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GAZA CHILDREN

APPA STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN GAZA, PALESTINE

October 16, 2023

Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary General of the United Nations
405 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10017
United States

Dear Mr. Guterres,

Greetings from the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Below, is the APPA stand on the current situation of children in Gaza, Palestine.

APPA STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN GAZA, PALESTINE:

The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) is deeply alarmed and saddened by the ongoing violence and atrocities being committed against the people, especially children, in Gaza. The loss of innocent lives, including children, is a grave concern that demands immediate international attention and action.

The siege on Gaza, which threatens to starve over a million children, is a humanitarian crisis that must be addressed urgently. This war on children is an indelible stain on the conscience of the world.

We call upon the United Nations and the world's powerful leaders to utilize their influence and take immediate action to put an end to the vicious killing of children in Gaza.



Specifically, we urge the following:

1. **Immediate Ceasefire:** We demand an immediate ceasefire that halts Israel's bombing of areas with children and ensures the protection of innocent lives.
2. **Release of Palestinian Children:** Thousands of Palestinian children are held in Israeli military prisons. We implore the relevant authorities to secure their release and ensure their well-being.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues,

It is a reality that we are already nearing the end of the year and the last issue of the news bulletin is ready to reach your hands.

It seems that we have become active again and have shed off the limitations of that dreadful pandemic.

We have had a flurry of regional activities:

- Asian Pan Pacific Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (APPSPGHAN) in Seoul, Korea 5th - 8th October,
- Masterclass Vaccinology held in Taipei, Taiwan and very well organized by Prof. Dr. Ping Ing Lee from 4th - 8th November,
- Asian Vaccine Conference (ASVAC) 2023 in Cebu, Philippines from 8th - 10th November, masterly managed by Prof. Dr. Lulu Bravo and an
- IPA activity in the APPA region, with Nepal Paediatric Society (Nepas) being the host. This event was attended by myself, like other two, as resource person; held on 1st - 2nd December 2023.

An APPA Standing Committee meeting was held via zoom, on 19th November, which lasted for two hours. Almost the entire committee joined hands to discuss and deliberate issues and plans.

The sad news of the demise of Dr. Chok Wan Chan, shared with us as the SC meeting began. He was APPA Honorary President, former President of APSSEAR (Association of Pediatric Societies of the South East Asian Region) and ex-President of IPA. APPA was formerly known as APSSEAR.

He was a statesman and man of ideas and a planner.

APPA has sent condolences to the family and many well deserved tributes & condolences messages are streaming in. We have lost a well wisher and a guide. (Rest in Peace).

Our next Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (18th APCP) is due in November 2024, and the Philippine team is working hard to make it a true golden jubilee event of our Association in the birth place of APSSEAR/APPA.

Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail continues his commitment with zeal and dedication.

Our on-line journal should be supported by all through writeups / articles so that we have better ratings and recognition. Reach out to Prof. Dr. Ashraf Sultan, the Editor in Chief of our journal.

All member country associations should maintain regional flavor as and when possible, so that our regional society is more vibrant and visible towards our ultimate goal of better child health.

I am sure that we are saddened to see ruthless, inhumane murder of refugee population, specially of children. The barbarism must stop while sanity and established laws of humanity must prevail.

Professor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Memon
President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Association



RACP
Specialists. Together
EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) - Paediatrics & Child Health Division Update

Updates from the 2023 calendar year:

Promotion of the RACP Paediatrics International Grant - Asia Pacific Region: The successful recipient can use the Grant to cover fares, accommodation and project or study costs up to AUD\$15,000. See the RACP website for more information on eligibility criteria. Applications have closed for 2023 but will reopen in the second quarter of 2024.

RACP Congress 2024: the College's annual member conference will be held at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Sydney, on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 May 2024. Details available from the RACP website.

