Japan.

AFPA was registered as an official corporate body in Tokyo Japan on 12 December, 2016. As the corporate body, the AFPA has the following missions – to promote the interactions among national psychiatric associations and mental health professionals and to improve the standard of psychiatry and psychiatric services in Asia.

To achieve those two missions, the AFPA is expected to undertake the following activities:
• to organise academic meetings
• to issue publications on matters related to psychiatry and mental health services in Asia.

• to liaise with international organization, governmental organization, non-governmental organization (NGO) and academic societies.
• to exchange information related to mental diseases and mental health among Asian countries.
• to provide training and education of mental health professionals and to promote research activities.
• to undertake other activities necessary to achieve the objectives of the corporation.

The original language for the registration of the AFPA in Japanese, and the English translation is not official. The website of the AFPA is at www.afpa.asia.

I would like to extend my thanks for the strong support provided to AFPA by psychiatrists and mental health professional colleagues in Asia.

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(Editor’s note: Shinfuku is a founding president of the AFPA.)
Afzal Javed, New AFPA President, 2017-2019

Afzal Javed becomes the president of the Asian Federation of Psychiatric Association at the close of 6th World Congress of Asian Psychiatry in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 24-16 March, 2017. He has been the president-elect of the AFPA since 2015.

Dr. Javed graduated from King Edward Medical College Lahore, Pakistan. Then he received higher specialised training in psychiatry from Pakistan as well as United Kingdom at Royal Edinburgh Hospital, University of Edinburgh and at Institute of Psychiatry and Maudsley Hospital, London.

Javed used to serve at the UK Royal College of Psychiatrists as deputy/associate registrar, member Board of International Affairs of the College, Chairman of West Midlands Division of the College and one of the lead College office bearers for speciality and associate specialist doctors and patient carers groups. He is also elected as executive committee member of the College Faculty of Rehabilitation and Social Psychiatry.

His rôle in the uplift of mental health in Pakistan and more importantly in many other countries of South Asian region has been acknowledged by professional organizations and many governmental and voluntary international groups. His contributions for setting up of rehabilitation psychiatric services in Pakistan make him a distinctive psychiatrist in his country.

Furthermore, his involvement in organizing international meetings, training courses and educational activities for South Asian psychiatrists and mental health professionals is an example of his dedication to the cause of mental health. He founded South Asian Forum on Mental Health, and was a founding secretary of AFPA.

His areas of special interest are psychosocial rehabilitation, social and transcultural psychiatry, and psychiatric research. His academic skills have been valuable when publishing more than 104 scientific papers and being author of six books/monographs on different topics of psychiatry. He is currently involved in a number of projects on schizophrenia and is completing audits in different clinical aspects of long-term management of chronic mentally ill in the community.

FROM PRESIDENTS OF AFPA NATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETIES

The 2016 Activities of the VPA

In the year of 2016, we have witnessed the growth and expansion of the Vietnam Psychiatric Association (VPA). Here, we are highlighting some sample activities:

- **Two more VPA chapters**
  Quang Nam and Quang Ngai were two newly created chapters of the VPA in 2016. As of December 2016, the whole VAP had 35 chapters nationwide.
- **Newly elected financial vice president of the VPA**
  Nguyen Doan Phuong, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health of Vietnam was elected to a newly added vice president of the VPA. He has been in charge of the financial affairs of the VPA.
- **Newly elected members of VPA executive committee**
  The VPA has had nine elected added members to form the 6th term of the VPA executive committee. Now VPA has a total of 44 members currently.
- **Two scientific conferences took place**
  The VPA has organized two conferences in 2016. The first conference on “Mental Disorders due to Substance Abuse and Treatment Methods” and
“Treatment Methods for Elders with Alzheimer’s Disease” took place in Hanoi. The second conference was on “Psychiatric Disorders of Children (Autism, and Hyperactivity)” was held at Bien Hoa City.

