

First Meeting of  
the Asia Pacific  
Association of Medical  
Journal Editors



Seoul, Republic of Korea  
4-5 May 2008



World Health  
Organization

Western Pacific Region

Meeting Report

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REPORT

FIRST MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ASSOCIATION  
OF MEDICAL JOURNAL EDITORS

Convened by:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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**NOTE**

The views expressed in this report are those of the temporary advisers, observers and secretariat in the First Meeting of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the World Health Organization.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific for governments of Member States in the Region and for the temporary advisers, observers and secretariat in the First Meeting of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors, held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea from 4 to 5 May 2008.

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Keywords

Databases, Bibliographic / Journalism, Medical / Peer review, Research

## SUMMARY

The first meeting of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 4–5 May 2008. The meeting was attended by medical journal editors and members of the National Journal Selection Committees from countries involved in the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM) project. The WPRIM project aims, inter alia, to improve the quality of journal publishing in the Region.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- (1) to review and finalize the terms of reference of APAME;
- (2) to discuss the role of editors, peer review, and ways to improve the quality and visibility of journals in the Region.
- (3) to conduct an informal consultation on WPRIM.

Country reports on the status and activities related to journal publishing and editorship were presented, and the experiences of the Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) were shared with the participants through a videoconference. The roles of peer review in scientific journal editing and in scientific writing workshops were presented. The draft APAME constitution was reviewed, and changes and revisions were made. The officers of APAME were elected, various standing committees were established, and their chairs were nominated.

The first General Assembly decided that the business office for APAME should be located in Seoul, Republic of Korea, for the period 2008–2012. It was agreed that the next APAME General Assembly would be held in 2009 in Singapore. It was recommended that the next joint APAME/WPRIM meeting should be in Beijing, China in November 2008.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Second Meeting on the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM), held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea from 21 to 23 November 2007, resulted in the establishment of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME). Meeting participants perceived APAME to be instrumental in improving the quality and enhancing the visibility of journals published in the region. During the WPRIM meeting, it was decided that the formal launching and first meeting of APAME would be held in May 2008 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

### 1.1 Objectives

- (1) To review and finalize the terms of reference of APAME.
- (2) To discuss the role of editors, peer review, and ways to improve the quality and visibility of journals in the Region.
- (3) To conduct an informal consultation on WPRIM.

### 1.2 Participants

The participants were medical journal editors from the Asia Pacific region and members of the WPRIM National Journal Selection Committees who were designated as temporary advisers or observers.

### 1.3 Opening ceremony

Dr Jung-Gi Im, President of the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors (KAMJE), delivered the welcome remarks. Dr Choi Seung-Hoon, Regional Adviser on Traditional Medicine, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, conveyed opening remarks on behalf of Dr Shigeru Omi, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific. Dr Lee Jong-Koo, Director of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea, also gave a congratulatory address.

### 1.4 Appointment of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteurs

The following appointments were unanimously approved: Dr John Arokiasamy of Malaysia as Chairperson; Dr Jeong-Wook Seo of the Republic of Korea as Vice-Chairperson; and Ms Nicola Foxlee of Australia and Dr Kamal Kishore of Fiji as Rapporteurs.

## 2. PROCEEDINGS

### 2.1 Country reports

#### 2.1.1 Japan (Dr Kiyoshi Kitamura)

The Japanese Association of Medical Journal Editors (JAMJE) will have its first general meeting and symposium on 1 August 2008. More than 100 medical journal editors from the Japanese Association of Medical Sciences will participate. JAMJE aims to protect the freedom of editorship, to raise the level of journal publishing through improvements in writing, editing and peer review, and to manage conflicts of interest.

Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is funding the University Hospital Medical Information Network Center-Clinical Trial Registry System (UMIN-CTR). This site has been accredited by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and contains a list of registered trials with information in English and Japanese.

#### 2.1.2 Fiji (Dr Kamal Kishore)

Fiji has two prominent medical journals, the *Fiji Medical Journal* and the *Fiji General Practitioner (GP)*. The *Fiji Medical Journal*, which is published by the Fiji Medical Association, replaced the *Medical Journal of the Assistant Medical Practitioner Service* in 1961. *GP* was first published by the Fiji College of General Practitioners in 1991. It is distributed to 120 members and health care organizations in Fiji. The Pacific Health Research Council, which has an office in Fiji, publishes the *Pacific Health Dialogue*, a journal that is indexed in PubMed.

