



ASIA PACIFIC PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

formerly known as Association of Pediatric Societies of the SouthEast Asian Region (APSSEAR)

Volume 75

FEBRUARY - JUNE 2019

No. 65

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TRIBUTE

A Hard Act To Follow... Zulfiqar Bhutta As I See Him



At the 14th APCP 2012 in Sarawak, Malaysia.

At the end of the IPA Congress in Panama on 22 March 2019, Prof Zulfiqar Bhutta ended his three year term as IPA President. As the President, I have seen him give extraordinary lectures, chair meetings, delegate tasks, meticulously coordinate activities, run from one meeting to the next and rush to the airport immediately after giving a plenary lecture.

During a meeting with the young Paediatric LEADers in Panama, he sat comfortably and proceeded to talk about leadership without any slides or prompters, admitting that there will be failures and burnout. He

outlined all of the issues related to child health worldwide. He engaged the crowd perfectly that at the end, Dr Errol Alden, his successor as IPA President whispered to me "That's a hard act to follow". That I agree! It's just as hard to give a talk after he'd mesmerized the crowd with his.

First memorable encounter

My first encounter with Zulfi was when I was invited to talk at an infectious disease conference in Karachi. I had heard about him and thought it appropriate to make a 'courtesy call' since I was in the neighbourhood. I was taken to the Aga Khan University and was introduced to him. His passion showed instantly when he described the programs that he was overseeing and the issues of child health in Pakistan. This was our first meeting and we had not met before but the rapport was instantaneous!



A good and attentive listener.

My subsequent encounters were at a number of conferences where he gave exceptional talks on social issues, vaccinology and nutrition. When we invited him to Sarawak, Malaysia for the 14th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) in 2012, he gave a plenary lecture that was simply awesome with data from his own country, Pakistan and the world. I think it was during that meeting that I learnt that he was going to be based in Toronto, Canada.

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APPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Distinguished fellow pediatricians,

Each year we celebrate the World Immunization Week on the last week of April, precisely from the 24th until the 30th. World Immunization Week's purpose is to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages, especially children, against disease.

Immunization save millions of lives every year and is widely known as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions. This year's theme, "Protected Together - Vaccines Work", is in sync with the disastrous news of measles outbreaks across the Western Pacific Region and Polio outbreak in Papua, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

We have to stand together to eliminate the supposedly ancient diseases. Many activities had been carried out in each countries of APPA affiliated members, varied from online campaigns, roadshows promoting vaccination through rural areas and many more. With that being said, I am personally urging all of us that these efforts need to serve as sole purpose, that is to make sure every child everywhere are immunized completely according to their ages.

On a lighter note, I would like to congratulate two of our members, Dr. Shaju Aryal from Nepal Pediatric Society and Dr. Henny Adriani Puspitasari from Indonesian Pediatric Society for acceptance into the fellowship program offered by the Japan Pediatric Society. Hopefully their training in Japan's eminence hospitals will broaden their knowledge in pediatrics health especially in their respective fields.

Last but not least, in accordance to the last APPA Business Meeting that was held in Panama during the IPA Congress 2019 in March, we have voted for another representative for Standing Committee from the South Asia region to substitute Professor Iqbal Memon who is now the President-Elect of APPA.

I proudly announce that the newest addition to the Standing Committee from the South Asia region is Dr. Santosh T. Soans from India.

May we work together for a better Asia Pacific pediatric community.

Best regards,

Aman B Pulungan, MD, PhD, FAAP
President of APPA



IPA SC FROM ASIA PACIFIC

International Pediatric Association (IPA) Standing Committee (SC) Members 2019-2021 For The Asia Pacific Region

Sr. No	Name	Region	Country
1	Dr. Aman Pulungan	Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)	Elected automatically as APPA President Indonesia
2	Dr. Digant Shastri	Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)	India
3	Dr. Zulkifli Ismail	Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)	Malaysia
4	Dr. Yasuhide Nakamura	Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)	Japan

CONGRATULATIONS DR. NAVEEN THACKER!