Tran Van Cuong, VPA president, addressed to the VPA members at the conference in Bien Hoa, Vietnam

- **Scientific activities**
  
The VPA has written two features for the *Bulletin of Asian Federations of Psychiatric Associations* to share with the AFPA colleagues of what has been going on in the VPA. We accepted the invitation from Naotaka Shinfuku (Japan) to join the research on Asian psychotropic prescription pattern (REAP). In 2016, we contributed 247 cases of on schizophrenic inpatients to the database. Totally three papers were published in scientific journals.

- **Joining the social debates**
  
The VPA participated in joint reviews about forensic psychiatry, held by the Health Ministry and the Ministry of Justice. The VPA also jointed the review for the draft of “Law on Prevention of Drug Abuse and Alcoholism,” sponsored by the Ministry of Health and the Vietnam Medical Association.

- **Giving certificates of merit**
  
The VPA gave certificates of merit to two collective groups and four individuals who have contributed to building the VPA. The VPA presented certificates of merit to 32 members in 2016. The VAP has also nominated four individuals and two VPA branch societies to receive merit commendations from the Ministry of Health.

- **International professional exchanges**
  
In 2016, the VPA were working with French Psychiatric Association and keeping contact with national psychiatric associations of Taiwan, Japan, Australia, Canada, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, India, etc.

On behalf of the VPA, I worked with and exchanged information and experiences with Peter I. Collins, an expert of forensic psychiatry, from University of Toronto in Canada about collaboration between two parties.

In December 2016, delegates from the VPA attended the International Academy of Law and Mental Health – Asian Pacific Conference 15-17 December at Bangalore, Karnataka, India. The conference theme was “Law and Mental Health – Road Ahead.” The conference was sponsored by The World Psychiatric Association, Indian Psychiatric Society, and World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation.

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**The RANZCP Leadership**

The year 2016 has been a very busy year for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) in international engagement. I have been honoured to have been invited to many events in our region and beyond. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the International Conference of the Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations (the IC of the AFPA) held with the Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists in Colombo, 27-30 May, 2016.

In May 2017, I will finish my term as President, and Dr. Kym Jenkins will take on the presidency of the RANZCP from May 2017 to April 2019. Dr Jenkins has held a range of roles as a consultant psychiatrist in both the public and private sectors. She is currently medical director/senior clinician of the Victorian Doctors Health Program, runs a small private practice and is an adjunct senior lecturer at Monash University. Dr. Jenkins has had extensive involvement in psychiatry-related medical education, both within the RANZCP and externally.

There is plenty of activity scheduled between now
University Students in Cambodia Conducted WMHD on 16 October, 2016

Cambodia is one of low income country among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. It has area of 181,035 km², and population was 15 million in 2015, with a majority (around 80%) living in rural areas. Health care is offered by both public and private practitioners. The use of traditional method for treating diseases is still popular. With a culture of robust traditional medicine centred on the Kru Khmer, the traditional healers are still popular throughout the country.

The mental health (MH) manpower in Cambodia is not adequate – in 2015 only having 64 psychiatrists, 4 psychiatric residents, and 44 psychiatrist nurses) for the whole country. Hospital resources in Cambodia are also limited – only having 8 national hospitals, 89 operational districts, and 97 referral hospitals (around 58% of them having mental health services), and 1,105 health centers (15% of them having mental health services). Therefore, the decentralization and integration of MH care would have strong advantage for the population. In addition, stigma, discrimination, and MH literacy among general population lead to more severe condition. There are not many campaigns such as mass media talking about the need of MH to people and their families who have mental illness problems. But some young people are aware of the important rôle of MH in their schooling life. Established by the World Federation of Mental Health and recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO), World Mental Health Day (WMHD) activities take place annually to promote MH awareness. The 2016 World Mental Health Day in Cambodia was conducted in the form of giving lectures under the theme “Dignity in Mental Health: Psychological and Mental Health First Aid for All” on 16 October.

Mental Health Association of Cambodia (MHAC) supported an initiative idea of Paññāsāstra Student Senate to conduct the 2016 WMHD to raise MH awareness, to purposely encourages university (non-medical) students to take care of MH in their schooling life and also join together to support people in the community who have MH difficulties to live happily and productively.

