



INTERNATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
In official relations with the World Health Organization

Association
Internationale d'Epidémiologie

国际流行病学协会

Международная
Эпидемиологическая Ассоциация

الإتحاد
العربي للوبائيات

Asociación
Internacional de Epidemiología

Newsletter - June 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CHITR SITTHI-AMORN

We wish to invite all IEA members, other epidemiologists, and scientists as well as actors and agencies, who are concerned with equity in health to the XVII IEA World Congress of Epidemiology at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, in Bangkok, August 21 - 25, 2005.

The Congress is expected to be attended by 1000 participants. It will examine the contributions of epidemiology to advancing health and equity to date and defining new approaches, including methodological advances that sciences can make towards equity in health for development into the future. Many social scientists and renowned politicians will be delivering plenary and keynote speeches. Among them is His Excellency Dr. Anand Panyarachun, the former Prime Minister of Thailand and Chair of the United Nations Review Team appointed by His Excellency Director General Kofi Anan.

Colleagues from the World Health Organization, including Timothy Evans, Jeanette Vega and her team will be giving new WHO insights as well as methodologies to advance equity in health for development. Daily plenaries are highlighted by the framework for equity in health (including globalization, regionalization and inter-dependence of nations), new methods to study equity, and the need to empower countries to integrate epidemiology with other branches of science to improve equity in health for development.

In addition, some plenaries will discuss the needs for big data, issues of data protection, innovative funding, examples of mounting big studies inexpensively and challenges in mounting big cohorts in developing countries. The world has realized more and more that small studies do not have enough power to answer big questions but big studies are too expensive to mount. Examples, such as the INTER-HEART study, will be given to show how big studies could be mounted in a way that will not be too expensive and everyone who participates in them enjoys working together as colleagues and friends.

Ethics in various types of research, including genetic epidemiology research, will be discussed to balance protection of subjects while facilitating research. Situations, which require special ethical considerations, such as research in traditional medicine and medicinal substances, will also be discussed.

Innovative methodological issues will be also discussed. One good example is the power of cohort studies, which help us define guidelines for clinical practice (e.g., how do we define the level of CD4 to start anti-retroviral therapy or the levels of various lipids to prompt pharmacological interventions). Pre-congress educational sessions on selected topics of epidemiology and biostatistics will feature recent highlights in epidemiology and biostatistics methods, such as multi-level statistical analysis, advances in cancer epidemiology, reproductive health epidemiology, life course epidemiology, writing and publishing research.

Interesting keynote features every-day events includes: Robert Cruickshank lecture, emerging infections, injury and disaster preparedness, human resources and the power of cohort studies. Several symposia, workshops and parallel scientific sessions will enrich the program. These sessions cover topics as: infectious diseases, pharmaco-epidemiology, methods for inequity, estimates using existing data, diet and chronic diseases, mental health, molecular genetic epidemiology, environmental health, occupational health, history of epidemiology and many more.

Several regional workshops are also planned, which will focus on the unique regional problems and how to apply current IEA strategies to bear in tackling regional issues. The strategies include: volunteerism, regionalization, and the leverage of IEA with international actors to improve health. These will be summarized by the IEA Regional Councillors. If you have examples of such strategic efforts, please submit abstracts about them. Epidemiologists from different IEA regions are encouraged to contact their respective Councillors to define areas which might prompt leverage support from the IEA, through meaningful volunteerism and regionalization.

With the recent disasters in several areas of the world, including the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean, we also plan a post-congress workshop in Phuket, right after the meeting in Bangkok. We invite all who have work in disaster preparedness, short and medium term responses, to submit relevant abstracts. Many colleagues from CDC and the Thai Ministry of Health will be presenting summaries of work in Thailand at the post-congress venue.

We encourage colleagues to propose sessions, symposia or workshops. Please visit the website mentioned below, click "Outline Proposal" and give us information on title of the session; the organizer; the chair; questions to be addressed by the session; major speakers, their expertise and issues to be highlighted; time allocated to major speakers and discussants; brief description of the contents; and intended audience.

We encourage colleagues to submit abstracts for review by our scientific committee early so that we could inform you about the status of the review quickly. This is important for you to seek / identify funding to attend the Congress.

We have informed the WHO Regional Offices, as well as the WHO Representatives of all member states about the Congress. If your abstracts are accepted, you can explore with WHO offices about the availability of support.

