

MESSAGE:

My belated very best wishes for 2018. It is because of the Executive Committee's and that of a number of members' views that we should be more proactive that the Executive, following a number of meetings during conferences such as the Union meeting in Mexico and by phone, has reviewed and is drafting a new plan for the Union's Asian Pacific Region.

It is clear that we have been mainly acting as a communication organisation focussing on exchanging scientific knowledge. But we are and can be more than that. This Region is knowledge and skill rich and determined to contribute this to the betterment of our Region. Our resources are the networks we work in and coordinate within our countries and between our countries and between national and global organisations. Our resources are also the respect and trust that we have inherited from the past both within and outside our countries. The resources are not and never need to be money - they are the capacity to package our knowledge and use it wisely. They are the goodwill we offer to this endeavour as we are entirely a volunteer organisation.

The Executive hopes that with this newsletter we will **communicate** with each other more effectively and regularly, get to know of the people who have in the past many years guided this Region with distinction, learn what each member is doing and what their and our plans are for the next 3-5 years. IF possible we will **consolidate** them into something of regional value. We will as always, focus on lower and middle income countries and their people but be interested in all.

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Mabuhay and welcome to the Philippines. In behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our distinct pleasure to invite you to the 7th Conference of the Union Asia Pacific Region (APRC) with the theme "Unity in Diversity: One Against Tuberculosis and Other Lung Diseases" on April 23- 26,2019 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila, Philippines. The meeting is hosted by the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc., as the local affiliate of the Union in collaboration with 6 major partners: the Department of Health, the Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP), CHEST Philippine Delegation, Philippine Pediatrics Society (PPS), Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (PSMID) and the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT).

The conference will feature a world-class program with a battery of speakers in the Asia Pacific region, the Philippines and other international experts speaking on tuberculosis as well as other respiratory diseases.

Come and join us, enjoy while learning and we promise to both feed the minds and nourish the soul in the friendly fiesta atmosphere that the Philippines is well-renowned for. See you in Manila!



Prof. Camilo C. Roa Jr.
Congress President

Prof. Charles Y. Yu
Over-All Chair





UNION APR Execom at the Quezon Institute prior to the Strategic Planning meeting in March, 2018

There is much to do to **connect** us more effectively and this is the starting point. We will ask each of our 13 countries and those others in our region to in turn let us know through the newsletter what their current situation and plans are. We find we have over 300 individual members of the Union who live in our Region.

A draft Strategic Plan for this Region will be circulated for your comment in the near future. It will also be sent to the UNION, Paris for their comment and hopefully approval. As you will see we look to use our wide variety of skills and goodwill which will hopefully cost little if no money.

Finally and most importantly you will be aware of the huge push in 2017-18 to gain at the UN Assembly in New York at the High Level Meeting last September, a new position and urgency for TB Elimination and fiscal support akin to that done for HIV and other critical global issues. When we receive a formal directive from Paris we will circulate this. The hope is that as many as possible Heads of State attend in strong support and that you can help to achieve this. It will be the first communication step that we can take within our own networks.



Please let me and the Executive know of your thoughts and your advice. It will be gratefully received.

Regards

Dr Ral Antic AM

Royal Adelaide Hospital CALHN

President

International Union Against TB and Lung Disease, Asian Pacific Region

ADELAIDE , South Australia 5000

Tel: +61-8-70742763 Fax: +61-8-70746229

e-mail:ral.antic@sa.gov.au

UNION APR Execom Holds Consultative Meetings

The Executive Committee of the UNION APR held consultative meetings with professional societies and the DOH NTP representative during their visit to Manila. They visited the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) the venue for the 7th APRC, the National History Museum, and attended both the Opening Ceremonies and President's Night of the PCCP Annual Convention held on March 11-14, 2018 at the EDSA Shangrila Hotel.