#### 2.1.3 Malaysia (Dr John Arokiasamy)

The Ministry of Health assigned the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) to coordinate the selection of biomedical and health journals in Malaysia for inclusion in WPRIM. The Malaysia National Journal Selection Committee (NJSC) will identify the journals for screening. The biomedical and health journals published in Malaysia are deposited in the National Library of Malaysia, in compliance with its Depository Act.

A questionnaire on journal publication was developed and sent to medical and health-related private and government sectors, including hospitals, research institutions, universities and colleges, societies and associations. The results of the questionnaire, i.e. the titles of journal published, will be compiled in a database. The Malaysia NJSC is concerned with the following issues:

- (1) the right to ownership, which includes the willingness of authors to share and expose their research outcomes at the global level;
- (2) the dedication of publishers to support or encourage the publishing of medical journals in Malaysia, as this could affect the sustainability of journal publication; and
- (3) the need for a forum to strengthen medical journal publishing in Malaysia.



#### 2.1.4 Mongolia (Prof Pagbajabyn Nymadawa)

Prof Nymadawa discussed the following general principles on the publication of journals in Mongolia:

- (1) The Ministry of Justice manages the registration and certification of journals in Mongolia.
- (2) Printing is not restricted by the Government and prices are negotiated between the printing companies and the journal editors. Discounts are available when (a) at least two issues per year and at least 300 copies per issue are printed, and (b) at least 50% prepayment of the cost of one individual issue printed is made.
- (3) The Editorial Board is responsible for the contents of the journal.
- (4) Journal distribution is negotiated individually with the government post office. A fee is charged to the subscriber for inclusion in the official subscription list.

Seventeen medical journal editors in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia convened the Mongolian Association of Medical Journal Editors (MAMJE) on 25 April 2008. The following editors were elected to the board: President, Prof P Nymadawa (Mongolian Journal of Infectious Disease Research); Vice-President, Prof T Lkhagvasuren (Mongolian Journal of Health Sciences); and Executive Director, Dr N Erdenkhuu (Innovation Journal).

#### 2.1.5 Papua New Guinea (Mrs Cynthia Leahy)

The *Papua New Guinea Medical Journal*, founded and initially managed by the Department of Health in May 1955, has been published by the Medical Society of Papua New Guinea since 1965. The journal is devoted to the documentation of the prevention and treatment of diseases found in Papua New Guinea. This semi-annual publication is distributed to 349 individual members of the Medical Society and to 27 institutions and libraries worldwide. It is accessible through Medlars and PubMed and is also indexed by Current Contents. The journal receives financial assistance from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

#### 2.1.6 Philippines (Dr Jose Avila)

The Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and the Department of Health coordinate and monitor health and medical journals published in the Philippines. PCHRD, through its Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) database, indexes all health-related publications in the Philippines, including those published in journals. From 1999 to 2006, only 38 out of the 104 journal titles were published regularly. Journal publishers are mostly specialty societies, universities and hospitals. PCHRD also launched the Philippine Technical Panel on Health Journal Publishing which aims to oversee health journal publishing, including the development of policies and standards relevant to the publication of quality health journals. It also aims to support medical and health editors by developing capacity-building programmes.

The first issue of the journal *Acta Medica Philippina* was published by the University of the Philippines (UP) in 1939. Since the 1970s, the quality of the journal has deteriorated because of a lack of research submissions – incentives for contributors and editors were nonexistent. UP re-launched the journal in 2004 with plans to sustain it. The Department of Science and Technology expressed an interest in supporting the journal in 2009.

### 2.1.7 Republic of Korea (Dr Jeong-Wook Seo and Dr Chang-Kok Hahm)

The Korea Research Foundation indexes 1580 scholarly journals from all disciplines, including 166 journals on health science. The health science journals cover: medicine (90), traditional medicine (17), dental (16), nursing (15), pharmacy (10), veterinary (4), medical technology (4), and general (10). KoreaMed, a medical database developed by the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors (KAMJE), indexes 131 journals, categorized as follows: medicine (108), dental (6), nursing (6), medical technology (4), veterinary (1), pharmacy (1), and general (5). Fourteen Korean journals are currently indexed in Medline, and the Science Citation Index and Journal Citation Report cover 13 Korean journals.

KAMJE is composed of 168 member societies, 37 individual members and 11 member companies. The aim of KAMJE is to promote the quality of medical journals published in the Republic of Korea by exchanging information on editing and publishing, including discussions on editorial principles. KAMJE established and maintains KoreaMed (searching system), KoMCI (citation database) and KoreaMed Synapse (reference linking platform). The Korean Academy of Medical Science is the main sponsor of KAMJE, but membership fees also constitute a major source of funding. Major activities carried out by KAMJE in 2007 were: holding a General Assembly, carrying out two journal evaluation activities, convening three workshops for editors and editorial staff, and publishing a guideline for ethical publication and newsletters.