Epidemiologists, researchers and actors with an interest both from the developed and the developing world, are invited to register. The program will be of interest to individuals from Ministries of Health, Universities, NGOs and donor organizations who are concerned with equity in health for development. The Congress will also be of great interest to researchers who want to keep abreast with cutting edge epidemiology and public health research, data protection, big data banks, innovative investments in research and the balance between protection of research subjects and facilitating research through comprehensive ethical reviews.

Please register for The XVII IEA World Congress of Epidemiology now. A limited number of bursaries will be made available for participants, such as key speakers or participants with accepted abstracts from less developed countries. The competition for the bursaries will be very high and therefore colleagues with accepted abstracts are encouraged to seek funds elsewhere. Participants in the Congress will earn CME credits.

Registration fees, details and the abstract format are described on the WCE 2005 web site.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY AHMED MANDIL

This brief message will reflect on IEA meetings (already held and upcoming); membership-related affairs, sponsorship and dialogue with members.

Meetings

During 2004, the following regional IEA meetings were held:

- 6th IEA Latin America & Caribbean Regional Scientific Meeting, in association with the VI Brazilian Epidemiological Meeting, Recife, Brazil, June 19 - 23, 2004
- European Congress of Epidemiology, Porto, Portugal, September 8 - 11, 2004
- 8th IEA South East Asia Regional Scientific Meeting, Jhansi (UP), India, December 5 - 8, 2004

Upcoming IEA activities include:

Global

- XVII IEA World Congress of Epidemiology, Bangkok, Thailand, August 21 - 25, 2005

Regional

- IEA EEF European Congress of Epidemiology, Utrecht, Netherlands, June 28 – July 1, 2006

IEA has also jointly collaborated with INCLEN global meetings held in Kunmin, China, during February 2003 (especially IEA Western Pacific Region) and in Agra, India, during February 2004 (especially IEA South East Asia Region), by

participating in the scientific programme and different deliberations of such meetings.

Membership

It is regrettable that current IEA members only represent a very small fraction of the actual body of active professionals working in the field of epidemiology on a global scale. Knowledge / analysis of membership of national epidemiology societies in regions as Europe, North and South America, immediately indicates the great discrepancy between the current paid-up membership of IEA, and effective representation of the global body of professionals eligible for IEA membership.

Global Membership Campaign

The current Council, especially Regional Councillors aided by current members, has launched a global campaign to increase the IEA membership during the current triennium (2003 - 2005), in order to more effectively represent professionals working in the epidemiology field worldwide. In addition, members are kindly requested to update their payments because many have their dues in arrears.

IEA Members, all over the world, are strongly encouraged to positively respond to such campaign, and prove that they can make a difference, by inviting ONE new professional to join IEA, which would definitely affect the future of IEA.

Sponsorship

IEA members who wish to sponsor 3-year memberships for candidates nominated by Regional Councillors from less-developed nations, are kindly requested to write to the Secretariat. Such contributions are highly welcomed and most appreciated.

Nominations for this type of membership should be sent to the respective Regional Councillor, who would present the case to the next Council meeting, scheduled for August 20, 2005.

IEA Council Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand September 26 – 28, 2004

The IEA Council held a successfully meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, during September 2004. The meeting included visits of the Council members to the XVII IEA World Congress possible venues, planned to be held in Bangkok, August 2005. The

Council meeting discussed the main issues for the preparation / organization of the Congress. It also included issues on volunteerism, regionalization, linkage with other organizations, global membership campaign, future plans to encourage membership, presentations of the bids to hold the XVIII World Congress of Epidemiology, 2008. The Council also approved the following issues:

Sponsorship Funds

The Council has approved the generous offer and establishment of the '*Elmer Villanueva Sponsorship Fund*'. This will sponsor a total of seven new members (one from each of the regions) to join IEA for 3 years each, for the next 5 years.

Students / Senior Rates

- Student memberships are to be effected, at 50% discount, as appropriate for each region / membership category.
- Senior membership was approved for the new members, effective for those into retirement or 60 years for the non-employed.

For more information on the minutes of the meeting, please visit our website: www.IEAweb.org

Dialogue with IEA members

I would like to hereby add my voice to the IEA President, in encouraging participation in the XVII World Congress of Epidemiology; welcoming and soliciting views and suggestions by the IEA membership on means and ways of implementation of the proposed strategies for moving IEA activities forward, namely: fostering linkages with agencies and bodies with shared focus and domains with IEA; advocating volunteerism within and between IEA membership on one hand but also with young epidemiologists worldwide on the other; and encouraging able and effective regionalization of IEA activities.