UNION APR Executive Committee at the PCCP 2018 Annual Convention Opening Ceremonies



UNION APR Execom with CHEST Philippine Delegation President Dr. Josephine Ramos and Board Members Drs. Susan Lee and Tomas Polloso, and PCCP President Charles Yu



UNION APR Execom with APSR President Prof. Kwun Fong



Meeting of APRC Execom with DOH Representative Dr. Rosalind Vianzon

News from **Indonesia**

Indonesia has started a big initiative which will be a massive one for PPM TB activities by establishing a Coalition of Professional Organization in Indonesia Against TB (KOPI TB). At the National level, this is led by Dr. Erlina Burhan. "Our network aims to find missing cases to increase TB notification additional to the yield by our NTP. This KOPI TB is meant to be established in any district of Indonesia" says Dr. Burhan.



Indonesian delegates to ERS visit the UNION booth

UNION APR Execom Meets with PTSI

The Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc. (PTSI) is the largest private NGO and longest serving medical institution engaged in the detection, control and treatment of tuberculosis in the Philippines. It is also the Official Representative of the Philippines in the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (IUATLD) and a founding member of the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT).



Dinner with the UNION Execom hosted by Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc.

PhilCAT Celebrates 25 Years



The Philippine Coalition Against TB (PhilCAT) is a 65-member group of professional societies, government and non-government organizations and corporate groups with support from the Department of Health. It was formally inaugurated in 1994.

This year, PhilCAT celebrates its 25th year. It has found its niche in both local and international TB advocacy groups and for this it has been awarded and has managed internationally funded projects related to TB control. The Public-Private Mix model (PPMD) of PhilCAT was launched in 2001 and to date there have been more than 200 PPMDs established nationwide. Yearly, PhilCAT leads the World TB Day commemoration in March and holds its Annual Convention every August. In 2016, together with its member groups and other partners, PhilCAT published the evidence-based update of the Philippine TB Clinical Practice Guidelines. In 2017, the PhilCAT Convention served as the national forum for the presentation and discussion of the 2016 TB National Prevalence Survey results. Both landmark documents form the basis of the current reinvigorated and ambitious NTP program aimed to finally END TB in the country.



In April 2019, PhilCAT will be co-sponsoring the 7th APR with major professional specialty societies, specifically hosting the "Tambayan Ng Bayan", a gathering of member groups and TB stakeholders in a festive, "fiesta-like" community gathering to share experiences, best practices, and innovations in bringing an END to TB. This is a fitting tribute to all the member groups who have kept the fight against TB strong in their ranks and who will be the moving spirit towards the PhilCAT VISION: A TB FREE Philippines!



Editorial

This is the maiden issue of the UNION APR Newsletter, which as mentioned by Dr. Ral Antic, aims to communicate with member-countries and to share news on what is happening in the region.

The Union, Asian Pacific Region is a multi-national not-for-profit non-governmental organization, one of 7 Regions of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union). It is bound by and works within the Constitution of The Union and the APR Charter. The Union APR is made of up of close to 400 members, comprising 14 member countries, 15 inactive countries, two organizational members with the rest individual members. Its Officers are elected by the APR membership at the Council meeting. The members of the Union and Union APR, can participate in the activities of both. (from The Union APR Strategic Plan background- August, 2018)

This year, the Executive Committee has had several meetings developing the Union APR Strategic Plan and organizing the 7th APR which will be held in Manila, Philippines on April 23-26, 2019. The theme is "Unity in Diversity: ONE Against TB and other Lung Diseases". The rationale: we have differences in the region- our culture, the way we approach certain diseases, local guidelines, building local coalitions and managing patients. In recognizing

this, different perspectives enable the region to potentially approach diseases in a multidimensional and collaborative manner. This makes us ONE or united in the fight to END TB.

For this conference, the Organizing Committee included other lung diseases, not just Tuberculosis. With the wealth of experts from the Region, the support of the WHO, The Union Headquarters, The Department of Health of the Philippines, Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc., Philippine College of Chest Physicians, CHEST Philippine Delegation, Philippine Coalition Against TB, Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Disease, Philippine Pediatric Society, and Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines, our partners in the organizing committee, we hope to come up with a world-class scientific program. The diversity in the approach to treatment and prevention of TB when shared with each other make us stronger and more effective so that at the end of the conference, we hope to strengthen and reach a common ground in this global effort to END TB.

- JMW



DOH Secretary Francisco Duque with the Organizing Committee of the 7th APRC



PCCP ON TWITTER