### 2.1.8 Singapore (Dr Wilfred Peh)

The *Singapore Medical Journal* is a general medical journal founded in 1960 and published by the Singapore Medical Association. It is indexed in PubMed and has a link-out feature that provides direct access to the full text. The *Singapore Medical Journal* publishes original articles, case reports (print and electronic versions), editorials, and medical education and review articles. It has an annual circulation of 5100 copies.

*Annals, Academy of Medicine, Singapore*, which has been published and distributed to society members since 1972, is indexed in PubMed. It has an annual circulation of 2200 copies.

### 2.1.9 Viet Nam (Dr Le Vu Anh)

The scheduled publication of medical and health journals in Viet Nam is often delayed, resulting in long waiting times. Few quality research journals are published because of poor research networking, insufficient training for research due to limited funding, and low salaries. Recommendations have been made to put emphasis on research training at the university level in order to lobby for the increase of funds for research. There is little interest in health and biomedical publications and little effort is being made to communicate research to policy-makers.

## 2.2. Role of peer review in scientific journal editing (Dr Wang De)

In his presentation, Dr Wang De noted that peer review was important in scientific journal editing because of the following:

- (1) It encourages authors to improve the quality of their papers. Peer reviewers examine a paper's scientific reliability – including the originality, strengths, weaknesses – and provide suggestions on medical writing.

- (2) It helps editors decide whether a paper is suitable for publication.
- (3) It contributes the best papers for publication and encourages the submission by good peer review.
- (4) It ensures that readers get qualified papers.
- (5) It helps reviewers improve their professional ability. Peer review has the merits of providing professional and constructive suggestions and identifying research flaws that could benefit the scientific community.

### 2.3 Scientific writing workshops (Dr John Arokiasamy and Dr Wilfred Peh)

The objective of a basic medical writing workshop is to help doctors to write articles for medical journals. Workshop participants learn about the structure of a scientific paper and its individual components as well as the preparation of manuscripts. An advanced medical writing workshop also includes discussion on the following topics: (1) orientation on the types of scientific papers; (2) manuscript processing and the role of editors and reviewers; and (3) issues on authorship and ethics, including issues on how to deal with a returned manuscript.

### 2.4 World Health Organization publications (Dr Hooman Momen)

*The Bulletin* of the World Health Organization is a peer-reviewed monthly publication with free online access and wide international distribution in print. It is one of the top five journals in public health and is widely cited by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). *The Bulletin* contains several theme issues per year. It received 805 manuscripts from 94 countries in 2006.

WHO issues some 350 to 400 publications a year with an International Standard Book Number (ISBN). WHO Headquarters in Geneva publishes 75% of these titles, while the others are published by the regional offices. WHO distributes 1.6 million copies of its publications annually, of which 90% are distributed free of charge.

### 2.5 Assessing scholarly output for journals and researchers (Ms Nicola Foxlee)

The “impact factor” refers to a measurement that ranks and evaluates the impact of a journal in the scientific publishing world. One of the tools for measuring a journal’s impact factor is Journal Citation Reports on the Web (JCRWeb). Developed by ISI Web of Knowledge, this tool measures the impact of journals in three citation indices – Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index and Humanities Citation Index. An alternative journal-ranking tool, SCImago, was developed by researchers in Spain and is available free of charge on the Internet.

Ms Foxlee presented a brief overview of institutional repositories in Australia that manage institutional collections of publicly funded research. Among its holdings are patents, research datasets, conference proceedings, graduate work theses and research related e-books and e-journals. The ARROW project at the National Library of Australia (<http://www.arrow.edu.au>) is spearheading this initiative in coordination with its partner institutions.

## 2.6 Video conference with the Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) (Ms Jane Nicholson)

WHO supports the improvement of medical journals in the Eastern Mediterranean Region by conducting training workshops on research proposal writing, scientific paper writing, and medical journal editing, including peer review and management, through the Eastern Mediterranean Research Program of the Regional Office. It also hosts the ENAME website and listserv to facilitate communication among medical journal editors.

EMAME held its first regional medical journal conference in 2003 and another in 2004. The Ministry of Health and the Bahrain Medical Society will host the 2008 meeting in Bahrain. The EMAME Council will sponsor 20 to 30 participants, while the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean will support one speaker.