The APPA Executive Committee Members, APPA Standing Committee Members and APPA affiliate member countries would like to Congratulate Dr. Naveen Thacker, APPA Immediate Past President who is now the new Executive Director of the International Pediatric Association (IPA) World Organization.

**All the Best to Dr. Naveen Thacker
in your new endeavor!**



... from page 1



Group photo of Prof. Zulfiqar with young leaders during the IPA 2019 Congress in Panama city, Panama.

Zulfi's thinking on issues has been absolutely clear and he seems gifted in solving problems. The crisp thinking process and succinct presentation of ideas and practical solutions are only superseded by his majestic posture and commanding nature that portrays the committed leader that he is. There is no doubt that he is respected worldwide and his opinions related to child health are highly valued.

Worldwide respect

As IPA President, he has eloquently represented us in the United Nations, WHO, the Partnership in Maternal, Newborn and Adolescent Health (PMNCH) group, most national and regional Paediatric associations, the obstetrics n gynaecology societies,

among others. His leadership did not stop at rhetorics. He has managed to mobilise funds to help humanitarian agencies involving displaced populations and war torn countries, and he has visited refugee camps in affected countries to witness first-hand.

We at IPA and APPA are proud to have had Zulfi as our President for a term and I am sure he will be stepping into bigger things in his life as he steps down as IPA President.

All the very best, Zulfi and thank you for representing all of us and leaving behind fond memories of your leadership.

Zulkifli Ismail
APPA Secretary General



With some delegates of the IPA2019 Congress in Panama city. APPA President, Dr. Aman Pulungan is 7th from left and APPA Secretary General, Dr. Zulkifli Ismail is 2nd from right.



Prof. Zulfiqar mesmerizing at a LEADers meeting.



Prof. Zulfiqar Bhutta: A hard act to follow.



PHOTOS FROM THE 38TH APPA BUSINESS MEETING AND IPA STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING 2019 AT THE ATLAPA CONVENTION CENTER, PANAMA CITY, PANAMA.



Atlapa Convention Center



IPA Standing Committee representing APPA. From right: Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, Dr. Yasuhide Nakamura, Dr. Aman Pulungan and Dr. Digant Shastri



Group photo of APPA delegates and observers after the 38th APPA Business Meeting in Atlapa Convention Center on March 18, 2019. The meeting was held in conjunction with the IPA 29th Congress.



IPA Standing Committee meeting of 2019



APPA delegates and observers discussing and writing points during the 38th APPA Business Meeting.



Malaysia Set Up Vaccination Task Force To Ensure Mandatory Vaccination For Children

The Health Ministry has set up a task force to look into all aspects and dimensions of ensuring mandatory vaccination for children in Malaysia.

Health Minister Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad said the ministry may look into giving compulsory vaccine for measles and diphtheria for all children in light of the measles and diphtheria outbreak in Malaysia.

“Our commitment is to make sure that these actions will be based on what is best for the patient,” he said at a press conference today (March 3, 2019) after delivering a keynote address at the Malaysian Healthcare Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

However, he said the task force will look into the matter thoroughly, including the legal implications of enforcing mandatory vaccination for children.

He was referring to parents who are part of the anti-vaccine movement, and have chosen to opt their children out of the national immunisation programme over various factors.

The national immunisation programme offers up to 12 types of vaccines, free of charge for children from when they are born, until age six. - **thesundaily.com, Kuala Lumpur, March 7, 2019**



Photo by: mynewshub.cc





CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

The 1st Asia Pacific Echocardiography Course on Congenital Heart Disease, Singapore, 8th - 10th March 2019



The participants.

The medicine of congenital heart disease (CHD) is a growing field in Asia Pacific, and children with congenital heart disease are surviving into adulthood due to the greatly improved surgical, medical, anaesthetic and intensive care. With the recognition of the increasing interest in congenital heart disease in the region, the Khoo Teck Puat-National University Children's Medical Institute (KTP-NUCMI) organised the 1st Asia Pacific Echocardiography Course on Congenital Heart Disease, held from 8th to 10th March 2019 in Singapore.