Climate Change: In collaboration with 10 other medical colleges, the RACP has launched the **Healthy Climate Future**

campaign, with the following three position statements on climate change and health:

- Climate Change and Health (PDF)**
- Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare (PDF)**
- The Health Benefits of Mitigating Climate Change (PDF)**

Global health update - Education knowledge sharing partnerships: The RACP College Dean is working to explore the possibility of sharing RACP education content with international partners in low and middle income countries. Updates will be provided to the College board in the first instance. Members are welcome to share their perspectives on which RACP resources are of most potential interest via the office of the Dean email Dean.RACP@raccp.edu.au.

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GAZA CHILDREN

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- 3. Humanitarian Aid:** The hospitals in Gaza are overwhelmed and lack essential resources such as electricity, water, and medical supplies. The international community must provide urgent humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of the wounded.
- 4. Protection of Civilians:** Recent announcements by Israel, giving hundreds of thousands of children in Gaza just 24 hours to evacuate their homes or face death, are deeply distressing. The United Nations Security Council and world leaders have a moral obligation to protect these children and must act swiftly to prevent further loss of innocent lives.

We stand united with organizations, individuals, and governments worldwide who call for an immediate end to this devastating conflict. The world must unite to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in Gaza and work towards

a lasting peace that respects the rights and dignity of all individuals in the region.

The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association calls for an end to the violence and suffering, especially for the children of Gaza, and we implore the international community to act swiftly before it is too late.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Iqbal A. Memon
President, APPA

Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Ismail
Secretary General, APPA

Prof. Dr. Tufail Muhammad

Chair of APPA TAG on Child Rights, Environment and Child Health

Note

As of December 8, 2023, the Ministry of Health in Gaza said 17,177 people including 7,112 children have been killed by Israeli soldiers and 46,000 more wounded since the Israel-Palestinian conflict began October 7, 2023.

In November 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that "A child is killed on average every 10 minutes in the Gaza Strip".



RACP PCHD

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Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable, Canberra: On June 21, 2023, the RACP Health care of children in care and protection services - Australia position statement (PDF) was launched at the Parliamentary Child Health Roundtable at Parliament House, Canberra.

The RACP hosted the event with the Parliamentary Friends of Child and Adolescent Health and Mental Health, which is Co-Chaired by Dr. Mike Freelander MP, Dr. David Gillespie MP, and Dr. Monique Ryan MP. The position statement considers current evidence and proposes strategies and recommendations to deliver effective health care to children and young people who are at risk of entering out-of-home care, are in out-of-home care, or are in contact with care and protection services across Australia. Recommendations are directed to the Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments, and providers/workers involved with children and young people, health, care and protection services, across Australia.

Kids Catch Up Campaign: Originally named the "Kids COVID Catchup Campaign", this RACP-led campaign brings together

Australia's leading paediatricians, specialist physicians and trainee doctors to call for a COVID recovery plan for children and young people across Australia. More details via the campaign website.

An extension of the Kids Catch Up is the Switch Off The Junk campaign, calling on the Australian Government and community to regulate junk food advertising to children on television and online in an effort to address the increasing rate of childhood obesity.

The RACP continues to support the work of the National Steering Committee for the Raise the Age campaign, which advocates to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility ('MACR') to at least 14 years across all jurisdictions in Australia. This builds on an open letter released in collaboration with other medical colleges in 2022.

- RACP Paediatrics & Child Health Division, Sydney, Australia



Our Fond Memory of the Late Dr. Chan Chok Wan

19th August 1945 - 19th November 2023



*Dr. Chan Chok Wan at the
25th International Congress
of Pediatrics in Athens,
Greece, August 25-30, 2007
Photo-www.hkan.hk/main/*

Dr. Chan Chok Wan passed away peacefully on November 19, 2023.