The objectives of EMAME are:

- (1) to promote communication and cooperation between medical journal editors in the region and globally;
- (2) to promote health care through the dissemination of high-quality scientific medical information;
- (3) to promote the improvement of editorial standards and professionalism in medical journal editing;
- (4) to promote research in peer review and medical editing;
- (5) to cooperate with national and international bodies to pursue similar objectives;
- (6) to promote the provision of free and special access to medical journals in underdeveloped countries, such as promotion of the Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI) initiative;
- (7) to form an advisory board for WHO indexing in the region; and
- (8) to promote continuing education for medical journal editors through courses and conferences, held at least every two years.

Based on her experiences with EMAME, Ms Nicholson of the WHO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean gave the following advice for APAME:

- (1) APAME should ensure that its objectives are clear and that membership is inclusive.
- (2) APAME should keep its constitution simple and limit the setting up of subcommittees.
- (3) APAME must strengthen its collaboration with other associations such as EMAME, World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), and the Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME).
- (4) APAME must seek and identify external funding support aside from WHO.

(5) APAME can become a virtual organization and concentrate on training, problem-sharing and capacity-building.

## 2.7 Changes to the draft APAME constitution

The following revisions and recommendations were incorporated into the draft APAME constitution:

### 2.7.1 Article V - Membership

Participants consented that only individual members can vote at the General Assembly but that delegates from national associations of medical journal editors, if present, can be represented on the Board of Directors. Individual members should be encouraged to join; it is not necessary to distinguish regular membership from associate membership. It was also suggested that a Membership Committee should review membership applications. International publishers and organizations related to scientific publication should be invited as association members upon payment of a suggested membership fee and an advertising fee.

### 2.7.2 Article VII - General Assembly

The General Assembly will comprise the entire voting membership of the Association. The General Assembly will meet at least every two years.

The functions of the General Assembly are to:

- (1) approve the Board of Directors and office bearers;
- (2) modify the offices of the General Assembly;
- (3) adopt membership fees and dues;
- (4) approve projects; and
- (5) amend the constitution as needed.

A quorum shall be formed by any number of voting members in attendance, provided that all members were notified 90 days in advance of the meeting via e-mail.

### 2.7.3 Article VIII - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Immediate Past President, Vice-President, Secretary-General, Secretary-Treasurer and one delegate from each Member State who is elected as one of the Directors-at-Large, representing geographical diversity. The President will hold a rotating position and could nominate a Secretary-General, subject to the approval of the Board. Both the President and Secretary-General have no voting rights; only national delegates have rights to vote at the Board of Directors.

## 2.8 Vision, mission and objectives of APAME (Article IV)

The proposed vision of APAME is to promote health care through the dissemination of high-quality knowledge and information on medicine in the Asia Pacific region.

The mission of APAME is to contribute to the improvement of health in the Asia Pacific region by ensuring the quality of health-related information published in medical journals, which are utilized for better decision-making and effective delivery of health services.

The objectives of APAME are:

- (1) to encourage collaboration and facilitate communication among medical journal editors in the Region and globally;
- (2) to improve editorial standards and promote professionalism in medical editing;
- (3) to promote research in peer review and medical editing; and
- (4) to foster continuing education of medical journal editors.

## 2.9 Elected officers of APAME

Elections were carried out for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary-General, Secretary-Treasurer, Directors-at-Large, Auditors, Adviser and Coordinator of APAME/WPRIM activities.

President	:	Prof Chang-Kok Hahm
Vice-President	:	Prof John Arokiasamy
Secretary-General	:	Dr Jeong-Wook Seo
Secretary-Treasurer	:	Dr Jeong-Wook Seo
Directors-at-Large	:	Nicola Foxlee (Australia) Wang De (China) Kamal Kishore (Fiji) Kiyoshi Kitamura (Japan) Pagbajabyn Nymadawa (Mongolia) Peter Siba (Papua New Guinea) Joselito Mario Co Avila (Philippines) Jung-Gi Im (Republic of Korea) Wifred CG Peh (Singapore) Le Vu Anh (Viet Nam)
Auditors	:	External auditors will be nominated later
Adviser	:	Hooman Momen, WHO Headquarters
Coordinator (APAME/WPRIM)	:	Charles Raby, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office
Chairperson of Education and IT Committee	:	Dr Wilfred Peh
Chairperson of Ethics and Editorial Policy Committee:	:	Dr Jose Avila
Chairperson of Planning, Finance and Fund Raising	:	Dr Chang-Kok Hahm

## 2.10 Standing Committees

### 2.10.1 Planning, Finance and Fundraising

The Planning, Finance and Fundraising Committee shall be responsible for general planning and overseeing the financial management of the Association. The Chairperson of this committee, Dr Chang-Kok Hahm, is also the Secretary General-Treasurer. The committee's activity will include the publication of the APAME Newsletter. This committee will also function as the Membership Committee until the latter is formally established.