The Division of Cardiology, KTP-NUCMI has taken the initiative to put together a course on cardiac morphology and echocardiographic imaging of various congenital heart defects. The programme covered imaging-pathology correlation of congenital heart defects and advanced imaging modalities applicable to best clinical practice and research. It was organised in collaboration with the European Echocardiography

Course, directed by Luc Mertens (Toronto), Jan Marek (London), and Folkert Meijboom (Utrecht). This comprehensive three-day course offered paediatric cardiologists, cardiothoracic / cardiovascular surgeons, adult congenital cardiologists, trainees, cardiac technologists, and cardiac nurses a basic-to-advanced overview of imaging and morphology in congenital heart disease, with talks from an international panel of experts in this field.

The faculty members included Professor Yiu-Fai Cheung (Hong Kong), A/Professor Andrew Cook (London, UK), Professor Mark Friedberg (Toronto, Canada), Dr Tom Gentles (Auckland, New Zealand), Dr Bryn Jones (Melbourne, Australia), Professor Leo Lopez (Palo Alto, USA), Professor Jan Marek (London, UK), Professor Luc Mertens (Toronto, Canada), Dr Deane Yim (Perth, Australia), and Ms Cristina Almeida (Toronto, Canada). We had an overwhelming interest with 244 registered participants from 24 countries: Indonesia (53), Australia (40), Thailand (33), Philippines (28), Singapore (20), New Zealand (17), Hong Kong (16), Malaysia (11), Vietnam (3), India (3), Bangladesh (3), Pakistan (2), Nepal (2), United Arab Emirates (2), Iraq (2), Saudi Arabia (1), Brunei (1), Myanmar (1), China (1), United Kingdom (1), Canada (1), Norway (1), Chile (1), and Vanuatu (1).

The feedback from participants were very positive. Through this course, we were able to achieve our main objective which was to advance the knowledge and practical skills in the performance and interpretation of congenital heart disease using echocardiography, with the aim to further enhance the outcomes of our children with CHD by accurate pre-operative diagnosis, risk stratification, and long-term surveillance. In addition, speakers as well as participants were able to renew old ties, forge new friendships, and broaden their network for further regional collaborations. We look forward to further strengthening our ties within the congenital heart disease community in the region, and to having continued educational sessions such as this to share knowledge and skills.



By Dr. Chen Ching Kit, Assistant Professor, Paediatrics Department, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore & Senior Consultant, Paediatrics Department, Khoo Teck Puat-National University Medical Institute, National University Hospital.

Faculty members of the 1st Asia Pacific Echocardiography Course on Congenital Heart Disease.

From left to right: Dr Bryn Jones (Melbourne, Australia), Professor Yiu-Fai Cheung (Hong Kong), Dr Tom Gentles (Auckland, New Zealand), Dr Deane Yim (Perth, Australia), A/Professor Andrew Cook (London, UK), Dr Ching-Kit Chen (Singapore), Professor Leo Lopez (Palo Alto, USA), Professor Mark Friedberg (Toronto, Canada), Professor Jan Marek (London, UK), Professor Luc Mertens (Toronto, Canada), and Ms Cristina Almeida (Toronto, Canada).



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IPA

**International
Pediatric
Association**

Every Child · Every Age · Everywhere

The International Pediatric Association, devoted to the well-being of children across the globe and composed of 169 national, regional and subspecialty pediatric societies representing over one million pediatricians, caring for more than one billion children, issues the following declaration:

Declaration of the international pediatric association on the conditions of child detention facilities at the borders of the United States Of America

All countries have a moral and legal obligation to protect children, both within their country as well as those immigrants fleeing danger elsewhere. The future of the world rests on this obligation.