More than 200 WMHD participants (including national, international professors, lecturers, students, administrative staff) attended this event on 16 October, 2016 in Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia. The WMHD lecture activities were divided into three parts – the brief presentation about MH system in ASEAN countries; experiences from exchange projects between Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam funded by F. K. Fredskorpset (Norway); as well as sessions on question and answers (Q & A). Thirty questions about general understanding on MH have been developed and giving to students to choose as lottery coordinated by psychiatric nurse. Those students who correctly answered answer the questions were given small gifts. Around 95% students have understood about the important of MH issues and become the community agent to advocate MH and to give the mental health first aid to friends, families, and individuals who are faced with the MH difficulties.
University students are interested in mental health need. The mass media and other MH awareness campaign should be conducted more for young generation in to encourage them to advocate in improving MH system in Cambodia. The WMHD campaign might not be run successfully if there was not any support from Mental Health Association of Cambodia. Paññāsāstra Student Senate thanks Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia for giving us a facility to run this event, and Mental Health Association of Cambodia for supports.

A photo of audience at WMHD on 16 October, 2016, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
The first row from L to R: Khem Sokhom (Cambodia), Kol Sophia (Cambodia), Fil Tabayoyong Jr. (Philippines), Kim Savuon (Cambodia), and Ragai Abdelfadiel (Australia)

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The 22nd WASP Was Held in New Delhi, 30 November to 4 December, 2016

The 22nd World Congress of Social Psychiatry took place in New Delhi, India from 30 November, to 4 December, 2016. The WASP was a grand success with 1,100 delegates coming from 50 countries. The scientific programme had 15 plenary lectures, 75 symposia, 15 workshops, 18 free paper sessions, 10 posters sessions, and young psychiatrist track programme. The Congress gave 32 awardees for young psychiatrists coming from all over the world.

Tom Craig delivered the presidential address and Julian Leff, the Yves Pelicier Prize lecture. Plenary lectures were given by Norman Sartorius, Stephen Scott, Dinesh Bhugra, Vijoy K Varma, Eliot Sorel, Vikram Patel, Helen Herrman, Mohan Isaac, Driss Moussaoui, Lawrence Kirmayer, José Miguel Caldas de Almeida, R. S. Murthty, and Roy Kallivayalil.

Justice Cyriac Joseph inaugurated the Congress and K. K. Aggarwal (president-elect of Indian Medical Association) was chief guest at the valedictory function. Cultural and musical evenings added to the traditional Indian hospitality. Heartly Congratulations to Rakesh Chadda (chair), B. S. Chavan (secretary), S. K. Khadelwal (president of IASP) and their dedicated team for making this Congress an unforgettable one.

At the WASP general assembly, new office bearers for 2016-19 were elected. who have assumed office effective 4 December 2016. They are Roy Abraham Kallivayalil (India), president; Rachid Bennegadi (France), president-elect; Fernando Lolas (Chile), secretary general; and Marianne Kastrup (Denmark), treasurer. They took office on 4 December 2016. The 23rd WASP Congress will be held in Paris, 20-22 November 2019.

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(Editor note: Besides president-elect of WFSP, Kallivayalil is secretary-general of the executive council of the World Psychiatric Association.)
The PPS Conducted First Global Electronic Election in October 2016

The Pakistan Psychiatric Society conducted an electronic election in October 2016 for the PPS office bearers of the cabinet. With its membership of 400+ psychiatrists in the world, the PPS achieved an electronic balloting for PPS office officers. The election was the first time in an organization in Pakistan that electronic balloting has ever done. All eligible psychiatrist voters across the globe participated in the voting.

The PPS electronic balloting was introduced with lots of efforts of Muhammad Nasar Sayeed Khan, PPS president 2017-18. He chaired the cabinet meeting of the PPS (see the companion photo). The new office bearers of PPS 2017-18 took the charge effective 1 January, 2017. At the meeting, the annual report of PPS for the previous years was discussed and wrapped up.

