

SY5-04

Public Health Challenges and the APACPH Cyber University

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Objective: To outline the role of the APACPH Cyber University in public health issues related to new and emerging diseases.

Methodology: A review of public health issues in the region.

Results: The Asia-Pacific Region encompasses around one quarter of the world's population. The health of the people in the Asia-Pacific region has never been better, but there are still many public health challenges that remain. We are now facing new challenges of chronic disease and obesity and emerging infectious diseases. Climate change will bring many new public health issues. Health workers/public health workers are expected to remain abreast of new challenges, maintain public health and deliver high standards of health care. Public health promotes health for all citizens.

Conclusion: The role of APACPH is to promote education and research in our region. The Cyber University has successfully established a postgraduate education role. It also has the potential to explore new media, including cell phones and DVD's to improve public health education.

Objective: Global health has been a new discipline in public health professionals in Asian Pacific Region, mostly due to traditionally unilateral approaches from the Europe and the North America. The public health professionals have been receivers of the experiences from these areas and seldom contributed to global health significantly. We have been interested in the participation and contribution of global health by health professionals in the region, as compared with those of others.

Methods: A Vital Report on Global Health Survey had been launched online in June 2008 and received responses and comments from more than 400 competent health professionals around the world in 2008.

Results: At least 14 opinions can be identified that reflect independent assessment. In general, more emphasis on global health is recommended by these participants, while both developed and developing countries should pay attention to global health. The WHO is expected to assume a stronger leadership in global health; however some individuals call for the creation on another global health institution. Global health is recognized as an important subject for co-operation among partners at different levels around the world, and is considered to be closely associated with human rights and female empowerment. Key issues within global health include climate change, food supply, and safe water, while key global health injustices include uneven distribution of health resources, scarcity of health professionals, migrant workers in developing countries, and the distortion of health decisions by politics. Finally, globalization is seen by some to pose adverse consequences for global health, and many consider themselves as the losers of the globalization process. Surprisingly, many participants are not well aware of the MDGs.

Conclusion: Further analysis of the survey is needed, while similar surveillances by civil societies are in great need, as to balance the traditional views by the intergovernmental agencies, as well as the limitation by complicated bureaucratic processes by governmental departments traditionally, and to explore areas where global health programs can be enhanced, including key global partnerships.

Symposium 6- Global Health

SY6-01

Global Health and the Epidemiologic Transition

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There is a growing interest in global health world wide with the recognition that health is "glocal" (global to local). One of the most important theories of global health has not received wide-spread recognition, this is the theory of Omran and the Epidemiologic Transition. The Epidemiologic transition represents the changing patterns of disease and health as countries increase socioeconomic status. It represents the evolution of diseases in populations and world wide. The Epidemiologic transition will be described with the implications of developing and developed countries alike.

SY6-02

Challenges and Needs in Global Health, the VRGH Survey 2008

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SY6-03

The Globalization of Public Health

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There is a strong relation between individual medical care and public (or population) health, yet many health systems throughout the world invest disproportionately in individual healthcare (in the U.S., 97% of annual budget on health spent on individual health care) with underinvestment in the prevention of disease and disability and the protection of individuals from unsafe environments, exposures and behavior. In addition, the investment in health research is not targeted efficiently