IEA Secretariat Activities

IEA Secretariat is handling the following:

a) With respect to membership

- Handling new membership
- Requests of membership status
- Problems of members (e.g. non-receiving of IJE, change of address, calls for meetings, etc)
- Updating information (contact information, co-ordinates)
- Preparation of Newsletter

b) With respect to Council

- Council's issues and requests
- Preparation for Council Meetings
- Bids for Global Meetings
- Elections / ballots

Suggestions and views from membership about means and ways to improve the performance of the IEA Secretariat in the future are widely welcomed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT JORN OLSEN

Epidemiology is a discipline that often produces results that reaches the public media as a natural consequence of the fact that we study determinants of ill health in human population; a topic of interest to most of us.

Some, perhaps even many, of these results are wrong because we deal with complex causal mechanisms that are usually not under our control. Better research methods and better research conditions are often needed to improve the situation. To help with improving the infrastructure for epidemiologic research worldwide is a core activity for the IEA. We have an obligation to help spreading new and better methodology to the epidemiologists and we do that by using the Journal (IJE) and our meetings and conferences. Recent controversies indicate that perhaps we should do more.

We also have an obligation to be advocates for improving research options which include funding, ethic appraisals, practical and legal problems in e.g. collaborative work and much more. We should set standards for conducts of our discipline and we should guard epidemiologists right to publish results and take part in any debate that concerns the health of people.

The IEA Council probably needs to engage other members of the IEA to take part in this work. Epidemiologists worldwide are looking for a visible organization to speak their cause.

STATEMENTS FROM REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

Latin America & Caribbean Mauricio L. Barreto

The 6th Regional Latin America and Caribbean Scientific Meeting was organized with success. It was associated with the VI Brazilian Epidemiology

Meeting, held in the city of Recife in the period June 19 – 23, 2004. In the days 19-20 was held the workshop "Epidemiology in Latin America and Caribbean: discussing an agenda for its development". 34 leading epidemiologists from 12 different Latin America and Caribbean countries participate in the workshop, including representatives from ISEE and INCLIN in Latin America, Office of Global Health/CDC-USA and PAHO-Brazil. The workshop was supported by a grant from the Brazilian Ministry of Health. A full report of the workshop was produced and has Portuguese and Spanish versions. The main achievement of the Workshop was the decision to organize the Latin American and Caribbean Epidemiology Network (EPILAC) to become the convergence point of LA & C epidemiologists and also to make strong the presence of the IEA in the Region. A EPILAC secretariat was constituted and it was composed by: IEA Regional Councillor - Mauricio Barreto; INCLIN Regional Representative - Sergio Munhoz; ISEE Regional Representative - Nelson Gouveia; and the elected sub-regional representatives: Mexico - Jacobo Finkelman, Caribbean - Daniel Millord, Cuba; Central America - Maria Carmen Greco, Panama; Andean Region - Guillermo Llanos, Colombia; South Cone - Paulina Pino, Chile; and Brazil - Maria do Carmo Leal and Maria Regina Fernandes Oliveira. A preliminary version of the network by-laws has been written and the network website is expected to be open soon.

Europe Miquel Porta

As previously announced, the IEA-EEF European Congress of Epidemiology 2006 will be held from June 28 to July 1, 2006, in Utrecht, The Netherlands, under the all-encompassing theme of 'Epidemiology and health care practice' (www.euroepi2006.org). As usual, this theme is meant to inspire, not to restrict the topics of submissions. In the trail of the last two editions of the European meeting (Toledo 2003 and Porto 2004), and in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Board of the IEA European Epidemiology Federation, a significant role is offered to IEA EEF national societies of epidemiology and their individual members to contribute to shape the scientific programme; one channel to do so is to propose scientific sessions and workshops to the Scientific Committee of the Congress. You are also invited to volunteer to act as an external scientific reviewer; the final selection of reviewers who will assist the Scientific Committee will be made by the latter,

based on the guidelines previously approved by the IEA EEF Board. Please visit the Congress website, and contribute to shape what will happen in Utrecht.

The Congress is organised under the leadership of the Netherlands Epidemiological Society (NES) and the Julius Centre for Health Sciences and Primary Care, University Medical Centre, Utrecht (www.juliuscenter.nl).

