

Promoting leadership for Health was one of our primary goals to influence policy and redirect services to the underserved. The WHO Collaborating Center established (1987-2000) at the University Hawaii with partnership of international agencies and member universities was the key to this effort. Not only did world leaders support this effort but people like Hafdan Mahler (DG WHO) and James Grant (Director UNICEF) and their Regional Directors (SEARO WPRO and PAHO) served as visiting faculty to the center conferences and training programs. Nearly 100 specialists were trained. Doctoral (5) Masters (38) and other research fellows (56) on short term programs were partly or fully funded by the Center, member universities or our global partners. A Multi-University Joint MPH program was generated through this effort.

Over the years APACPH developed the concept of Collaborating Centers where one or more universities with expertise in an area of need (Oral Cancer, hospital management, etc.) and resources would partner with one or more universities usually in an economically less developed country (LDC) in mitigating the problem. Through demonstrated active partnerships, four such APACPH collaborating centers have been established: (i) Disaster Management and Injury Prevention (Lead University Taipei Medical University) (ii) Oral Health & Cancer Prevention (Lead University Kaohsiung Medical University) (iii) Rural /Island Health Research (Lead University University of Malaya Sabah) and Peace & Health (Lead University UHawaii; USC and Colombo Medical College). Another one on Humanitarian Assistance is being planned.

SY1-03

Island Health: Bridging Past and Present

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Objective: The Asia-Pacific region is a region that has small islands. In these islands, people face difficult challenges for the delivery of health care due to complex health, communication and development problems. The Ryukyu Islands have been known as longevity islands with historical successful primary health care stories of elimination of tropical diseases, such as malaria and lymphatic filariasis (LF). After the 2000 G8 Summit in Okinawa, the Global Fund was established in 2002 focusing on infectious diseases. It was also noted in the 4th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in 2006, that Okinawa's potential, as an island prefecture of Japan, can contribute further to the sustainable development of the Pacific region. Furthermore, APACPH was founded in 1984 and aimed at contributing towards enhancing public health in the Asia-Pacific region. The University of the Ryukyus joined in 1990. In order to make the

past to be instructive, an effort to bridge the past and present was tried by using a model case of a LF Elimination.

Methods and results: Literature search and review of LF elimination was carried out to clarify the factors of the successive elimination project in Okinawa. The suggested factors were task shifting to paraprofessionals and community participation. The current situation of LF control programme in endemic countries was analysed to point out major problems in each context. Each country is facing problem in service delivery, health work force, health information system, etc. Based on analysis of these problems, the lessons learnt from Okinawa experience will be applied in each context of different islands.

Conclusion: APACPH can learn from Okinawa's success in disease control and it can continue to develop island health through education, research and training of healthcare professionals. More needs to be met to develop island health both for the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

SY1-04

APACPH Achievements and New Public Health Challenges in the 21st Century

Pornpimol Kongtip

Mahidol University

After the propitious WHO meetings of the Association of the Schools of Public Health in the Middle East, Africa, S.E. Asia and the Western Pacific regions, senior public health experts met in Bangkok and established the Asia Pacific Consortium for Public Health for the Asia Pacific region. Dr. Debhanom Muangman, then Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, was unanimously elected as the first President of APACPH and Dr. Jerrold Michael, Dean of the University of Hawaii, U.S.A., was elected treasurer. WHO and USAID gave some financial support from the beginning. 22 Public Health Institutions from the Asia Pacific region joined this consortium and so the constitution of APACPH was drafted and the dissemination of the quarterly published APACPH journal of Public Health also began.

Our international collegial collaborations were later expanded when many other well developed countries such as Australia, Japan, and China, also gave funding support.

At Mahidol alone, in 16 years, we have graduated over 19,000 Public Health workers, many of whom were active in subsequently establishing 17 more schools of Public Health in Thailand. Also, almost 900 students from foreign countries have returned to work in their countries after graduating from Mahidol. Our achievements have not gone un-noticed. Our global contribution has been acknowledged by both my receiving the Harvard School of Public Health Alumni Award of merit in 2003, and also our being the recipient of the 2009 Bill Gates foundation which kindly donated