



JOURNAL

Issued in
English and
French

Sixty-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific

Available online: http://www.wpro.who.int/about/regional_committee/66/journals/en/

12–16 October 2015
Guam, United States of America

WPR/RC66/DJ/2

13 October 2015

Contents

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|---|
| I. | Programme of work | 2 |
| II. | Report of meetings | 2 |
| III. | Other meetings | 5 |

Other information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Venue | Grand Ballroom, 1st floor, Hyatt Regency Guam |
| Distribution of documents | Representatives are kindly requested to collect daily their documents, messages and invitations at their designated mailboxes. |
| Rapporteurs meeting | The meeting will be held daily in the Santa Rosa meeting room after the session at 17:15 on Wednesday and Thursday, and at 17:45 on Tuesday. |
| Internet access | Wireless Internet access is available throughout the hotel. The network name and password can be obtained from the Enquiry Desk outside the Grand Ballroom. An Internet café is located in the foyer outside the Grand Ballroom. For assistance, please contact the computer support staff at the Internet café. |
| WHO publications | Publications related to the agenda of the Regional Committee will be on display outside the Grand Ballroom. A digital catalogue will be provided. |
| Security | Please ensure your ID card is displayed at all times while inside the premises. Kindly contact the WHO Conference and Administrative Services Officer, Mr Ahmad Partow, should you have any concerns at +63 908 894 8621 (Philippines mobile). WHO has a no-smoking policy for all meetings and related functions. |

I. PROGRAMME OF WORK

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| Agenda items | 08:30–12:00 | |
| 4 | Address by the incoming Chairperson | |
| 8 | Programme budget 2014–2015: budget performance (interim report) | <i>WPR/RC66/3</i> |
| 9 | Viral hepatitis | <i>WPR/RC66/4</i> |
| Agenda items | 14:00–17:00 | |
| 11 | Universal health coverage Panel discussion Plenary discussion | <i>WPR/RC66/6</i> |
| 10 | Tuberculosis | <i>WPR/RC66/5</i> |

II. REPORT OF MEETINGS (MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2015)

First meeting

Acting Chairperson (outgoing):

Mr Michael Malabag, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS,
Papua New Guinea

Incoming Chairperson:

Mr James Gillan, Director, Department of Public Health and Social Services,
Guam, United States of America

Item 1. Opening of the session

The Opening Ceremony at the SandCastle Dinner Theater included a cultural presentation and addresses by the outgoing Acting Chairperson of the Regional Committee, the WHO Assistant Director-General for General Management on behalf of the WHO Director-General, the WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, the Governor of Guam, and the Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam. Following the Opening Ceremony, the representatives convened in the Grand Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Guam, where the Acting Chairperson declared open the sixty-sixth session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.

Item 2. Address by the Acting Chairperson (outgoing)

Mr Michael Malabag, Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Papua New Guinea, thanked the Regional Committee for the honour of having serving as Acting Chairperson. He thanked the Government of Guam and the United States of America for the festive reception welcoming representatives. He reviewed public health developments and milestones since last year's session. He urged Member States to continue working in solidarity and thanked WHO for providing strong support to Member States.

Item 3. Election of incoming officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteurs

The Regional Committee elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Mr James Gillan, Director, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam, United States of America

Vice-Chairperson: Dr Naoko Yamamoto, Assistant Minister for Global Health, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan

Rapporteurs:

In English: Ms Yeo Wen Qing, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Branch, Ministry of Health, Singapore

In French: Dr Jean-Paul Grangeon, Head of the Public Health Department, New Caledonia

Item 5. Adoption of the agenda

The representative from Australia asked that the scope of agenda item 14.2 on the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (2010) and the International Health Regulations (2005) be broadened to include lessons learnt in the Region on outbreak response. He also asked that the discussion of item 15 on the Coordination of the work of the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee be divided into separate parts.

The Regional Director welcomed the suggestion. He said Member States were free to expand the scope of the discussion on item 14.2 and that the Secretariat would be pleased to have the discussion of item 15 considered in separate parts.

There being no objections, the provisional agenda was adopted by the Regional Committee accordingly (WPR/RC66/1 Rev. 1).