He has been a great leader and is renowned in the field of Paediatrics and Child Health locally and internationally, having served as President of the Hong Kong Paediatric Society (HKPS) from 1983-1986, President of the Association of Pediatric Societies of the South East Asian Region (APSSEAR) from 1997-2000, now known as Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA), President of the International Pediatric Association (IPA) from 2007-2010, currently Honorary President of APPA and World Health Organization (WHO) Advisor on Child and Adolescent Health and Development.

Dr. Chan graduated from the University of Hong Kong and received his basic training in Paediatrics in Hong Kong and Singapore. He then furthered his subspecialty training in Child Neurology and Developmental Paediatrics at Guy's Hospital, London, UK.

Over the years, he has developed special interests in child advocacy, child protection, ethics, childhood epilepsy, dyslexia, autism, attention deficit hyperactive disorders, behavioral neurology and others.

Awarded Fellowships

Academically, he has been awarded with the Fellowships from the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Ireland. Fellowship from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as well as Fellowship from the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in Paediatrics.

Dr. Chan has published many articles covering research on developmental screening, assessment, early intervention, child health status and growth in both English and Chinese languages. He has been members of the Editorial boards for numerous peer-reviewed international journals on child health, paediatrics and rehabilitation medicine.

He was Editor-in-Chief of publications related to APSSEAR and APPA entitled - 'Challenges and Opportunities for Child Health in the New Millenium' - It was published in Hong Kong on behalf of APSSEAR on November 1999 in conjunction with the APSSEAR Silver Jubilee Publication.

Dr. Chan was also Editor-in-Chief of - 'The Story of APPA (1974-2018) Returning Happiness to Our Children' - which was published in Hong Kong in June 2018 on behalf of APPA.

Instrumental in the formation of nursing professional bodies

Dr. Chan served as President of the Federation of Medical Sciences of Hong Kong (FMSH) for 12 years (1991-2003) for the betterment and quality assured health care services in Hong Kong. He is a strong advocate for team approach towards promotion of child health with emphasis on close collaboration between doctors, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and the child as well as a synergistic cooperation between the medical, social and education sectors for child health.

He was also instrumental in the formation of nursing professional bodies in Hong Kong, the Asia Pacific region and the global community. He was a respected adviser for the Hong Kong College of Paediatric Nurses (HKCPN), the Hong Kong Nurses Association (HKNA), the Hong Kong School of Nurses Association (HKSNA) and the Asia Pacific Paediatric Nurses Association (APPNA) with outstanding achievements in promoting transdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration for child health and advocacy in the community.

Dr. Chan was honoured with many local and international awards in recognition of his immense contributions to the advancement of knowledge in paediatrics and the betterment of child health in Hong Kong, the Asia Pacific region and global community.



Group photo. Dr. Chan Chok Wan (seated fourth from right) with speakers and delegates of the Summit on Preventive Health Care in Paediatrics, June 22-23, 2019 in Kowloon, Hong Kong. The then APPA President, Prof. Dr. Aman Pulungan is second from left

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OBITUARY

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Dr. Chan delivering his speech at The Asia Pacific Paediatric Nursing Conference in Hong Kong in September 2014

Among them:

- Awarded Honorary Life Member of HKPS in 1990
- Awarded Outstanding Asian Paediatrician of APSSEAR in year 2000 &
- Awarded Medalist on Child Health of Hong Kong Paediatric Society (HKPS) in 2008.

Dr. Chan Chok Wan will be greatly missed and eternally remembered by all of us in the medical profession.

- Fairos Nazri, Executive Secretary, APPA
- The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing Limited (www.hkan.hk/main/)
- Dr. Lilian Wong, APPA Standing Committee member
- Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, APPA Secretary General



AHAD-AP

Third Annual Scientific Meeting of AHAD-AP

The third Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders-Asia Pacific (AHAD-AP) was held on 15th and 16th September 2023 at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. This was the first in-person annual scientific meeting of the AHAD-AP co-hosted by the Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Division, Chulalongkorn University and in collaboration with the Thai Society of Hematology.