Khan chaired the cabinet meeting on January 1, 2017

From right to left: Ghulam Rasool, Muhammad Irfan, Moin Ansari (executive council general secretary, 2017-18), Khan (chairman and the president of PPS, 2017-18), Muhammad Bashir (EC treasurer 2015-16), Darya Khan Leghari (a cabinet member 2015-16), Imitiaz Ahmed (EC general secretary 2015-16), Syed Muhammad Sultan (president 2015-16), Niaz Maqsud (election commissioner 2015-16), Naeem Ullah Leghari (provincial secretary Punjab 2015-16), Munuhar Lal (a cabinet member 2015-16), Muhammad Sohail (provincial secretary Sindh 2015-16), Ajmal Kazmi (a EC member 2015-16), Hifikhar Minhas (EC information secretary 2016-17). Not shown in the photo, the meeting was also attended by Iqbal Afridi (president elect 2016-17), Majid Ali Abidi (vice president 2017-18), and Mukhtar Ul Haq (EC member 2017-18).
The 113th JSPN Annual Meeting, 22-24 June, to Be Held in Nagoya, Japan

The 113th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology will be held June 22-24, 2017 at Nagoya International Convention Center, Nagoya, Japan. The theme of the annual meeting is “Linking Psychiatric Research, Education and Care: Bi-directional Talk.”

The JSPN has stressed greatly on education. Of 10 JSPN priority items, the first one is to establish and to develop a board certification system, and the fifth one is to train the next generation of psychiatrists. In his 2016 New Year’s message to JSPN members, Masatoshi Takeda, the JSPN president, stated that the development and management of a new board certification system for psychiatrists is the most important issue facing the JSPN, and the matter is currently the subject of intense debate. This new board certification system is an issue of training, and is intimately related to the healthcare issue of training psychiatrists who is responsible for providing healthcare in rural areas throughout Japan. In the same way, the Japanese Medical Specialty Board simultaneously prioritises the objective of providing standard medical care that patients can trust and considerations of local medical care. The MSB also emphasises on cultivating a research mind for specialists, and the JSPN’s policy is also to understand the latest advances in medicine and healthcare, to heed the importance of mastering a scientific way of thinking, and to encourage senior residents to participate in research. A feature of the upgraded program for the new board certification system is that it will be offered by core institutions and associated organizations, and will only be put into practice on the basis of a collaborative framework between the various different organisations providing psychiatric care. We believe that at the 2017 annual meeting, to hold full discussions once again is needed on the board certification system from the viewpoints of all our members.

In 2012, the JSPN declared the Progress of Research to Overcome Mental Disorders. Five years later in 2017, this declaration requires reassessment, especially in the context of utilising the fruits of research in clinical practice and developing the human resources. To participate in research, issues of research ethics are mounting up. In debating the rôle in Japanese clinical psychiatric practice, we need international psychiatric diagnostic standards, including not only the DSM-5 published in 2013 but also the ICD-11. Since the JSPN has been closely involving in the pre-publication review of ICD-11, we will also need to gather opinions for its future revision. Now is the time to disseminate such ideas from Japan to the world.

Our invited overseas speakers at the JSPN annual meeting include Helen Herrman (Australia), Michael B. First (USA), Kenneth S. Kendler (USA), and Robert Freedman (USA). With the input of those speakers, we intend to make the 113rd annual meeting of the JSPN in Nagoya a better occasion for two-way dialogue for JSPN members, and to promote better connections among psychiatric research, education, and patient’s care.