Item 6. Address by the Director-General

The remarks of the WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, were delivered by the WHO Assistant Director-General for General Management, Dr Hans Troedsson. The Director-General's remarks focused on specific health achievements under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including significant reductions in maternal and child mortality, and progress in combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, such as leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

The Director-General congratulated the recent Nobel Prize-winning researchers in China and Japan, among others. She said their accomplishment emphasized the contribution the Western Pacific Region is making to health research. She discussed the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include a goal targeting good health and well-being. She said that universal health coverage would serve as an essential pillar of sustainable development. In addition, she highlighted the acute threats and consequences of climate change for health. Referring to the recent Ebola outbreak, the Director-General thanked the Western Pacific Region Ebola Support Team, or WEST, for contributing to the international response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa.

Item 7. Address by and Report of the Regional Director

The WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific presented his report to the Regional Committee, highlighting the work of WHO in the Western Pacific Region between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015. He noted the timeliness of the Regional Committee meeting in the Pacific, in that it was the 20th anniversary of the declaration

by Pacific Health Ministers of the Healthy Islands vision.

He updated representatives on challenges in areas, including the Pacific NCD crisis, tobacco-related health issues and legislation, tuberculosis, measles elimination, hepatitis B reduction, maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination, and the threat of multidrug-resistant malaria and antimicrobial resistance, among other issues. He also discussed progress on health systems development, the response to health emergencies including the Ebola and MERS-CoV outbreaks, and the SDGs.

The Regional Director said that during this session of the Regional Committee, several of the Region's health challenges would be addressed, with action plans to be considered on viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, universal health coverage, violence and injury prevention, and urban health.

Interventions were made by the representatives of the following Member States (in order): the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, China, Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Japan, Cook Islands, the Republic of Korea, France and Brunei Darussalam.

The Regional Director thanked Member State representatives for their positive comments, which he said reflected the hard work of the entire Secretariat. He then responded to several specific interventions, beginning with WHO's priorities in the Region in working with Member States. He noted that the priorities reflected in the 2016–2017 Programme Budget are the result of an intensive bottom-up planning process that identifies specific priorities for each Member State. These priorities fall into five categories: communicable disease; noncommunicable disease; health through the life-course; health systems; and health security and emergencies. Each category has five priorities, with at least one specialist devoted to each priority area, he explained.

In addition, the Regional Director said each Member State was asked to identify a maximum of 10 of the 25 priorities of greatest concern. One of the greatest concerns is health security, which he said would be discussed on Tuesday in a side event. He highlighted Ebola preparedness in the Region, and elaborated on the Western Pacific Region Ebola Support Team deployed in West Africa.

Responding to concerns, the Regional Director said dengue has been a persistent issue in the Region. Dengue was on the agenda of the Regional Committee in 2008, he noted. Dengue is a difficult epidemiological issue, complicated by climate change. With Member States taking greater ownership of agenda-setting, the Regional Director said Member States may want to add dengue to next year's Regional Committee agenda.

Finally, the Regional Director addressed the subject of greater efficiency in WHO operations. While efforts have been intensified over the past seven years to improve the efficiency of the Regional Office, he acknowledged that there was room for further improvement, in terms of reducing bureaucracy and working even more closely with Member States to ensure that the Secretariat responds to their needs. He said about 100 project agreements under direct financial cooperation (DFC) that were overdue have now been closed. The Regional Director said a compliance officer position is being created at the Regional Office to ensure that commitments to Member States are met.

III. OTHER MEETINGS

Tuesday, 13 October 2015

12:30–13:45 Health Security (Grand Ballroom, 1st floor)

Wednesday, 14 October 2015

12:30–13:30 Sustainable Development Goals (Grand Ballroom, 1st floor)
Member States Briefing on the Polio Endgame Strategy
(Santa Rosa meeting room, 2nd floor)

17:15–onwards Private Informal Consultation with Member States (Grand Ballroom, 1st floor)
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Grand Ballroom, 1st floor)

Thursday, 15 October 2015

12:30–13:30 Public Health Law (Grand Ballroom, 1st floor)