### 2.10.2 Membership

The Membership Committee shall be responsible for promoting, evaluating and approving applications for membership. Its activity will include the conduct of meetings to discuss membership matters and to research the status of medical journals in the Region.

### 2.10.3 Ethics & Editorial Policy

The Ethics & Editorial Policy Committee, chaired by Dr Jose Avila, shall be responsible for developing statements on ethical issues and the code by which member journals should abide and evaluating the general and specific editorial policies of member journals.

### 2.10.4 Education & IT

The Education & IT Committee, chaired by Dr Wilfred Peh, shall be responsible for developing and re-evaluating educational materials and the IT system. It is proposed that the WHO Regional Office will support this committee by funding invited speakers.

Topics proposed for the educational programmes in 2008-2009 are the following:

- facilitate collaboration with other international societies
- facilitate the exchange of medical journals published in the Region
- preparations for indexing in international databases such as Medline, WPRIM
- seek technical support from Australia and New Zealand
- Journal Evaluation System
- archive and reference linking platform
- bibliometrics for medical journals.

## 2.11 Decisions and other matters

The discussion topics and membership of groups can be found under Annex 6.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The discussions of the temporary advisers and observers generated the following decisions and recommendations:

- (1) The APAME Constitution should be finalized based on the recommendations and suggestions of the working group committee.
- (2) International publishers will be invited to become members of APAME.
- (3) The joint APAME/WPRIM meeting will be held in Beijing, China, in November 2008.
- (4) The next APAME General Assembly will be held in 2009 in Singapore, in conjunction with the WPRIM meeting.



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**INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 2**

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**FIRST MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC  
ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL  
JOURNAL EDITORS**

**WPR/2008/DPM/05/TRA(1)/2008.1a  
24 April 2008**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea  
4-5 May 2008**

**ENGLISH ONLY**

**AGENDA**

**Sunday, 4 May 2008 (COEX)**

- (1) Opening session and adoption of the agenda
- (2) Country reports
  - China
  - Japan
  - Fiji
  - Malaysia
  - Mongolia
  - Papua New Guinea
  - Philippines
  - Singapore
  - Republic of Korea
  - Viet Nam
- (3) Keynote speech
- (4) Screening/evaluation of articles published in the Bulletin of WHO
- (5) Role of peer review in scientific journal editing
- (6) Editor's role and peer review
- (7) Scientific writing workshops
- (8) Journal impact factor and citation databases
- (9) The digital archive and reference linking platform of Korean medical journals

**Monday, 5 May 2008 (Bld. 43-1, Seoul National University)**

- (10) Group discussions on the role of APAME to improve quality of health and biomedical journals in Asia Pacific region
  - Group 1: Constitution, Board of Directors, Fund raising plans
  - Group 2: Membership, Topic for Education Programs, Agenda for WPRIM Meeting (October 2008)
  - Group 3: Plans for Standing Committees, Financial Plans and Dues, General Assembly for 2009 and 2010

(11) Report and discussion of 3 groups

(12) Journal editing and peer review

- Multilingualism in relation with WHO Publishing
- A Developing country perspective on journal editing and peer review
- Duplicate publication in Korean medical literature assessed by Koreamed

(13) APAME meeting

(14) WPRIM meeting

(15) Video conference with EMAME

(16) General Assembly

**WELCOME REMARKS OF  
PROFESSOR JUNG-GI IM,  
PRESIDENT, KOREAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL JOURNAL EDITORS,  
DEAN, SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,  
AND CHAIRMAN, ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF APAME**

Good morning honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my tremendous honor and privilege to present a welcome remark on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the First Meeting of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors.

As a follow up activity of those successful meetings and consultations on Western Pacific Region Index Medicus and Global Health Library project of WHO, we agreed that an international organization of medical journal editors would play a key role for upgrading out health research and publication of medical or health journals with higher impact.

I must emphasize that health and medicine like other fields of science have grown through scholarly publication and exchange of knowledge through them. Particularly in this era of mass production of knowledge and communication of information through internet, the quality of information has non-negotiable value for any publication. Editors have to do their function as gatekeeper, evaluator, facilitator and mentor.

I expect this association will facilitate international and interdisciplinary collaboration among societies in this region, because editors of journals published by health or medical societies are academic and spiritual leaders of these organizations. Collaboration among editors will expand from journal editing or publishing, exchange submission of manuscripts and finally to make a sustainable partnership of health research and health related programs.