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(Editor’s note: Ozaki is the chair of the 113rd JSPN annual meeting. Takeda is the president of the JSPN.)
FROM PRESIDENTS OF AFPA ALLIED SOCIETIES

The 17th PRCP Meeting, 3-5 November, 2016, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

The 17th Scientific Meeting of Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists was successfully held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 3-5 November, 2016 at the Kaohsiung Exhibition Center. It was the first psychiatric conference to convene in this newly opened commodious waterfront international exhibition and convention centre. The last day of the PRCP meeting was overlapping the first day of the two-day 55th annual meeting of the Taiwanese Society of Psychiatry. The meeting received endorsement and support from the Kaohsiung City Government, the Bureau of Foreign Trade of Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Fo Guang Shang Buddha Memorial Center, Taiwanese Society of Psychiatry, Taiwan Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology, Taiwanese Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Taiwanese Society of Geriatric Psychiatry, and Taiwanese Society of Social and Community Psychiatry.

There were 753 delegates from 26 countries. Among them, one third (248) were from the international countries such as Australia (10), Belize (1), Cambodia (1), Canada (12), China (45), Fiji (1), Finland (1), Hong Kong (9), India (6), Indonesia (19), Japan (50), Korea (21), Malaysia (4), Mongolia (1), Myanmar (1), Nepal (1), Nigeria (1), the Philippines (4), Singapore (11), Swaziland (1), Switzerland (1), Thailand (33), Tuvalu (1), USA (8), and Vietnam (4). Travel awards were granted to five young psychiatrists from the developing countries.

The theme of the meeting is “Mental Health in a Dynamic Region: Creating Changes through Partnership,” and it had indeed demonstrated a strong partnership among the colleagues of Asia-Pacific region and presented a total of 194 posters and 226 oral presentations. Many were the results of their long-term collaborative work, like the Research on Asia Prescription Pattern (REAP) consortium with centres from 15 Asian countries, the Teachers of Psychiatry (TOP) education and training programme led by E. H. Kua (Singapore), the South East Asian community mental health and rehabilitation programmes coordinated by Du-Jian Tsai (Taiwan), the East Asian research on addiction and substance use disorders, and the disaster relief programme, etc.

It was however difficult to accommodate such a substantial amount of presentations in just less than 3 days of the conference as a half day was allocated for a cultural event at the Buddha Memorial Center. The programme was certainly tight and only a very short time was given for each presenter in most parallel sessions and leaving no extra time for discussion. It could have been much better if the meeting was held for 3.5 than just 3 days.

The social events were equally fruitful. The reception dinner was held on the first evening at the Banana Pier, beginning with the ceremony of traditional welcome lion dance and dances of “the God of Third Prince.” The dinner was served at a warehouse-turned water-front restaurant hosted by the deputy mayor of Kaohsiung, Ms. Y. C. Hsu, followed by an introduction of the Kaohsiung city presented by the deputy chief of Kaohsiung Bureau of Tourism. After the dinner, participants were arranged for an exceptional 70-minute cruising tour in the harbor on a luxurious cruise ship serving on board with wine, cheese, and beer. They all enjoyed a lovely evening and the beautiful night scenery of the city with its glamorous lights reflecting on the water way.

In the afternoon of the second day, all participants were transferred by buses to the Buddha Memorial Center, a tourist spot that is located at about 40-minute driving distance from the city centre of Kaohsiung. Guided tour was provided and participants took the opportunity to visit this magnificent centre of Eastern culture after the plenary speech given by Mitchell Weiss (Switzerland) on cultural epidemiology and a forum on disaster management and recovery. In the evening, a blessing ceremony for peace was arranged and delivered by the Abbot of Fo Guang Shang Monastery in front of the 108-metre tall Buddha statue. With an LED lamp on their hands, participants lined up and joined the ceremony that lasted for about 20 minutes. Before leaving the Centre, a group photo was taken under the foot of the great statue of Buddha with all lamps laid on the floor aligning with the word “PRCP 2016” (see companion photo).

To make this conference successful and attractive, we adopted several approaches that were different from the previous meetings:

- A cost-down strategy: We did not employ any
conference company to run for the meeting, but we made partnership with the local government and organisations and utilised whatever available resources that we can get.

- Full support from the local government: As financial support from the industry is drying out, it is vital to have assistance and support from the local governmental specifically in cutting the rates of conference rooms.