Welcome speech by Prof. Dr. Alok Srivastava, Christian Medical College Vellore, Vellore, Tamil Naidu, India

In line with the mission of AHAD-AP to enhance care for people with hemophilia and other hereditary bleeding disorders in the region through education, training, research and advocacy, this meeting aimed at providing a much-needed platform for all stakeholders engaged in enhancing care for people with hemophilia and other hereditary hemostasis disorders in the region.

The meeting, attended by 318 health care providers from 24 countries/regions/territories, followed two days of workshops in Comprehensive care, Laboratory training and Musculoskeletal aspects of hemophilia care, also hosted by the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Division, Chulalongkorn University with AHAD-AP.



Some of the workshop speakers and participants from the Asia Pacific region

Highlights

The ASM program as outlined below was designed to include plenary sessions for all attendees and parallel sessions targeting physicians, nurses, laboratory scientists, consumers and industry representatives in recognition of the multidisciplinary aspects and approaches to haemophilia care, There were also industry-sponsored symposia and oral and poster presentations.

- Three pre-congress workshops
- Four plenary talks
- Eight scientific sessions in two parallel tracks
- Five sponsored industry symposia
- 12 oral abstracts and 33 poster presentations



Organising Committee of AHAD-AP ASM 2023 with Prof. Dr. Ponlapat Rojnuckarin, President of the Thai Society of Hematology

Summary

AHAD-AP is most grateful to the Thai Society of Hematology and the Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Division, Chulalongkorn University for their excellent commitment and support for the meeting. Archived Presentations can be viewed by members at the AHAD-AP Academy website. (www.ahadap.org)

- Darintr Sosothikul, MD
Professor of Pediatrics, Chief, Hematology/Oncology division, Department of Pediatrics
Head, Integrative and Innovative Hematology/Oncology Research Unit
Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand



18TH APCP 2024, CEBU, PHILIPPINES

Unlocking the Future of Pediatric Healthcare: 18th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) in Cebu City, Philippines, November 14 to 17, 2024



Redesigning the Horizon of Pediatric
Healthcare in the Asia Pacific

November 14-17, 2024 | Cebu, Philippines

Join us for the 18th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics (APCP) in the historic setting of Cebu City, Philippines, from November 14 to 17, 2024. We welcome you to participate in an insightful event focused on the theme "Redefining Pediatric Healthcare in the Asia Pacific."

The convention site is Cebu City, referred to as the "Queen City of the South." It is a vibrant and bustling metropolis located 570 kilometers south of Manila in the Visayas region of the Philippines. With a rich historical and cultural heritage, the city serves as a melting pot of tradition and modernity. Visitors will be captivated by landmarks such as Magellan's Cross, a symbol of the city's significant role in Philippine history, and

the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño, one of the oldest Roman Catholic churches in the country. Beyond its historical charm, Cebu City is a thriving economic hub of business and commerce. The cityscape is adorned with a mix of skyscrapers, shopping malls, and lively markets which offer a diverse range of experiences for locals and tourists alike. Cebu City's warmth extends beyond its tropical climate, as the friendly locals, known as Cebuanos, welcome visitors with open arms, making it a must-visit destination in the Philippines.

Save the dates and prepare for an unforgettable congress where knowledge meets culture, and innovation shapes the future of pediatric healthcare in the Asia Pacific.



TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

Visa Requirements

The passport holders of the following APPA member countries are eligible for a visa-free stay of up to 30 days in the Philippines: Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Visa-free entry for a stay not exceeding fourteen (14) days in the Philippines is granted to the Hong Kong-SAR and Macau-SAR residents. Nationals of China travelling as tourist and holding a valid visa issued by Australia, Canada, Japan, United States or a Schengen Area state may enter and stay without a visa for up to 7 days.

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Nationals of India holding a valid tourist, business or resident visa issued by Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States or a Schengen Area state may enter and stay without a visa for up to 14 days.

