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## MEETING REPORT

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# Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention (APOCP) Founding Conference - 'The APOCP and Regional Collaboration for Cancer Prevention'

**Somyos Deerasamee**

### Introduction

On November 4-6th the APOCP staged its Founding Conference in the Royal Cliff Beach Resort, Pattaya, in the South-East of Thailand. A total of approximately 50 scientists from across the region gathered in a beautiful coastal setting to discuss establishment of a new organization to promote efforts in both primary and secondary areas of cancer prevention. Somyos Deerasamee, the Director of the National Cancer Institute of Thailand, as President of the conference, made the opening address. This was followed by a welcome address by Kazuo Tajima, Chief of the Epidemiology Division of Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute, acting Chairmand of the APOCP. before the meeting got under way with the first session, the Cancer Epidemiology Research Forum.

This was followed by a general coverage of cancer prevention efforts in individual countries, at the end of which the Guest Speaker, Max Parkin of the International Agency for Research on Cancer gave an entertaining and informative talk on the role that descriptive epidemiology has and continues to play in the larger picture of cancer prevention. Last but not least, after a short break, the participants continued their discussions at the barbecue welcome party overlooking the bay. This was sponsored by the Japanese Committee for the UICC, a delicious lunch already having been provided courtesy of the National Cancer Institute, Thailand.

### Program

Saturday 4th Morning : Cancer Epidemiology Research Forum

Chairs: Drs Tajima/Petcharin

DV Bala, Ahmedabad	Breast Cancer Risk Factors
Yifu Deng, Beijing	Molecular Epidemiology of Lung Cancer
Yu-Tang Gao, Shanghai	Epidemiology Implications for Prevention
Keun-Young Yoo, Seoul	Cancer Epidemiology in Korea - Breast

Chairs: Drs Gao/Yoo

Petcharin Srivatanakul, Bangkok	Molecular Epidemiology of Liver Cancer
Kazuo Tajima, Nagoya	Hospital Based-Epidemiology
Elmira Erkinbayeva, Bishkek	Cancer Registration in Central Asia
Malcolm Moore, Nagoya	Pathophysiological Epidemiology

Saturday 4th Afternoon : Cancer Prevention, Country Reports

Chairs: Drs Somyos/Parkin

Hiroshi Kobayashi, Sapporo	Japan	Gulsun Aydemir	Turkey
Taik Koo Yun, Seoul	Korea	Saginbek Iqisnov, Bishkek	Central Asia/Siberia
Somyos Deerasamee, Bangkok	Thailand	Prak Piseth Raingsey, Phnom Penh	Cambodia
Maqsood Siddiqi, Calcutta	India	Pham Hoang Anh, Hanoi	Vietnam
Yu-Tang Gao, Shanghai	China	Yasmin Bhurgri, Karachi	Pakistan
Soeripto, Yogyakarta	Indonesia		

### Opening Address by the President

Guest Speaker, Max Parkin, IARC: Descriptive Epidemiology for Cancer Prevention

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*Somyos Deerasamee*

Sunday 5th Morning : Tobacco Control for Cancer Prevention

Chairs: Drs Shastri/Varabhorn

Vendhan Gajalakshmi, Chennai  
Jeremiah Paknawin-Mock, USA  
Yumiko Mochizuki, Tokyo  
Surenda Shastri, Mumbai  
Varabhorn Bhumiswasdi, Bangkok  
Suphon Manorama, Bangkok

APOCP/APJCP Meeting Chairs: Drs Kobayashi/Yun  
Progress Report: Malcolm Moore,

Sunday 5th Afternoon : Toxicological Pathology Forum

Chairs: Drs Tsuda/Hutch

Lynnette Ferguson, Auckland  
Sofia Mubarika Haryana, Yogyakarta  
Hirosi Ohshima, Lyon  
DH Cho, Seoul

Chairs: Drs Soeripto/Ohshima

Hutch Sriplung, Songklaa\  
Dae Joong Kim, Cheongju  
Hiroyuki Tsuda, Tokyo  
CM Hong, Seoul