Therefore:

The International Pediatric Association (IPA), representing over one million pediatricians in 149 nations, hereby expresses our strong opposition to the practices employed by the government of the United States of America that result in the detention of children at United States borders. The detention and separation of children from their families, and the deplorable and inhumane conditions these children are subjected to, are immoral, and ignore basic human rights.

The failure to provide basic care, health care, medicine, adequate nutrition, supervision, access to necessary hygiene, translators, and legal assistance brings irreparable harm to these children. Such conditions will cause profound and long-lasting emotional and physical damage to children and adolescents.

The IPA calls on the United States of America to take immediate action to protect child's rights and cease detention of children under such conditions. We call on all of our members to urge the US Government to end these abusive practices, and to urge their governments to promote and advocate for the protection of all children, including immigrant children seeking to enter other countries.

Dr. Errol Alden

President

International Pediatric Association

Dr. Naveen Thacker

Executive Director

International Pediatric Association

On behalf of IPA Executive and Standing Committee



Malaysian Government Mulls Action Against Parents Who Refuse To Immunise Kids



Hannah Yeoh (photo by thestar.com.my)

The government today (February 26, 2019) warned it may take action against parents who neglect their children, including those who refuse to immunise them.

Malaysian Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Hannah Yeoh expressed concern over the number of deaths among children who were not vaccinated and did not get the necessary immunisation.

She said parents were responsible for taking such precaution. "We need to start looking into taking action against parents who do not want to vaccinate their children. "We not only care about the health of their children but also the well-being of other children. "The doctors have highlighted that there are provisions in the Child Act 2001 (for action) if there is neglect, so what are we waiting for?" the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) quoted her as saying in Kuala Lumpur on February 26, 2019.

According to Section 31(1)(a) of the Act, any person who has in his or her care a child that is being neglected, abandoned or exposed in a manner likely to cause him or her physical or emotional injury can be fined not exceeding RM20,000 or sentenced to jail for a term not exceeding 10 years or both.

Yeoh urged parents who have yet to vaccinate their children to come forward and ensure that they are given immunisation according to the schedule set by the health ministry.

On February 23, 2019 a two-year-old boy in southern Johor state, who was not immunised, was believed to have died from diphtheria infection. Five children believed to have been in contact with the boy are in quarantine at the Sultanah Aminah Hospital in southern Johor state capital, Johor Baru, after they tested positive for the disease. - **FMT, February 26, 2019**



After the death of a boy from diphtheria, the government says parents are responsible for the wellbeing of their children. (AFP pic)



IPS 65th Anniversary

In commemoration of IPS's 65th Anniversary, the Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) held a Media Seminar with the theme "Together Protecting the Rights of the Child" on Wednesday June 19, 2019.

The event began with a presentation Partnership in an Effort to Protect the Rights of Children and Adolescent by President of IPS, Aman B. Pulungan, MD, PhD, FAAP, FRCPI (Hon).

In the event, Child Protection Task Force Representative Dr. Meita Dhamayanti, Sp.A (K), Commissioner of KPAI Dr. Sitti Hikmawatty, S. St, M.Pd, Director of the Family Education Development of Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, Dr. Sukiman, M.Pd and Head of School-Age and Adolescent Outside School Health Section, Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Weni Muniarti, MPH, were present.

With this media seminar, IPS encourages the formation of various partnerships to protect the rights of children and youth in Indonesia. Hopefully IPS can continue thriving to provide better care for the children of Indonesia.

- **Dr. Ayu Utami, Assistant to APPA President,**
Dr. Aman B. Pulungan



Dr. Aman B. Pulungan



Dr. Meita Dhamayanti



Dr. Sitti Hikmawatty



Dr. Sukiman





AIR POLLUTION

Children In South Asia Hardest Hit By Air Pollution, Says Study

In South Asia air pollution is set to shorten children's lives by 30 months and in East Asia by 23 months



Image courtesy of The Indian Express

Air pollution will shorten the life expectancy of children born today by an average of 20 months and will have the greatest impact in South Asia, according to a study published Wednesday (April 3, 2019).

