

PIDSP AT THE APAME CONGRESS 2012



Left to Right: Dr Jeong Wook Seo, Dr Maria Leisa Magboo-Gaviola, Prof. Ma. Pilar S. Malata, Ms Merlita Opena, Dr Ng Kwan Hoong, Ms Alma Prosperoso, Dr Erlinda Palaganas, Dr Cecilia Maramba-Lazarte, Dr Xenia Fabay and Dr Kiichiro Tsutani

By Xenia Fabay and Cecilia Maramba-Lazarte

The Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME) held its annual convention on August 31 to September 3, 2012 at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. One hundred thirty seven delegates from 21 countries attended the congress. The Philippines had the most delegates from a foreign country (13 delegates) and the PIDSP Journal was represented by Professor Cecilia Maramba Lazarte and Xenia Jaramillo Fabay. The 2012 Board of Directors of APAME are as follows: President: Professor John Arokiasamy (Malaysia); Executive Vice President: Professor

Wilfred CG Peh (Singapore); Vice President for Internal Affairs; Professor Chang-Ok Suh (Republic of Korea); Vice President for External Affairs: Professor Kiyoshi Kitamura (Japan); Secretary-General: Professor Jose Florencio Lapena, Jr (Philippines). A new set of officers were elected during the congress with Professor Kitamura as President and Ms. Merlita Opena as a new board member.

The mission of the APAME is to contribute to the improvement of health by ensuring the quality of health-related information published

in medical journals, utilized for better decision-making and effective delivery of health services in the region. The comprehensive coverage of the topics by distinguished speakers during the congress enlightened the attendees on methods to improve the quality of Asian medical journals. The sessions included issues on journal networks and policies, directions and evolutions in publishing, journal management, ethical issues in publishing, institutional repositories, and communication with the public. The workshops held dealt with standards of a successful journal and the art of being first-rate peer reviewers.

This congress was special and memorable for the PIDSP editors in attendance because the PIDSP Journal was the only publication from the Philippines which was accepted by the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (<http://www.wprim.org/>) database for the year 2012. Abstracts of researches from the PIDSP

Journal may be accessed soon by anyone around the world at the WPRIM website and the full text articles through APAMED Central which was launched during this convention. APAMED Central (<http://apamedcentral.org/>) is an online index of medical and health journals published in the WPR and SEAR. Full-text of published researches from journals from Asia can now be accessed on the internet, thus increasing the accessibility worldwide of medical health research.

The PIDSP journal can be further improved, and attendance in these conferences are opportunities to adopt the best practices by other societies and journals which are successful. Global standards on journal ethics, writing and editing should be emulated. Continuing education on journal management is a necessity, thus the next APAME Congress in 2013 in Japan shall be next opportunity for such learning.