On behalf of the congress organisers, Prof. D.E. Grobbee has mentioned that in Holland there is a significant number of non-human sciences epidemiologists (e.g., veterinarians); this presents the attractive challenge to make the programme also attractive to such professionals. The Board of the IEA EEF is enthusiastic about creating more opportunities at our meetings for all types of health professionals to present top-quality research and to interact. We believe that the most creative, relevant and efficient components of today's scientific world are wide-open, transdisciplinary and highly porous. Our meetings can be no less. And we are confident that the Utrecht congress will be a new step forward in this direction for European epidemiologists too.

Registration. You can register by submitting your online registration form and paying your registration and participation fee. Registration before April 28, 2006 entitles you to a reduction. Specifically, the registration fee for IEA members before 28 April 2006 will be €350. Please see other rates the Congress website.

The Winter 2004-2005 issue of the Newsletter of the IEA EEF was again edited by Hans-Werner Hense and Yoav Ben-Shlomo. It can be downloaded at: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/iea/Download/EuroNews04b.pdf>. In such issue you will find, among other items of interest, a text summarising the idea of organising a network of European Young Epidemiologists (EYE) within the IEA European Epidemiology Federation; the idea was raised during the European Congress of Epidemiology held in Porto in September 2004. For further information please read the mentioned piece and contact Ana Azevedo, Ana Cristina Santos or Elisabete Ramos, PhD students in the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, University of Porto Medical School. In the same issue of the IEA EEF Newsletter you may also find news from the national epidemiological societies of Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands,

Germany, Portugal, the United Kingdom, France and Spain. A commentary is also published on "A history of epidemiologic methods and concepts", a book edited by Alfredo Morabia and published a few months ago by Birkhäuser / Springer. Please download the Newsletter at the address mentioned above for more news on meetings and courses.

The minutes of the last meeting of the IEA-EEF Board (held in Porto on 11 September 2004) can be found at:

<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/iea/Download/MinsEuro2004.pdf>

At this address you will also find more information on the activities of the IEA European Epidemiology Federation. Since there will be no IEA EEF congress in 2005, at the just mentioned meeting the Board approved the possibility of organising a thematic workshop. At present it seems that it could take place in late 2005 or in early 2006; more information will be circulated as soon as it becomes available.

As always, I look forward to hearing your comments, criticisms and suggestions, either directly from you or through the representative of your national society in the Board of the IEA EEF

North America Eduardo Franco

Our office continues to divulge the core principles and goals of the IEA to the professional community in the US and in Canada. We serve as a liaison between the IEA and the two main professional associations in the region, the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) and the Canadian Society of Epidemiology & Biostatistics (CSEB), fostering an international engagement and focus for North American epidemiologists and students. We work closely with the IEA Council in providing a platform for discussion of emerging concerns on issues related to research funding, teaching, ethics, scientific conduct, and new directions for the profession. Another role for the Councillor's Office is in promoting the IEA within North America.

If you have a chance please attend the June 2005 Conjoint Meeting of the SER and CSEB in Toronto, Canada. It will include an exciting IEA-sponsored symposium entitled "Cervical Cancer Prevention: Has Epidemiology Helped?" which will feature prominent speakers from North America and Europe. Another roundtable session during the same conference will focus on strategies for North American epidemiologists to establish international

collaborative ties with colleagues in developing countries. *Please mark your calendar for June 28 - 30, 2005* and bring your students to Toronto to attend this important North American conference and to join the above sessions.

The Councillor's Office has also worked closely with the organizers of the 15 epidemiology societies who originally met in Toronto in 2001 under the auspices of the American College of Epidemiology and of the Epidemiology Section of the American Public Health Association. That meeting was the largest gathering of North American epidemiologists in history, with over 1600 delegates. The June 21 - 24, 2006 event is entitled "Congress of Epidemiology 2006". The IEA is one of the sponsors. Currently under planning is at least one IEA-sponsored symposium on an international epidemiology theme.

If your academic home is in the North American region of IEA please feel free to contact the Councillor's Office to obtain or volunteer assistance. Do not forget to extol the virtues of an IEA membership to all your students and colleagues. Just as a reminder, the IEA can serve as a platform to assist in the implementation of your international health research studies by assisting you to locate effective liaisons in different countries. IEA Regional Councillors maintain a network of professional colleagues who can be contacted to assist the development of specific bi-national action plans. The Councillor's Office can assist North American epidemiologists in the process of identifying institutional partners in other regions, e.g., Latin America, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, Western Pacific, and Europe.