Taiwan passport holders may travel to the Philippines by applying for a visa through the online Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) System by using this link: **Manila Economic and Cultural Office - Electronic Travel Authorization 電子簽證 (meco.org.tw)**.

Visas for the Philippines are required for attendees from the remaining APPA member countries. The organizing committee is committed to facilitating this process by issuing official invitations and providing other essential documents required for their visa applications.

For attendees from non-APPA countries, visit this website for your visa requirements: **VISA General Info | Department of Foreign Affairs (dfa-oca.ph)**

Flight Details

Situated 570 kilometers south of Manila, Cebu City features its own international gateway, The Mactan-Cebu International

Airport. With approximately 30 daily flights departing from Manila to Cebu City, the quick flight time of around 1 hour and 30 minutes ensures a smooth transition to the 18th Asia Pacific Congress site. Cebu City is also globally accessible with direct flights from Seoul, Busan, and Daegu in Korea; Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan; Shanghai and Shenzhen in China; Doha; Bangkok; Kuala Lumpur; Singapore; and Taipei.

Venue

The venue for the Congress is Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, a luxurious and modern 500 room hotel located in the heart of Cebu City, Philippines. With its prime location along the scenic waterfront, this hotel offers breathtaking views of the city skyline and the sea. Waterfront Cebu City Hotel offers extensive conference and event spaces, making it an ideal venue for the 18th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics.

In addition to its outstanding amenities, the central location of the hotel provides easy access to popular attractions such as Magellan's Cross, Fort San Pedro, and the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño. The hotel is also very near the major commercial establishments in the city. Waterfront Cebu City Hotel is a 30-minute drive from Mactan-Cebu international Airport.



Hotel Accommodations

Aside from the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City offers a diverse range of accommodation choices for attendees of the congress. The organizers are in the process of finalizing special rates for the congress delegates. Detailed recommendations, including rates, proximity to the venue, and booking information, will soon be accessible on the convention website.

Registration Rates and Payment Methods

The registration rates provided below for the congress proper include access to both the welcome reception and fellowship night. A fee of USD 100 applies for each accompanying person.

There is a separate registration fee for the pre-congress sessions.

Payment portals for both the pre-congress sessions and the congress proper will be accessible through the convention website.

REGISTRATION RATES:

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE	EARLY REGISTRATION	REGULAR REGISTRATION
APPA Country Member	USD 250	USD 350
Non-APPA Member	USD 300	USD 400
Trade / Corporate Delegate	USD 400	USD 500
LOCAL DELEGATE	EARLY REGISTRATION	REGULAR REGISTRATION
PPS Member	PHP 3500	PHP 4000
Non-PPS Member	PHP 4000	PHP 4500
Trade / Corporate Delegate	PHP 5000	PHP 5500
Trainee / Allied Health Delegate	PHP 2500	PHP 3000

PRE-CONGRESS SESSIONS	
International Delegate	USD 100
Local Delegate	PHP 1500

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18TH APCP 2024, CEBU, PHILIPPINES

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Congress Program

The scientific program of the congress will feature plenary sessions led by regional experts, delving into pivotal topics such as Nutrition, Vaccination, Environmental Health, Infectious Diseases, Social Pediatrics, Pediatric Wellness, Pediatric Research, and Digital Health. Simultaneous sessions will cater to various subspecialties in pediatrics, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of the different fields for both the general pediatricians and subspecialists. The pre-congress

sessions are being crafted to capacitate the delegates with the latest developments in the field of pediatrics.

Beyond the academic scope, this congress will showcase the history and culture of Cebu City. Delegates and their companions will have the opportunity to engage in a diverse array of social and cultural events thoughtfully curated by the organizers.