- To make the meeting affordable: High rate of registration fees are seen in most conferences, but a significant lower rate of registration fees endorsed in this meeting was certainly attractive and drawn wider participation from trainees and those from the low-income countries.

- To combine academic activities and tourism: The design was to use this meeting as a platform to promote local tourism. On the other hand, it also utilised resources of other agencies like the local board of tourism to balance the cost.

- Employing medical students as volunteers: We trained local and foreign undergraduate medical students as volunteers at the meeting. Other than running down the cost of manpower, it is also a good opportunity for these medical students to have an early exposure to international academic conference and hoping that some of them will choose psychiatry as their future career.

- To organise a green conference: We tried to save any unnecessary printings and their costs, like the printed abstract book which is usually discarded by many participants immediately after the meeting. We did not provide a printed abstract book, but the abstracts and photos taken at this meeting were however uploaded to the conference web and APP for a year and participants can freely retrieve at any time (www.prcp2016.org).

Most importantly, this conference could not have been successful if without the enthusiastic support and active participation of the Board and PRCP members. The general assembly took place on 5 November, 2016, and the new president, executive committee and president-elect were introduced. Travel awards were also presented at the general assembly. During the farewell dinner, participants enjoyed the Mandarin food and good wine at the prestige Palace Club on the 77th floor of the iconic building with a panoramic view of the city and harbor of Kaohsiung. The mood was high as singing and dances were going on even without a karaoke or music. With such a success, several centers have shown their great interests in bidding for the next meeting.

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(Editor’s note: Chong is meeting director of 17th PRCP meeting, and becomes the president-elect of the PRCP at the close of this meeting.)

Regional Latin American Congress of the WFSBP, 25-27 November, 2016

Regional Latin American Congress of World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP) was held 25-27 November, 2016 at Plaza del Bosque Hotel in Lima, Perú. Under the theme “Biological Psychiatry: Breaking Dichotomy of Mind and Body,” organised by Enrique Galli (Perú), the president, and WFSBP executive committee. Reflecting the high activity of Latin American colleagues in biological psychiatry, there were over 400 registrations including more than 80 delegates from overseas countries – Argentina (22), Japan (15), Brazil (14), Colombia (10),
USA (10), Chile (9), and so on.

The plenary lectures were addressed by Lakshmi Yatham (Canada) on recent advances in the treatment of bipolar disorders on the 1st day, by Masatoshi Takeda (Japan) on development of biomarkers and disease-modifying drugs against Alzheimer’s disease on the 1st day, by Ladislav Hosák (Czechoslovakia) entitled “Is microvascular abnormality a new endophenotype in schizophrenia?” on the 2nd day, and by Angelos Halaris (USA) on modulation of inflammation reverses treatment resistant bipolar depression on the 3rd day. There were 43 symposia in three days.

During the Congress, the meeting of the Federation of Latin American Biological Psychiatry (FLAPB) was gathered, and Alejo Corrales (Argentina) has been elected as the president of FLAPB. I was in a session of “WFSBP History and FLAPB,” where leaders of biological psychiatry in South and Central America, including Jorge Ibanez (Venezuela), Jorge Ciprian-Olivier (Argentina), Lorenzo Villalba (Paraguay), Delcie Da Costa (Brazil), Jorge Tellez (Colombia), Pedro Posligua (Ecuador) Fior Solis (Dominica), Luis Feijoo (Peru) gave interesting talks (Companion photo 1).

A photo taken after the session “WFSBP History and Federation of the Latin American Society of Biological Psychiatry”
From left to right: M. Takeda, J. Ciprian Ollivier, A. Corrales, L. Yatham (Canada), L. Villalba, E. Rubio, J. Ibañez, F. Solis, P. Posligua, and colleagues from Peru.