As I mentioned in my previous message at the WPRIM meeting in November 2007, this establishment of the Medical Journal Editor's Association in the Asia Pacific region will foster mutual communication among medical journal editors, and to enhance the quality of medical journals in Asia-Pacific region.

I am grateful for the dedicated efforts of the members of the WHO/WPRO, members enlisted as temporary advisers, observers and meeting host secretariat, who served to make this meeting successful.

Finally, I welcome all of your to this meeting and to Seoul with its scenery of blossom of flowers. Thank you very much.

**OPENING REMARKS OF  
DR SHIGERU OMI,  
WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,  
IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL  
JOURNAL EDITORS**

Seoul, Republic of Korea  
4-5 May 2008

(TO BE READ BY DR CHOI SEUNG-HOON, REGIONAL ADVISER IN TRADITIONAL  
MEDICINE, WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

During the second meeting on the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus, or WPRIM in Seoul in November 2007, representatives from member countries decided to establish an association of medical journal editors that would contribute to the improvement of health in the Asia Pacific region by ensuring the quality of health-related information published in medical journals. Today, I am pleased to witness the launch of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors, or APAME.

The establishment of APAME is an important development as this is the first association of its kind in our Region. The link between WPRIM and APAME is seen in their purpose and goal. The goal of WPRIM is to improve the quality of journals by establishing the criteria for their selection and by making these journals accessible via the WPRIM portal. APAME's aim is to contribute to the improvement of the quality and visibility of journals published in the Asia Pacific region. It is my hope that this association will create a proper forum for medical editors in the Asia Pacific region to share knowledge and experiences in scaling up the quality of journal publishing so that relevant research can be efficiently reported and disseminated both at regional and global levels.

At present, the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific acts as a facilitator in the development of APAME. However, I look forward to seeing APAME establish itself in the very near future as an independent and self-sustaining association. I would like to commend the efforts of the Korean organizers, particularly the financial support provided by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Korea Association of Medical Sciences, the Korea Association of Medical Journal Editors and the Seoul National University.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for coming to this meeting and for your willingness to share your expertise and experiences to establish and develop this important initiative. I wish you all a pleasant stay in Seoul as well as fruitful discussions for the sustainable development of APAME.

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS OF  
DR JONG-KOO LEE, DIRECTOR OF KOREA CENTERS FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND PREVENTION (KCDC) AND DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH,  
WELFARE AND FAMILY AFFAIRS**

Honorable

Dr Hooman Momen from WHO

Dr John Arokiasamy (Malaysia)

Dr Chang-Kok Hahm (Republic of Korea, APAME President)

Dr Jung-Gi Im (Republic of Korea, KAMJE President)

Distinguished medical journal editors, librarians, health professionals and other distinguished guest from home and abroad.

I would like to congratulate the opening of "The First Meeting of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME)". My thanks also go to organizers of this meeting for the excellent work they have done to arrange this important event.

I am delighted to see some of the familiar faces I met during last year's WPRIM meeting held in Seoul. Seoul is beautiful throughout the year, but especially in May with the finest weather conditions. I hope that you will enjoy the splendor of the season during your stay in Seoul.

The information gap between developed and developing countries is expected to widen even further. In particular, health information is expanding rapidly, while technologies to share the information are also being upgraded. However, some countries in our Region (Western Pacific Region) are excluded from even gaining access to information.

I think that once data is collected as a database and aggregated as relevant information, it can be readily available for research purposes. It is now time for the government to take the initiative, and I am convinced that the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) can play an active role in creating such knowledge as a new brand. KCDC is currently striving to develop plans for contents and to standardize information technology for the National Library for Health and Medical Sciences.

We have already witnessed from the examples of Silicon Vallye and Wikipedia that every little can make a new creation. It was confirmed that mass collaboration is essential to network's added value. KCDC plans to implement a project aimed at analyzing the relationship between genome and disease by building a network for e-genomics, introducing Wikipedia like platform for collecting and analyzing genomic data that requires tera-scale information, primarily through collaboration and specialization.

Each and every one of you are now producers as well as transmitters of health information.

Furthermore, we share a common vision for the Global Health Library (GHL) initiative which aims to enable a free exchange of information specific to each country on one single knowledge-based information network, not only within our Region but also across the whole world. We also fully appreciate the need for technological and human networking. It is my sincere hope that all of us gathered here today would contribute to such networking, while taking the initiative to make APAME a landmark for GHL.

In closing, I'd once again like to congratulate the opening of the "First Meeting of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors". I wish you an enjoyable and memorable stay in Korea in this beautiful season of spring.

Thank you.