The State of Global Air report, published by the US-based Health Effects Institute and the University of British Columbia, says air pollution is the fifth leading cause of early death worldwide - responsible for more deaths than malaria, road accidents, malnutrition or alcohol.

However it warns "the loss of life expectancy is not borne equally", with children in South Asia set to have their lives cut short by 30 months because of a combination of outdoor air pollution and dirty indoor air.

In East Asia the study says air pollution will shorten children's lives by an estimated 23 months - compared with around 20 weeks for children in developed parts of Asia Pacific and North America.

The report, which uses data up to the end of 2017, estimates that if air pollution levels were brought within World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines Bangladesh life expectancy would see the highest expected gain, at nearly 1.3 years.

India, Nigeria, and Pakistan would all see average life expectancy increase by around one year.

Despite state reforms to reduce pollution levels, China remains the country with the highest mortality rate due to air pollution, responsible for around 852,000 pollution-related deaths in 2017.

The top five countries with the highest mortality rate due to air pollution were all in Asia: China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

In total, the report says 147 million years of healthy life were lost in 2017 globally due to pollution.

Exposure to household air pollution - mostly from people burning coal, wood or charcoal to cook or heat their homes - is most common in South Asia, East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Nearly half of the world's population is exposed to household air pollution - including an estimated 846 million people in India and 452 million in China.

A study last October from the World Health Organization found that exposure to toxic air both indoors and out kills some 600,000 children under the age of 15 each year.

It found that children are often more vulnerable to the impact of air pollution since they breathe more rapidly than adults, and thus absorb more pollutants at a time when their brains and bodies are still developing.

Data from the UN health body said that every day, 93 per cent of children under the age of 15 breathe dangerously polluted air. **-AFP/ec, Hong Kong, April 3, 2019**



CHILD SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRY

Malaysian Child Sex Offenders Registry To Begin Operations From April 1, 2019

The child sex offender registry will be made available from April 1, 2019 to help the public monitor sexual offenders.

Malaysian Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Hannah Yeoh said with the child registry in place, the ministry and the Welfare Department hope to protect children from repeat offenders.

"Parents, school managements, childcare centres and even religious organisations can now use this registry to check on sex offenders. As long as it involves working with children, they are encouraged to use the registry," Yeoh said after launching an event in Putrajaya, near Kuala Lumpur here.

Yeoh warned parents to be constantly aware of the people around their children because the names of some offenders may not be in the system. "This list is good up till February this year," she said.

The registry, according to Yeoh is also useful for school managements to screen new employees, including teachers. Those who want to run checks would only have to bring their identification card or documents to support their reason to request a search.

"Results for checks are available immediately when done at the state-level Welfare Department," said Yeoh, adding that the ministry would also keep track of applicants asking to take a look at the registry.

When asked if the list of offenders would be freely available to all members of the public, Yeoh said there were no plans to do so as it involves a few other ministries, police and the courts.

Yeoh said about 3,000 names of those convicted under the Child Act 2001 were on the list.

- FreeMalaysiaToday.com, Putrajaya, March 26, 2019



Hannah Yeoh at the launch of the child sex offender registry. Photo by change.org



2019

SINGAPORE

8th Singapore Paediatric & Perinatal Annual Congress

Theme: "Exploring the Science-Beyond Medicine to Health"

Dates: July 27-28, 2019

Venue: Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore

Website: www.sps.org.sg **E-mail:** sjppac2019@sps.org.sg

SINGAPORE

Pre-Masterclass Paediatric Sleep Workshop 2019

Date: August 23, 2019

Venue: National University of Singapore, NUHS Tower Block Seminar Room T 08-3/04, IE Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119228

E-mail: paev15@nus.edu.sg **Fax:** (65) 6779-7486

8th Wong Hock Boon Paediatric Masterclass 2019

Dates: August 24-25, 2019

Venue: National University of Singapore, NUHS Tower Block, Level 12, IE Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119228