In fact, WFSBP was founded in September 1974 in Buenos Aires, Argentina under the leadership of ambitious biological psychiatrists including the founding president, Edmond Fisher. The first executive committee was approved in Buenos Aires Congress, in which the late professor Mitsuda from Japan, was elected as one of the vice presidents together with Herman Van Praag (Holland) and Yayura-Tobias (Argentina). Considering the fact that Japanese psychiatrists were heavily involved in the development of WFSBP, I was especially happy to be in Lima to address my talk as the current president of WFSBP. In more than 40 years history, along with the progress in biological psychiatry with new psychopharmacology, genetics, and brain imaging, WFSBP has grown up to be a world-wide organisation composed of 63 National Societies of Biological Psychiatry and individual members representing professionals from over 70 countries.

The WFSBP Regional Congress 2016 Lima was a joint initiative of the Latin American Society of Biological Psychiatry (FLAPB) and WFSBP. The Congress was well-organised under the principle objectives of WFSBP; to foster and encourage scientific research and advancement in the field of biological psychiatry, to improve the quality of training spanning all the biological psychiatry sciences, to promote education and achieve the highest level of knowledge and understanding within the field, to provide information and guidance to all institutions, societies or individuals with an interest in biological psychiatry, and to establish, build, and maintain solid collaboration with international and national organisations related to biological psychiatry.

It might be unusual to have 15 participants from Japan to a congress in Lima because Peru is located on the opposite side of the globe requiring more than 30 hour flight to attend the congress. The Japanese colleagues organised the symposium No. 4 entitled “Multimodal studies of excitatory and inhibitory signaling balance in schizophrenia and Autism,” under the leadership of Manabu Makinodan and Toshifumi Kishimoto from Nara Medical College (Companion photo 2).

A photo of Japanese colleagues taken after the symposium “Multimodal studies of excitatory and inhibitory signaling balance in schizophrenia and autism”
From left to right: Manabu Makinodan, Souhei Norimoto, Yasutoku Yamashita, Mariko Takeda, Toshifumi Kishimoto, Takashi Komori, Michihiro Torizuka, Kazuki Okumura, Yasunari Yamaguchi, Daisuke Ikawa, and Yosuke Nishihat.

They were so happy to be involved with WFSBP Regional Congress in Lima, and I am sure they enjoyed a trip to Kusco and Machupichu, the great legacy of Inca, after attending the Congress (Companion photo 3).
The 2016 IPA Asian Regional Meeting in Taipei, Taiwan

The Taiwanese Society of Geriatric Psychiatry in conjunction with the International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA), held the first ever international conference (2016 IPA Asian Regional Meeting) on geriatric psychiatry in Taipei, Taiwan 9-11 December, 2016. More than 400 delegates from 25 countries around the world attended the meeting and shared their knowledge, experience and expertise. Under the conference theme, “Safety and Integrated Care in Aging Mental Health: Cross-cultural Perspectives,” the 2016 IPA Asian Regional Meeting covered a wide range of psychogeriatric issues across disciplines and cultures, bringing new ideas and practices to the field of geriatric psychiatry in Taiwan.

Thanks to the dedication of our outstanding healthcare professionals, everyone in Taiwan is covered by first-rank healthcare services. In addition, Taiwan’s National Health Insurance distributes easily accessible, efficient high-quality healthcare services to literally all citizens and foreign residents. All these achievements extended average life expectancy from 74.5 years in 1995 to 80.2 years in 2015, and transformed the old saying, “It is a rarity to live to the age of seventy,” to “Life at the age of seventy is only just beginning.” As the population over the age of 65 years has been increased, Taiwan became an “aging society” in 1993 according to the World Health Organisation’s definition, and we have more than 3 million elderly people now. Taiwan is estimated to become an “aged society,” with more than 14% of the whole population over 65 years in 2017. Many social issues related to aging, especially caring needs and burden, will inevitably have a serious impact on all of society.

These foreseeable challenges attracted the government’s attention, and geriatric psychiatry has been valued as an indispensable factor in integrating all available medical and social resources to deliver high-quality care for the elderly. It was a privilege and honour to have Taiwan (R.O.C.) President Ing-Wen Tsai, the Minister of Health and Welfare, the Deputy Director of Mental and Oral Health, and two important legislators in the opening ceremony (see the companion photo). In her welcome address, President Tsai emphasized the role of geriatric psychiatry in the ongoing national plan, “10-year programme for long-term care version 2.0” and the upcoming “plan for a holistic community care model.”