**APAME Meeting  
Discussion Topics and Membership of Groups**

Group A	General discussion on the constitution, committees and board of directors
Chairperson and members	<p>Chaired by John Arokiasamy (Malaysia), Chang-Kok Hahm (Korea), Hooman Momen (WHO)</p> <p>International Members (7): Kiyoshi Kitamura (Japan) Ms Cynthea Leahy (Papua New Guinea), Ms Nicola Foxlee(Australia), Jose Florencio F. Lapena, Jr (Philippines), Cynthea Leahy(PNG), Tserenkhoo Lkhagvasuren(Mongolia), Zhao Ruiqin(China)</p> <p>Korean Members(6): Sung-Tae Hong, Chang-Ok Suh, Hae-Kwan Cheong, Eun So LEE, Chang Won Won, Heungshik S. Lee,</p> <p>Student Assistants(3): Ms Woo-ri Moon, Ms Kayeon Lee, Mr Jelk Byun</p>
Key issues	<p>Article II Business office</p> <p>Article IV: Mission and Objectives</p> <p>Article VIII: Board of Directors</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Section 1</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Secretaries</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Section 2 -Election of the Board of Directors</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Section 6 - Administrative Secretary.</u></p> <p>Article X: Committees</p> <p>Others</p>

Group B	Vision, mission, objectives, principles of activity and plan for WPRIM meeting in China
Chairperson and members	<p>Chaired by Wang De, Jung-Gi Im(Korea), Choi Seung-Hoon(WHO)</p> <p>International Members(6): Wilfred Peh (Singapore), Takahiro Kiuchi(Japan), Dr Jose Avila(Philippines), Miranda Lau(Singapore), Wifred CG Peh(Singapore), Samdan Narantuya(Mongolia)</p> <p>Korean Members(6): Sun Huh, Dong Gyu Kim, Ho Joong Youn, Se Jeong OH, Jung Yul Park, Deog Yoon Kim,</p>



	Student Assistants(3): Ms Kyung Min Song, Mr Hyo-Bum Jang, Ms Hee-young Ju
Key issues	Vision Mission Objectives Principles of activity  Plan for WPRIM meeting in China in October 2008

Group C	Plans for activities in 2008 and 2009 and financial plans
Chairperson and members	Chaired by Jeong-Wook Seo (Korea), Dr Kiichiro Tsutani(Japan), and Dr Le Vu Anh (Viet Nam)  International Members(6): Dr Kamal Kishore (Fiji), Dr Pagvajav Nyamdavaa (Mongolia), Masamichi Kitagawa(Japan), Dinah Nadera(Philippines), Josefina Tuazon(Philippines), Wang Qing(China)  Korean Members(6): Soo-Hun Cho, Soo-Young Kim, Jun-Wook Kwon, Mi-Jeong Park, Eun-Hyun Lee, Jeong Ho Kim  Student Assistants(3): Ms Jung Won Yoon, Ms Sue Hyun Kim, Ms Min-kyung Kim
Key issues	Principles of activity General Secretary/Treasurer Editorial Policy Committee Membership Committee Education and IT Committee  Ethics Committee Electronic Committee Other geographical representatives Plan for General Assembly on 2009

## **Constitution of Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors**

### **Article 1: Name**

The name of the Organization shall be the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME).

### **Article II. Business Office**

The Board of Directors shall decide the official address of the Association.

### **Article III: Nature of the Association**

The Association shall be a non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit organization that strives to raise the quality of medical journal publishing in countries of the Asia Pacific Region in official association with the World Health Organization. It shall work towards being established as a legal entity by the Board of Directors.

### **Article IV: Mission and Objectives**

The mission of APAME is to contribute to the improvement of health in the Asia Pacific Region by ensuring the quality and dissemination of health-related information published in medical journals, utilized for the purposes of better decision-making and effective delivery of health services.

The objectives are to:

- (1) encourage collaboration and facilitate communication among medical journal editors in the Region and globally;
- (2) improve editorial standards and promote professionalism in medical editing through education, self-criticism, and self-governance;
- (3) promote research in peer-review and medical editing;
- (4) foster continuing education of medical journal editors, reviewers and authors.

### **Article V: Membership**

#### **Section 1 – Individual membership**

Editors, previous editors, editorial assistants of peer-reviewed medical journals and those working in any branch of scientific communication in the Asia Pacific Region, in their capacity as Editor-In-Chief, Deputy, Associate, Assistant, Supplement and Managing Editors or scientists and technologists, are eligible for individual membership. Regular members may vote, hold office and serve on committees

#### **Section 2 – Association membership**

National associations of editors of peer-reviewed medical journals, scientific publications or publishing bodies and related companies or organizations are eligible for association membership. Designated representatives shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of a regular member except the rights to vote and to hold office.