Monday 6th Morning : Chemoprevention Research Forum

Chairs: Drs Ferguson/Surh

Indwiani Astuti, Yogyakarta  
Sukta Das, Calcutta  
Shoji Fukushima, Osaka  
In-Seon Lee, Taegu

Chairs: Drs Das/Fukushima

Ae-Son Om  
Young-Joon Surh, Seoul  
Harukuni Tokuda, Kyoto  
Rawiwan Puatanachokchai, Chiang Mai

Monday 6th Afternoon : Screening/Intervention Forum

Chairs: Drs Nair / Ishikawa

Teguh Aryandono  
Somyos Deerasamee, Bangkok  
Cherian Varghese, Trivandrum  
Hideki Ishikawa, Osaka

Chairs: Drs Siddiqi/Tokudome

FX Ediati Triningsih  
Krishnan Nair, Trivandrum  
Shinkan Tokudome, Japan

Bidi Smoking in India  
Buddhist Health Promotion for Working-Class Thais  
Japanese Health Ministry Tobacco Control  
Tobacco and the Indian Experience  
Tobacco Control in Thailand  
Education for Cancer Prevention

Collaboration in Toxicological Pathology  
EBV Screening for Nasopharyngeal Cancer  
Endogenous Carcinogens  
Screening for Carcinogenic Quinones

Pathology for Tumor Registries  
Animal Models  
Transgenic Models  
Toxicological Evaluation of DIDP

Prevention Using Phytopharmaca of Indonesia  
Natural Products for Prevention  
Water-Soluble Organosulfur Compounds  
Korean Edible and Medicinal Plants and Mushrooms

Phytochemicals  
Anti-inflammatory Agents  
Inhibition of Tumor Promotion  
ASpects of Thai Chemoprevention

Breast Cancer Prevention Program in Indonesia  
Cervical Cancer Screening  
Cancer Detection Services  
Intervention Studies

Cervical Cancer Prevention Program Indonesia  
Insurance for Cancer Prevention  
Nutrition and Cancer Prevention in the Colon

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On the Sunday morning, the program continued with a session on tobacco control, chaired by Drs Shastri and varabhorn, then following an exhausting lunch-time (see Photograph 2), the discussion was extended to cover various aspects of toxicological pathology. For this the chairs were Drs Tsuda and Hutch, then Soeripto and Ohshima, the seesion closing in the late afternoon to allow the scientists a free evening.

Monday morning was occupied with advances in chemoprevention, under the direction of Drs Ferguson and Surh, followed by Drs Das and Fukushima, with a wide range of agents, both natural and synthetic covered. The last session, devoted to screening and clinical intervention, respectively chaired by Drs Nair and Ishikawa and Drs Siddiqi and Tokudome, gave an all too brief introduction to these areas or secondary prevention, of especial interest to the clinician but clearly important for all cancer control programs now being developed across the Asian Pacific region.

## Summary of the Founding Conference

To round off the Founding Conference, Dr Hiroshi Kobayashi gave the audience the benefit of his long and broad experience of cancer prevention, presenting a stimulating account of how the efforts of workers in the various fields involved might hopefully evolve as we progress into the 21st century. As Chairman of the APOCP, Kazuo Tajima then made some succinct remarks as to the success of the meeting and plans for the future. This only left Petcharin Srivatankul, in place of Somyos Deerasamee, the Conference President, to thank the participants for their co-operation and to Malcolm Moore, as APOCP Secretary and organizer, to apologise for shortcomings and promise to make substantial improvements in making preparation for the First General Assembly Conference to be held in Thailand in November 2001!