South East Asia Babu L. Verma

My major plans as SEAR Councillor of IEA, during January 1, 2004 till 31 March, 2005, included enrolling new Members of IEA from SEAR, organization of a Regional Scientific Meeting in the year 2004, strengthening collaboration with INCLEN, representing IEA at the important regional health forum and working for promotion of epidemiology & biostatistics in the Region. Brief account of achievements on my above planned activities, is given here below.

1. Enrolment of Members

As indicated in my earlier Report, position of IEA membership from this Region has

not been satisfactory during past recent years. During the period 2004-05, I have succeeded in enrolling several professionals from this Region as new IEA Members for 3 years, particularly through my efforts in 3 scientific meetings, held in India viz. XX INCLEN Global Meeting, held on 11 - 14 February 2004 at Agra (U.P.), 8th IEA-SEA Regional Scientific Meeting, held on 5-8 December 2004 at Jhansi (U.P.) and the 21st Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Medical Statistics, held on 21 - 23 January 2005 at JIPMER, Pondicherry. I have also written to some existing IEA Members whose membership subscription was expiring/expired in 2004, to renew their IEA Membership. However, despite my these efforts, I must accept – I have not succeeded in enrolling any member from countries like Srilanka, Bhutan, Myanmar and DPR Korea. I will continue my efforts in this direction till end of my term in IEA Council.

2. Collaboration with INCLEN

As mentioned in my earlier Report, the IEA SEAR collaborated with INCLEN in its XX Global Meeting, held at Jaypee Palace Hotel & Convention Centre, Agra (India) on 11 - 14 February 2004, by organizing an IEA Symposium on "Capacity Enhancement Needs of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in SEA Countries" as part of their Programme. This Session was chaired by Professor Chitr Sitthi-Amorn, our President. There were 7 speakers including the chairs, who gave presentations/made remarks on the subject, covering different aspects of the current status of epidemiology & biostatistics in the Region. Besides, IEA President and SEAR Councillor, about half a dozen IEA Members from South East Asia Region also attended this Global Scientific Meeting. Later, as agreed upon by INCLEN, SEACLEN and INDIACLEN jointly organized a Symposium on "Leveraging Research Through Policy & Practice" in our "8th IEA-SEA Regional Scientific Meeting", held at Jhansi (U.P.), India on 5 - 8 December 2004. We hope to continue this kind of academic collaboration with INCLEN in future years with the view to promote epidemiology in this part of the world.

3. Representation of IEA SEAR in a “National Consultation Meeting of Government of India on Institutes of Public Health in India”, September 2004

Ministry of Health, Government of India and US Embassy, organized a “National Consultation Meeting on Institutes of Public Health in India” on 16 - 17 September 2004 at the Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi. It was a high level Meeting, consisting of 78 public health experts from the country. Several leaders of public health from renowned public health institutes of USA, UK, Finland and representatives of major health related international organizations in India were also present in this 2 – day technical meet. This Meeting was called upon to discuss the subject ‘Institutes of Public Health in India: From Concept to Reality’ and thus, to provide support to the Government of India’s efforts to strengthen the national capacity for public health related to education, training, research and policy development.

On invitation from the Health Ministry of the Government of India, I, as SEAR Councillor of IEA, attended this unique professional consultation and actively participated in the discussions on the subject. Perhaps, this was for the first time in the Region since I took over in 1999 that IEA was involved with such an important Government sponsored Meeting on health policy.

4. Organization of a Regional Scientific Meeting, December 2004, India

As planned, SEA Region organized a Regional Scientific Meeting, entitled “8th IEA South East Asia Regional Scientific Meeting” (RSM) at Jhansi (UP), India on 5 - 8 December 2004. I was key-person to organize this RSM. This 4 – day RSM was hosted by this historic city of Jhansi (India) for the third time – earlier 2 RSMs of IEA were hosted by Jhansi and were organized by the then SEAR Councillors viz. late Professor R N Srivastava in the year 1986 and myself in the year 2002. This RSM (2004) was attended by 268 participants with 51 from countries other than India. Three Officers/Members of the current IEA Council viz. Professor Jorn Olsen – President Elect of IEA, Professor George

Davey-Smith – Editor, IJE and Professor CC Jinabhai, Regional Councillor from South Africa also attended this scientific event. This Meeting was supported by a series of international, regional and national organizations on health. The Brief Report of this RSM appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