Illustrated below is the summary of the 4-day congress scientific and social program:

NOVEMBER 14, 2024	NOVEMBER 15, 2024	NOVEMBER 16, 2024	NOVEMBER 17, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pre-Congress Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plenary Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plenary Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plenary Sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pre-Congress Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Simultaneous Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Simultaneous Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Simultaneous Sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opening Ceremony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Poster Walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Poster Walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Poster Walk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Welcome Reception 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gala Dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Closing Ceremony
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Outstanding Pediatrician Award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Turnover to APCP Host 2026

Our Invitation to the 18th Asia Pacific Congress in Cebu City

The organizing committee extends a warm invitation to all our esteemed colleagues to join us at the 18th Asia Pacific Congress in Cebu City on November 14 to 17, 2024. This gathering marks a significant milestone as the Philippines proudly hosts the Congress once again after 50 years. Let us

come together to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and celebrate the progress of pediatrics in the Asia Pacific region.

We look forward to your presence in making this Congress a memorable and impactful event. See you in Cebu City!

For additional information or details, please contact: secretariat@apcp2024.org





Indonesian Pediatric Society Social Responsibility: Pathway to Reduce Child Mortality

Pediatric Social Responsibility (PSR) is a knowledge and skill based sharing of pediatricians and other healthcare providers.

It has a goal of reducing infant and child mortality, through increasing the capacity and ability of health workers in dealing with sick children in less than 48 hours. The Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS) gained positive support from the Indonesian Ministry of Health to implement this program and act as a bridge for each pediatrician to be able to facilitate health centers throughout Indonesia.

IPS conducts pediatrician social responsibility as one of the objectives for decentralization to each IPS branch to improve the ability of health workers in each province and be able to reduce morbidity and mortality rates of children. Currently, there are 2,337 paediatricians who have participated and implemented the PSR program both in their respective provinces and across provinces.

This program consists of several activities including direct advisory visit to health centers to provide direct assistance to all health workers, online assistance activities, case-based lectures which are online discussions aimed at increasing the knowledge of health workers at health centers regarding the most common child cases that can be life-threatening such as diarrhea, seizures, pneumonia, loss of consciousness and observing the problems that occur at health centers in handling these cases.

Indonesia is an archipelago, therefore some health centers are located in areas / geographical locations that are difficult to access. This has been one of the difficulties for some pediatricians to provide direct assistance.

However, the dedication carried out by pediatricians is highly appreciated, having tried to access several remote health centers using land, air, and even sea transportation.



Direct Advisory Visit in South Sumatera



Direct Advisory Visit in East Kalimantan, Central Java, and Papua

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Direct Advisory Visit in Central Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara



Online Assistance Activities / IPS Virtual Round

IPS strongly believed that reducing infant and child mortality is more than just improving the capabilities of pediatricians. Infant and child mortality is our shared responsibility. Even

though we started small and imperfect, together we moved towards achieving Indonesian children's health.

-Indonesian Pediatric Society (IPS).



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2024



Report on Child Protection Session at the 21st National Pediatric Conference

Organized by the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Child Rights, Environment and Child Health

The Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Child Rights, Environment and Child Health, organized a comprehensive session on “Child Protection” during the 21st National Pediatric Conference held from November 23-26, 2023, in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The session aimed to delve into various aspects of child protection, with distinguished speakers sharing valuable insights and expertise. The session was organized in collaboration with Child Rights Group Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA) and UNICEF.

Distinguished Guests:

- **Chief Guest:** Justice Shakeel Ahmed, Peshawar High Court
- **Guest of Honor:** Prof. Dr. Iqbal Memon, President Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA)



Prof. Dr. Iqbal Memon addressing delegates during the 21st National Pediatric Conference

Left to right: Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed, former PPA President, Justice Shakeel Ahmed, Peshawar High Court. Chair: Prof. Dr. Iqbal Memon

Delegates who attended the Child Protection Session

Prof. Dr. Tufail Muhammad

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Welcome and Introduction:

- Dr. Tufail Muhammad, Convenor TAG, extended a warm welcome to all participants, setting the tone for a session dedicated to addressing critical issues surrounding child protection.