E-mail: paev15@nus.edu.sg **Fax:** (65) 6779-7486

SINGAPORE

4th NUHKids Paediatric Flexible Bronchoscopy Course

Dates: August 26-27, 2019

Venue: Khoo Teck Puat Advanced Surgical Training Centre (ASTC), National University Hospital, Level 2, Kent Ridge Wing, Singapore

E-mail: paev15@nus.edu.sg **Fax:** (65) 6779-7486

SRI LANKA

22nd Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians Annual Scientific Congress

Dates: August 29-31, 2019

Venue: Cinnamon Grand, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Website: www.slcp.lk

E-mail: paedsslcp@gmail.com

INDONESIA

10th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) in conjunction with the 15th Congress of Asian Society for Pediatric Research

Dates: September 7-11, 2019

Venue: Manado, Indonesia

Website: <https://pitika-asprmanado2019.com>

MYANMAR

The 7th Asian Vaccine Conference (ASVAC 2019)

Theme: Immunization: Sustaining Health Security in Asia

Dates: September 13-15, 2019

Venue: Yangon, Myanmar

Website: www.asvac2019.com

MALAYSIA

15th Asian Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology (AOCCN) in conjunction with the 41st Malaysian Paediatric Association Annual Congress 2019

Theme: 'Synergy to Challenge Boundaries in Child Neurology'

Dates: September 19-22, 2019

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

Website: www.aoccn2019.com **E-mail:** secretariat@aoccn2019.com

Phone: 603- 7931 2131 **Fax:** 603- 793 221 32

LEBANON

2019 Annual Meeting of the International Society for Social Pediatrics & Child Health (ISSOP)

Theme: "Impact of Armed Conflict on Children."

Dates: September 25-28, 2019

Venue: Beirut, Lebanon

Website: www.isspo.org

INDONESIA

Asia Pacific Academy of Pediatric Allergy, Respiratory & Immunology (APAPARI 2019)

Dates: October 9-12, 2019

Venue: The Stones Hotel, Bali, Indonesia

Email: secretariat@apapari2019.com

Website: apapari2019.com

PAKISTAN

20th National Pediatric Conference, 2019

Theme: "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Child Health"

Dates: October 18-20, 2019

Venue: Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore, Pakistan

Website: ppaconference2019.pk

Email: ppaconference2019@gmail.com / ppa.punjab@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE

11th World Congress of Pediatric Infectious Disease (WCPID)

Dates: November 5-8, 2019

Venue: Philippine International Convention Center, Vicente Sotto St, Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippine

Website: wspid2019.kenes.com

Phone: 41 22 908 0488 **Fax:** 41 22 906 9140

For registration: reg_wspid19@kenes.com

AUSTRIA

Hot topics in Infection & Immunity in Children - The Perth Course (2019 IIC Perth)

Dates: December 5 & 6, 2019

Venue: The University Club of Western Australia, Western Australia

E-mail: IICPerth@telethonkids.org.au

Phone: 61 (8) 6488 8770

2020

VIETNAM

The 17th ASEAN Pediatric Federation Congress (APFC) 2020 & the 23rd Annual Congress of Vietnam Pediatric Association (VPA)

Theme: 'Assuring Equal Access to Quality Healthcare Services for All Children'

Dates: October 22-24, 2020

Venue: Hanoi, Vietnam

E-mail: secretariats.apfc2020@gmail.com

2021

PAKISTAN

The 17th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP)

Organised and hosted by the: Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA)

Year: 2021 (Dates to be confirmed later)

Venue: Islamabad, Pakistan

SCOTLAND

The International Pediatric Association (IPA) 2021 Congress

Theme: "Partnership For Children"