**Section 3 - Admission to membership.**

- (1) Application for individual or association membership requires the submission of a completed application form.
- (2) All applications shall be screened by the Membership Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. A negative decision shall be overruled only if an appeal in favor of the applicant is supported by a majority vote.

**Section 4 - Duration of membership.**

Membership shall be for an unlimited duration subject to Section 6. All members should ensure their membership details are kept up to date.

**Section 5 - Termination of membership.**

Members wishing to resign from any category of membership may do so in writing to the Secretary General. Involuntary removal from membership for any cause or reason requires two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

**Article VI: Dues and Assessment**

The need for dues and assessments shall be proposed by the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Finance Committee subject to approval by the General Assembly. If and when dues or assessments are levied, members shall be notified in writing and must pay such dues or assessments within 90 days of notification.

**Article VII: General Assembly****Section 1- General Assembly**

The General Assembly shall comprise the entire voting membership of the Association. The General Assembly will meet at least every two years.

**Section 2 - Functions**

Functions of the General Assembly are to 1. approve the Board of Directors and Office bearers 2. modify offices of the General Assembly 3. adopt membership fees and dues, 4. approve projects, and 5. amend the Constitution as needed.

**Section 3 - Quorum**

A Quorum shall form any number of voting members in attendance, with the assurance that all members are notified 90 days in advance of the meeting via electronic mail.

**Article VIII: Board of Directors****Section 1 - Governance**

The governance of the Association shall be vested in the Board of Directors and shall seek assistance from the General Assembly.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Immediate Past President, Vice-President term, Secretary-General, Secretary Treasurer and one delegate from each member state who is elected as one of directors at large representing geographical diversity.

**President**

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors, including meetings conducted by electronic means. S/he shall appoint committee members and shall have such powers and perform such duties as is customary for an organization's chief executive officer. The term of the President's office shall be 2 years, non-renewable.

**Immediate Past President**

Upon completion of a term as President, the officer shall automatically become Past President for a period of two (2) years.

**Vice-President**

The Vice-President shall be elected every two (2) years and serve for two (2) years after which s/he shall become the President. S/he shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors in case of absence or disability of the President.

**Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General shall keep, or cause to be kept, minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly and shall be responsible for transcribing and distributing such minutes to the appropriate recipients within 30 days of each meeting.

S/he shall be responsible for promoting membership and recommending new applicants for membership to the Board of Directors for approval. S/he shall, in general, perform such other duties assigned by the President or Board. His or her term of office shall be 2 years, renewable for any number of terms.

**Secretary Treasurer**

The Secretary Treasurer, in general, shall be responsible for all funds and securities of the Association, including collection and receipt of monies due and payable to the Association and making appropriate payments. S/he shall, in general, perform such other duties assigned by the President or Board. His or her term of office shall be 2 years, renewable for any number of terms.

**Section 2 - Election of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be elected from the General Assembly. The Board shall create a special committee with specific guidelines to conduct and supervise future elections.

**Section 3 – Vacancies**

If a vacancy occurs in the Board of Directors, it shall be filled by appointment by the President with advice from other members of the Board. Such appointment shall continue until the next regular election when the office shall be filled in accordance with prescribed procedures.

**Section 4 - Dismissal**

Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the full Board.

**Section 5 - Meeting of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall meet regularly, by telephone conference, electronic mail, or in person.

The Board of Directors shall determine the frequency, agenda and regulations for functioning at its first meeting. The Board of Directors shall create and/ or nominate additional appointments and committees when needed.

The Board of Directors shall decide all matters by majority vote, except issues concerning changes to the constitution, dismissal or dissolution, which shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. Only one national representative from each member state has the right to vote at the Board of Directors.

**Article IX: Amendments****Section 1- Proposal**

Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by (a) majority vote of the Board of Directors or (b) a petition signed by at least 10% of the regular members. Such proposed amendments shall identify the relevant article and section and state the precise words to be amended.

**Section 2 – Vote**

Upon receipt of an amendment proposal, as outlined in Section 1 of this Article, the Secretary-General/Treasurer shall, within 60 days cause the proposed amendment to be sent to the members for vote. Two-thirds majority of the voting members shall be required for adoption of the amendment.

**Section 3- Notification**

The Secretary-General and /or Treasurer shall notify the membership of the results of a vote conducted in accordance with Section 2 of this Article.

**Article X. Ratification of the Constitution**

This constitution shall require for its ratification an affirmative vote from two-thirds of the total membership of the General Assembly. The Constitution shall become effective upon such ratification.