5. Efforts Towards Capacity Enhancement of Epidemiology & Biostatistics in the Region

As indicated in my earlier Report, we, in this part of the globe, wish to work for capacity improvement of epidemiology & biostatistics, as it is somewhat ‘weak’ here. To have an assessment of the situation in the Region and to gather the ideas on the issue, IEA SEAR has been organizing series of Regional Workshops/Symposia at different epidemiology fora viz. – XVI WCE (2002, Montreal, Canada), XX Global INCLEN Meeting (2004, Agra, India) and 8th IEA South East Asia RSM, (2004, Jhansi, India). Our latest Symposium (Jhansi, 2004) in this regard was organized and chaired by Dr. M D Gupte, Chennai (India) on ‘Training Opportunities in Epidemiology in South East Asian Countries: From Ideas to Action’ in which 7 speakers gave their presentations. This Symposium, which generated lively discussions, was attended by good number of growing professionals in epidemiology. We intend to continue our efforts on the subject, to be able to formulate a proposal on capacity improvement of epidemiology and biostatistics in the Region for submission to WHO / SEARO and IEA in near future for their consideration as regards their funding support to it.

Western Pacific Takesumi Yoshimura

Current Activities (2002 – 2005)

1. Recruitment of regional membership

Memberships for the International Epidemiological Association (IEA), especially Western Pacific Region have been encouraged by various channels of scientific meeting presentation, Oxford University Press publication exhibition etc, taking various opportunities such as international scientific meeting, symposium and domestic scientific meeting etc. Thus, as of now, active paid members for Western Pacific Region are 213. (note: other 134 were unpaid inactive members)

2. Epidemiological Meeting supported

Japan Epidemiological Association has decided to encourage young epidemiologists to participate and to present papers at the coming the 17th World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE) in Bangkok (President: Prof Dr Chitr Sitthi-Amorn) by establishment travel fellowship (one million Japanese yen in total). The 4th Korea-Japan Joint Seminar organized by Korea Epidemiology Society was held in December 5, 2003 at Seoul, Korea. Topic of the Seminar was "the Role of Epidemiology in Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases". In February 2003, INCLIN Global Meeting was held in Kunming, China. Symposium on cardiovascular epidemiology was organized by the voluntary spirit of Japanese delegates. Other activities related epidemiology in the region, such as the 15th Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, Perth, Australia (Sep.2003), the Sino-Japanese International Symposium on Public Health in 21st century, Hefei City, China, (Aug. 2004) were carried out, but not notified to the regional office.

Future Plan

1. Regional network should be organized at the meeting of the 17th WCE in Bangkok.
2. Recruitment of new members
Active members of IEA from member countries should be recruited more, taking various meeting opportunities.
3. An organizer for the next regional meeting probably in 2006 should be reached.

Issue of Concern

During my second periods, SARS problem hit directly in Western Pacific Region in 2003. This attack resulted in taking difficulty to organize regional meeting in the region. In order to prepare for such unexpected incidence or situation, regional network in the region should be established.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BIDDERS OF THE XVIII WORLD CONGRESS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, AUGUST 2008

a) Agra, India
by Anil Kumar

To All IEA members,
Friends,

IEA has organized its global / international scientific meetings in many parts of the world and India has never been its venue. During last several meetings, I realized its need and importance with reference to challenges of public health and priorities in developing countries and particularly in India. After I returned from Montreal meeting, I discussed this issue with many senior epidemiologists in India and also friends from other countries; everybody supported the view that this world body should have its meet in India. The enthusiastic support from all corner of the scientific society therefore encouraged me to come forward to 'Invite you All' for the World Congress of Epidemiology being proposed to be held in Agra – City known for World Famous monuments like Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Fatehpur Sikri. The city is a vibrant Centre of Culture, Art and Religious philosophies that have enriched mankind with love and shaped human thought over centuries.

Agra as venue will offer you some of the best events you are yet to see during any IEA scientific meetings. Geographically, it is surrounded by beautiful cities like Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, Gwalior, Khajurao in M.P., Bharatpur bird sanctuary and is just 200 KM from Delhi (3 hours by road, 2-3 hrs by train or 20 minutes flight from Delhi). Scientifically it will offer you the best with main theme "**Public Health Priorities and Challenges - Role of Epidemiology in Global Health**" and would have full 5 days packed programme covering all aspects of public health and would invite world famous speakers. Every delegate would certainly be benefited.