In addition to these national leaders, the 2016 IPA Asian Regional Meeting also brought together leaders in the field of geriatric psychiatry to present robust scientific research and results, including current IPA
president, Raimundo Mateos (Spain), many past IPA presidents such as George Grossberg (USA), Sanford Finkel (USA), Henry Brodaty (Australia), Helen Chiu (Hong Kong), and Masatoshi Takeda (Japan), as well as distinguished contemporary scholars such as John O’Brien (UK), Manabu Ikeda (Japan), Martha Sajatovic (USA), and many others.

In his keynote speech, Henry Brodaty gave an impressive talk on “Integrated Care and Safety Issues in Aging Mental Health.” He explained the importance and urgency of aged mental healthcare, and pointed out a practical direction for the development of geriatric psychiatry in the coming decades. In the following two days, all meeting participants had rich harvests in 4 plenary sessions, 12 symposia, 6 oral communication sessions, and hundreds of posters. All these sessions were a scientific feast, covering important issues in geriatric psychiatry and providing a marvelous opportunity for the delegates to update their knowledge, share experiences, and be empowered to serve the elderly in their own countries.

After the meeting, we have received high gratitude and positive feedback from the participants. We all believe that 2016 IPA Asian Regional Meeting has planted the seed of geriatric psychiatry in Taiwan, which will blossom in the near future.

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(Editor’s note: Yang is a director of board of Taiwanese Society of Geriatric Psychiatry, and Lai is presidents of Taiwanese Society of Psychiatry, TSGP, and Taiwan Alzheimer’s Disease Association. Both Masatoshi Takeda [Japan] and Lai chaired organising committee of this meeting. Tzung-Jeng Hwang [Taiwan] and Manabu Ikeda [Japan] chaired the scientific programme committee.)

The Asian College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AsCNP) is the youngest of the established colleges of neuropsychopharmacology and embraces countries facing many and varied challenges in managing illness affecting mental health. The AsCNP has had biennial Congress. The 4th AsCNP took place in Taipei, Taiwan, 2015. The 5th AsCNP will be held in Bali, Indonesia, 27-29 April, 2017.

The international and local scientific committees are organising an exciting programme designed to showcase current advances in the field of neuropsychopharmacology. We have organized 23 symposia, 4 plenary lectures, and workshops with interesting topics. The speakers include John Krystal (USA), Pierre Blier (Canada), Anthony Grace (USA), Brian Dean (Australia), Masatoshi Takeda (Japan), Jun Soo Kwon (Korea), Kazuyuki Nakagome (Japan), Lakshmi Yatham (Canada), Ee Heok Kua (Singapore), Teruhiko Higuchi (Japan), Tung-Ping Su (Taiwan), Eric Chen (Hong Kong), Norio Ozaki (Japan), Chan Hyung Kim (Korea), Toshikazu Saito (Japan), Shih-Ku Lin (Taiwan), Kazutaka Ikeda (Japan), Jun Horiguchi (Japan), Andi J. Tanra (Indonesia), Nurmiati Amir (Indonesia).

We are cordially inviting you to attend the 5th AsCNP, and take advantage to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentation, or apply for a young psychiatrist award. The Congress offers a wonderful opportunity for meeting cutting edge researchers, presenting your data to your peers, forming networks, and collaborating with others in the region. We are looking forward to have you in Bali. For more information and registration, please visit our website at www.ascnp2017.com, or kindly contact me.
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(Editor’s note: Tanra is the chair of local organizing and scientific committees of AsCNP. He is president of AsCNP 2017-2019. Brian Dean [Australia] is the chair of international scientific committee. Kazutaka Ikeda [Japan] is the president-elect of AsCNP 2017-2019. The website address of AsCNP is www.ascnp2017.com.)