2. Paper Presentation on Long-term Consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):

- Dr. Naeem Zafar, Member TAG, delivered an engaging presentation on ACEs, emphasizing their lasting negative effects on health, wellbeing, and opportunity. He stressed the preventability of ACEs through the creation of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for children and families.

3. Insights on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Pakistan:

- Dr. Afffa Farrukh from the UK provided valuable insights into child sexual abuse and exploitation in Pakistan, citing high-profile cases in educational institutes. She discussed grooming techniques used by perpetrators, highlighting the need for vigilance in law enforcement and effective implementation of existing laws.

4. Personal Journey for Child Protection:

- Dr. Fasihuddin Ashraf, Deputy Inspector General Police, shared an inspiring personal journey and struggle for child protection. From his student days at Medical College to his career in the police force, he detailed research, reforms, and capacity building initiatives to protect children from abuse.

5. Building a Structured Child Protection System in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

- Mr. Ijaz Khan, Deputy Chief of Child Welfare and Protection Commission, presented a detailed plan for building a structured and effective child protection system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. He highlighted the impact of the Child Protection Centre at the district level.

6. Efficient Structured Child Protection System in Sri Lanka:

- Prof. Dr. Harendra De Silva from Sri Lanka shared insights into the establishment of an efficient structured child protection system in Sri Lanka. He highlighted challenges such as politicization, incompetence, and cronyism that can undermine the effectiveness of such systems.

7. Closing Remarks:

- Prof. Dr. Iqbal Memon, President of APPA, thanked the speakers for their excellent presentations, emphasizing the collective responsibility to protect children against neglect, abuse, and exploitation. He urged concerted efforts to ensure children grow in safe and nurturing environments, realizing their full potential.

CONCLUSION

The Child Protection Session at the 21st National Pediatric Conference proved to be a vital platform for knowledge-sharing, insights, and strategies to address the multifaceted challenges associated with child protection. The collaborative efforts of TAG, the Child Rights Group, and UNICEF underscored the importance of a unified approach to ensure the safety and well-being of children.

- Prof. Dr. Tufail Muhammad, Chair, Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Child Rights, Environment and Child Health



Brief Report on “Vaccines to Vaccination” (V2V), Training of Trainers at the Hotel Ambassador, Kathmandu, Nepal on 1st & 2nd of December 2023

The Nepal Paediatric Society (NEPAS) hosted a program on “Vaccines to Vaccination” (V2V), Training of Trainers at the Hotel Ambassador, Kathmandu, Nepal on 1st & 2nd of December 2023.

It was organized in collaboration with the International Pediatric Association (IPA) and supported by an academic grant from GSK Global. There were 31 participants from Afghanistan (virtual), Cambodia, Bangladesh, Belgium, India, Kenya, Pakistan, and Nepal.

The two-day program covered the science of immunology, vaccines, and updates along with country presentations on how each country plans to achieve the goals set by SDGs.

Presentations from renowned speakers, discussion amongst participants and resource persons and exercises were highlights of the program. During these two days different countries discussed their strategies to increase the vaccination drive in their respective countries, following the slogan of “Leave no child behind.”

The Immunology & Vaccinology Chapter of NEPAS takes pride to have organized its first international event since its inception and would like to thank Dr. Naveen Thacker and his team in the International Pediatric Association (IPA), Dr. Arun Neopane (President NEPAS), Dr. Prakash Joshi (General



Secretary NEPAS), Dr. Sangita Shakya (Chapter Chair) and their team along with all resource persons and participants for making this event successful.

We hope to host bigger events in the future in collaboration with sister organisations like South Asian Paediatric Association (SAPA), Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) and others in the future.

Thanking you,

Maj. Gen. Dr. Arun Kumar Neopane
President (2023-25)
Nepal Paediatric Society, Kathmandu, NEPAL



Group photo of organiser and delegates