- Agra will offer you hospitality to touch your heart which you will never forget. A Special *cocktail Dinner* at a stone throwing distance from TAJ MAHAL, that is in Full Moonlight at Clinton Point to welcome you. US President Bill Clinton gave the message to world on environment & peace from here.
- Free FN/AN Tea/Coffee, Two Musical Nights with dinner & Cocktail
- Free Internet facility at the venue- A 5-star Hotel Jaypee palace & International Convention centre which is the preferred venue and has facilities to hold meetings for up to 5000 delegates. Its surroundings has good numbers of hotels like from Oberoi & Hilton group, Welcome Group and others with wide

range of daily rates (US\$ 10 – 2000) to suit each pocket.

- 200+ Bursaries (Full/Partial)- may be increased if funds permit
- Early RF benefits may be offered – like free visit to TAJ with local transport
- Special prizes for some best papers offering public health solutions
- Low Reasonable Registration Fee US\$ 350.

On behalf of my group, I promise that every one of you will go home with memories of this lovely place and of cultural & scientific events.

I therefore request you to vote for Agra “World Congress of Epidemiology - 2008” to be your next venue. I once again assure you the best.

b) Edinburgh, Scotland
by Raj Bhopal
Bruce and John Usher and
Ellen Colingsworth

IEA World Congress 2008 –why should it be in Edinburgh, Scotland?

Scotland is enthusiastic about public health and epidemiology, with a track record stretching back several centuries, and gaining momentum. It will be a memorable venue for the World Congress of Epidemiology in 2008. Scotland's medical schools in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen are joining forces to make this an innovative and exciting event. The 1981 Congress was held in Edinburgh and attracted 550 people: for its return we hope to welcome about 1500 delegates. In recognition of the magnitude and importance of the event, academics have already teamed up with the Edinburgh Convention Bureau. We are creating a sponsorship fund so that our conference will be able to minimise costs and attract the maximum number of people from developing countries.

Scotland has strong historical links to the IEA, and those who have served the organisation include Professors John Brotherston, Mike Garraway, and Charles Florey. The Congress will have a Scottish Scientific Committee, with representation from both the IEA Council, and other international representatives. The Scientific Committee will be supported by other key research and health organisations including:

- The MRC Public Health and Social Sciences Research Unit,

- The Scottish Centre for Infection and Environment
- NHS Health Scotland
- The Scottish Executive through the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
- The Scottish NHS Health Boards.

The conference will capture historical and contemporary work in epidemiology and public health globally, and set out a research and practice agenda for the future. The Congress themes will include:

- Advancement of theories and methods underpinning epidemiology
- A critical reappraisal of diseases of unknown aetiology, particularly those hitherto relatively untouched by epidemiology
- Demonstration of how interdisciplinary research in epidemiology helps improve population health
- Development and advances in specialist areas of epidemiology e.g. genetic epidemiology, infectious diseases epidemiology, life course epidemiology etc
- The challenges facing epidemiology in the 21st century, with its population mobility, global trade and communication, and environmental and lifestyle challenges
- A critical appraisal of epidemiology in Scotland, examining how the discipline has helped, and sometimes failed, to improve the health of Scotland.

Leaving aside the academic delights for a moment, Scotland and its capital city Edinburgh have many wonders for you to enjoy. Edinburgh is unforgettable – every guidebook tells you so! Our fabled streets and historic buildings and modern dynamic city offer the ideal conference destination. The conference venue and hotels for IEA 2008 are in the midst of this stunning city. With 17 hours of daylight in the summer, you will have time after conference hours to play golf, and more golf! Sample our excellent whisky, and join us for a Scottish evening of entertainment.

It is easy to get to Edinburgh with air access from 15 hubs direct to Edinburgh, transatlantic flights on Continental Airlines and over 60 direct flights from London.

Edinburgh is famous for organising successful events; come early and enjoy the fantastic

Edinburgh International Arts Festival and Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Access to the Scottish Highlands and Islands is easy, and other major cities including Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen are only a short train ride away. We intend to put on a social programme that neither you nor we will ever forget.

Porto Alegre, Brazil
by Mauricio L. Barreto
IEA / LA&C Councillor

Epidemiology in Brazil is young and enthusiastic. Its style of practice in this large country of Latin America has unique features. It is committed to the public's health and to the construction of a strong national health system offering universal coverage. Its leadership in Brazil is attested by the great attendance at its national congresses, in general 4000 to 5000 participants. Porto Alegre, our proposed venue, is an attractive site for a successful international meeting. Not by chance it has been for three consecutive years the venue of the World Social Forum, an event with over 100 000 very active participants. Thus, the organizers of the Brazilian Congress of Epidemiology in 2008 extend a warm invitation to the IEA and its members to join us, placing its 2008 World Congress of Epidemiology within this vibrant Brazilian context.