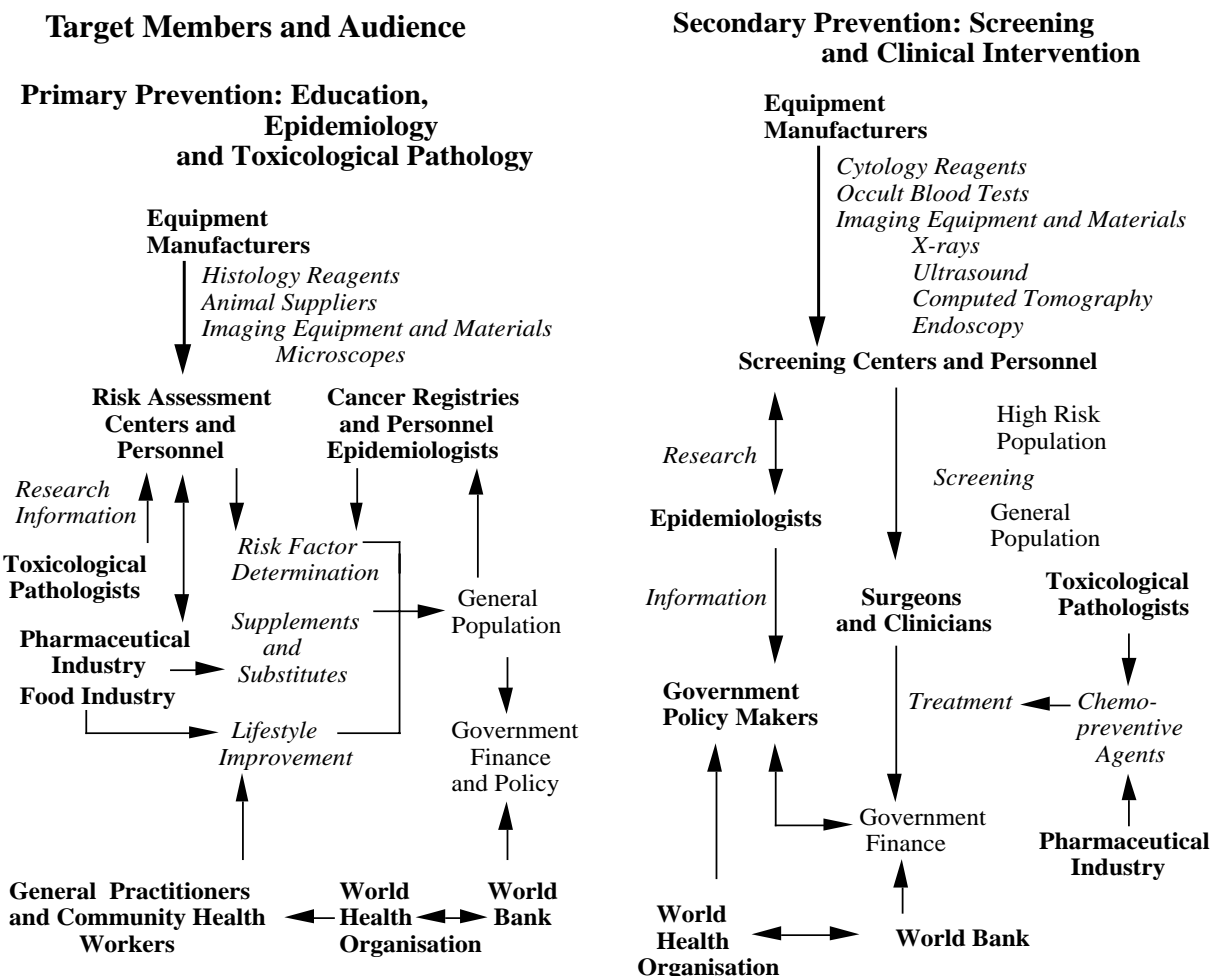
## APOCP General Meeting

At the APOCP General Meeting, held during and after an excellent buffet lunch (see Photo 2), Hiroshi Kobayashi of Sapporo Cancer Seminar and Taik Koo Yun, President of the Korean Association for Cancer Prevention, chaired a lively discussion on how the organization should be constituted and what its representation should be. In response to a report by Malcolm Moore, Managing Editor of the APJCP and APOCP Coordinator for 2000, they directed that a number of items should be stressed to guarantee the success of the meeting, with reference to the general criticisms of conferences held in delightful spots raised by Ashton and Morris (2000) and already discussed in a commentary in the APJCP (Moore, 2000).