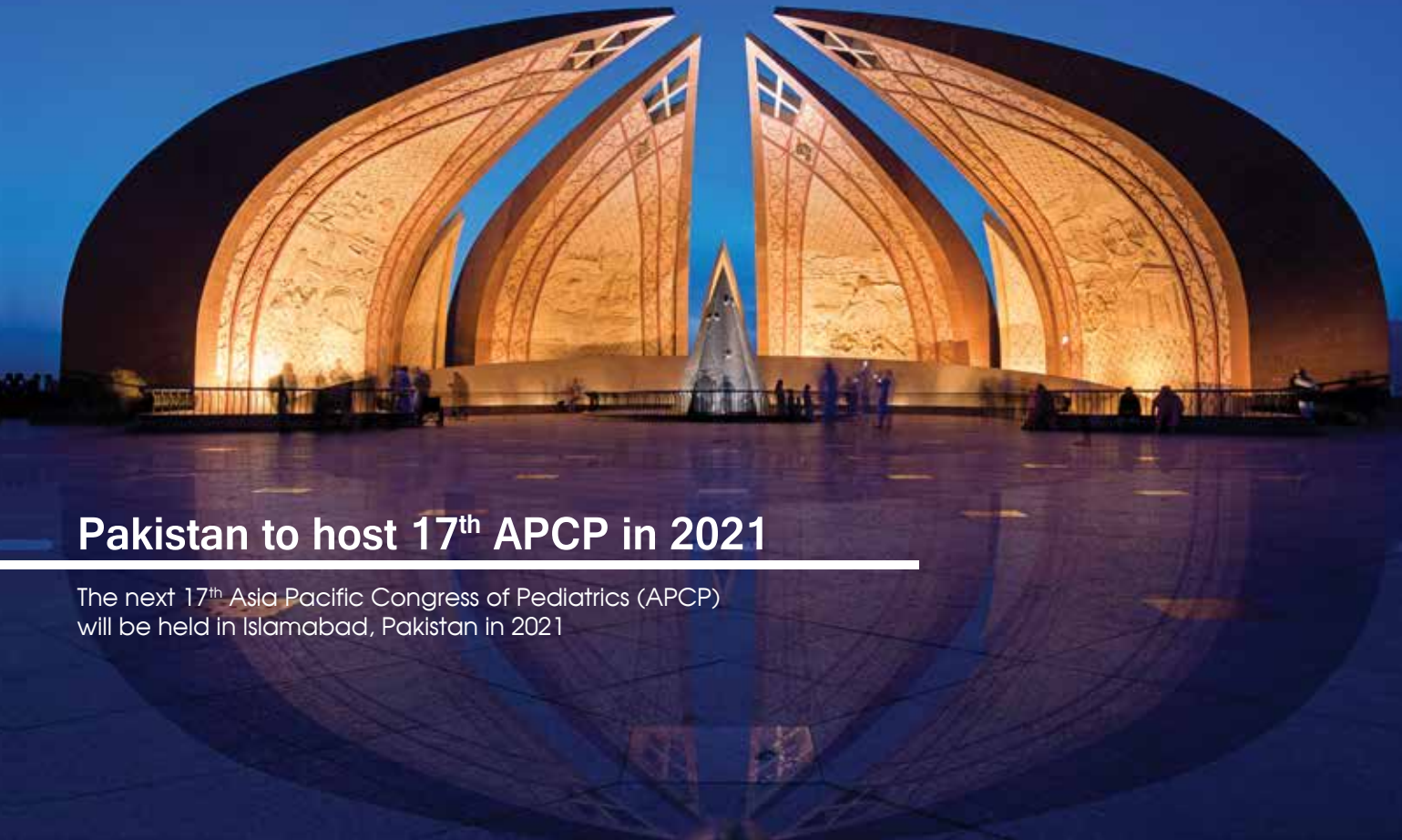
Dates: August 23-26, 2021

Venue: Glasgow, Scotland

- Compiled by Fairos Nazri, Executive Secretary, APPA



17th APCP



Pakistan to host 17th APCP in 2021

The next 17th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2021



IPA 30th CONGRESS 2021



Scotland to host IPA 2021

The next International Pediatric Association (IPA) 2021 Congress will take place in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2021



IPA 2021

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDRE

Glasgow, Scotland, August 23-26, 2021