

Declaration

The World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals (WACPHP) recognizes that :

- Currently the World is facing an emergence of new infectious diseases that can transverse country boundaries swiftly hitting different ethnic groups.
- Chronic non-communicable diseases continue to pose a heavy burden on medical and health services.
- Changes in lifestyle and behaviour have created increasing health and socially related problems including smoking, substance abuse and obesity.
- The health care system in many countries and areas is unable to respond effectively to the changing needs and circumstances of society, particularly the impacts from aging populations, rising medical costs and demographic and epidemiological transitions.
- Countries and areas in the Asia-Pacific Region have been particularly hard hit by the growing global problems in health care and in the prevention and control of both communicable and chronic non-communicable diseases.

Therefore at the 1st Public Health Conference of the World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals (The Association) held in Hong Kong on 5 – 6 March 2004 the Association advocated a new public health approach and recommended the following strategies to tackle the new challenges in public health in the 21st century:

1. To address the full range of determinants of health including physical, socio-economic, lifestyle, behavioural and genetic factors
2. To strengthen infectious disease surveillance of both chronic noninfectious diseases and infectious diseases, with particular emphasis on emerging new infectious diseases
3. To give priority to health promotion and disease prevention programmes in partnership with communities
4. To establish stronger links with health authorities regionally and internationally in disease prevention and control
5. To strengthen training and education of public health professionals including epidemiologists, public health physicians and health educators
6. To promote more research into public health, epidemiology and health services evaluation, including development of new vaccine against

emerging new infectious diseases and development of quick and effective diagnostic methods for new infectious diseases, as well as effective programmes in the control of obesity, eating disorders and related health problems

7. To give due emphasis to primary and preventive care
8. To integrate public health with clinical medicine and laboratory services
9. To improve the health care system so that it could be:
 - cost-effective
 - financially sustainable
 - more proactive in public health approach
 - more innovative in public-private partnership, and
 - of quality
10. To address the different health needs of the following groups in the population and ensure equity in care is maintained:
 - children and youth
 - the elderly
 - women
 - men
 - the disabled people
 - people with chronic diseases

The World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals pledges that the Association will give full support to the above recommendations and are prepared to assist the countries and areas in every way it can particularly the following:

- Education and training of public health workers in various disciplines of public health
- Research and evaluation of public health and other health related programmes
- Field investigation of outbreaks of infectious diseases
- Consultancy services in various disciplines of public health including the health care system, health management and health financing
- Surveys and studies on specific public health issues e.g. tobacco control HIV / AIDS, other infectious diseases or chronic diseases
- Development of new models in health promotion and health education and community health services

The World Association of Chinese Public Health Professionals has its inauguration and 1st Public Health Conference in Hong Kong from 5 – 6 March 2004. Over 300 participants from different parts of the World including China, Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia, Taiwan attended. The objective of the Association is to establish closer collaboration among Chinese public health professionals from different parts of the World to promote and advance public health through education, training, research and service development.