Decisions were therefore made regarding clearly spelled out outcome measures:

- a) Decide who and what for the APOCP/APJCP

With regard to the target membership for the APOCP and the audience for the journal, it was proposed that these should be viewed as widely as possible while limiting the influence of industry which might have conflicting interests, like the tobacco case.





**APOCP  
Founding  
Meeting**

b) Decide the structure of the APOCP

Regarding the essential officials for the APOCP, Kazuo Tajima, Malcolm Moore and Petcharin Srivatanakul were respectively unanimously elected as the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition it was proposed that a constitution be drawn up governing the actions of the Organization and providing for roles for country representatives in its direction.

c) Decide the practice and policy of the APJCP

Participating members were asked to give comments on the journal and its policy. One suggestion was that the countries of the Asian Pacific region should be highlighted on the cover. There appeared to be general agreement that the emphasis should continue to be on mini-reviews together with research communications. Provisionally the journal will be quarterly, although if there is an appreciable increase in the number of papers submitted it might be necessary to adopt a bimonthly schedule. Stress was laid on the Chief and managing Editors doing all in their power to apply for recognition by Medline and other international abstracting services as soon as possible.

d) Decide on the what types of membership there should be for the APOCP/APJCP

The categories proposed are: Personal - Institution - Research Group - Industrial - Government

d) Decide on the future direction of the APOCP/APJCP

As the next stage in establishing the APOCP it was proposed that an Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention Training Center be set up, located in Bangkok, Thailand, for geographical, logistic and financial reasons. The aims were formulated as follows:

The Asian Pacific Centre for Cancer Prevention (APCCP) is to act as a focal point to facilitate and coordinate activities of the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention (APOCP).

Its main responsibilities are :

1. Produce the Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention (APJCP), provide translations of abstracts and supervise distribution of APOCP publications.
2. Periodically provide courses in practical aspects of cancer prevention.
3. Organise workshops and publication of updates in aspects of cancer prevention.
4. Provide courses for Scientific English Language Acquisition for workers in cancer prevention.
5. Offer a comprehensive publication service for those interested in furthering information exchange and collaboration between scientists active in the different areas of cancer prevention .
6. Maintain a library and contacts with other publishers, including IARC Press, to facilitate information access.

## 4) Conference financing and payments should be totally transparent

In line with the necessity for total transparency regarding the financial backing for the APOCP and the Founding Conference, Malcolm Moore provided a breakdown of the support received through 2000, with generous donations by Nobuyuki Ito and Kazuo Tajima, and contributions from the Japanese specialist editors of the APJCP, and the journal management. Special thanks are due to the Japanese UICC Committee for providing financial support specifically for the Founding Conference, and for the industrial members listed in the journal. In addition, thanks are due to Petcharin Srivatanakul, ?? and ? of the National Cancer Institute, Thailand, for their assistance at the meeting. The President of the meeting would like to express his warmly appreciation to Hiroyuki Tsuda for the photographs illustrated here, and Malcolm Moore for his help with the organization of the Founding Conference and in drafting this report.. Finally, many thanks also to all of the scientists from



around the region, and Drs Parkin and Ohshima from IARC, who participated in this effort to launch our APOCP on its voyage in the new millenium. There is no doubt : ‘The APOCP and Regional Collaboration for Cancer Prevention’ was a fitting beginning for a very active role in the future.

## References

- Ashton J, Morris M (2000). A ready man? – The evidential and ethical basis for conferences. *J Epidemiol Community Health*, **54**, 322-3.
- Moore MA (2000). Politics and passion –measures of a worthy 1<sup>st</sup> conference of the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention? *Asian Pacific J Cancer Prev*, **1**, 167-170.