UPCOMING IEA EVENTS & SEMINARS

Global Meetings

XVII IEA World Congress of Epidemiology Bangkok, Thailand, August 21 - 25, 2005

*Theme: Epidemiology & Equity in Health:
Methodological Challenges & Strategies for the 21st
Century*

IEA, the Thai Consortium of Epidemiology and other agencies concerned with equity in health are hosting the 17th World Congress of Epidemiology in August of 2005. It will examine the contributions of epidemiology in advancing health and equity in the past and to define new approaches, including methodological advances and limitations that epidemiology can make towards equity in health for development into the future, highlighted by new scientific break-through, globalization, regionalization, inter-dependence of nations, and the need to empower countries to integrate epidemiology with other branches of sciences to tackle their own unique health problems among

different groups of population. Therefore, in addition to scientific discussions, several sessions will be dedicated to discussion around a framework which would contribute to the strategic focus of epidemiology so that it can contribute optimally to equity in health at the national, regional and global levels. In doing so, the Congress hopes to be a vehicle to enhance the role played by epidemiology in the social fabric of national and world community.

This will be a Congress with a difference. It will mainstream epidemiology as a key discipline, skill and needs for equity in health. It will also address new issues, funding innovation and research arrangements which can impact epidemiology research both short and long term. It will argue that true global health will be achieved if epidemiology be given due opportunities to highlight inequity and inclusion of all voices to tackle it. There will be ample space for regional and national views to interact with international perspectives.

For further information please visit the website:
www.wce2005.org

Regional Meetings

European Congress of Epidemiology Epidemiology and Health Care Practice June 28 – July 1, 2006, Utrecht, the Netherlands

As from September 1, 2005 online abstract submission will be possible. Please notice that the deadline for electronic abstract submission will be January 2006.

Registration on or before April 28, 2006 entitles you to reduction.

Participation fees for IEA member: € 350 (payment before 28 April 2006) and € 450 (payment after 28 April 2006)

For more information, please visit:
euroepi2006@fbu.uu.nl
Visit the congress website soon:
www.euroepi2006.org (under construction)

Seminars

IEA Internet Seminar on access to research data: the seminar is divided into 6 video clips. You can download both video and slides via the IEA website: www.IEAweb.org

OTHER NON - IEA EVENTS & COURSES

a) European Education Programme in Epidemiology

Statistical Design and Genetic Epidemiology Studies, Florence, Italy, 20 - 24 June 2005

including:

- "Social Epidemiology" by George Davey-Smith (Bristol) and Nancy Krieger (Boston)
- "Genetic epidemiology" by David Clayton (Cambridge)

18th Residential Summer Course in Epidemiology, Florence, Italy, 27 June - 15 July, 2005 including:

- Epidemiological and Statistical Methods, in the first two weeks and
- Modules on Special Topics, Methodological and Substantive, in the third week.

For more information please visit: www.eepe.org

b) Biostatistics & Epidemiology Analysis Using STATA 8 Singapore, 6 - 8 June 2005

For more information please contact: stata@eastasiatc.com.sg

c) Summer School on Modern Methods in Biostatistics and Epidemiology Treviso, Italy, 13 - 25 June 2005

Please visit the course homepage for more information: <http://www.bioepi.org>

d) IARC Summer School, Lyon France, 27 June - 22 July 2005

More information at <http://www.iarc.fr/> (Training courses)

e) 16th International Summer School of Epidemiology, University of Ulm, Germany, 18 - 22 July, 2005

More information at: http://www.uni-ulm.de/epidemiologie/Summer_School/su_mmer_school.html

f) Advanced Level Epidemiology Program Summer School, Germany, 18 - 22 July 2005, University of Heidelberg, Further information: www.dzfa.de

g) Introduction to Infectious Disease Modeling and its Applications, 18 - 29 July 2005

2 weeks intensive course, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Further details about the course content are available at: <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/short/siidma.html>

h) International Society for Pharmacoeconomics, 21 - 24 August 2005

Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee
For more information visit ISPE: www.pharmacoepi.org

i) 3rd International Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease Toronto, Canada, November 16-20, 2005

Visit <http://www.dohadsoc.org> for the latest information.

j) University of Bristol - Short Courses 2005 www.epi.bris.ac.uk (Short Course Programme)

For information on new membership / renewals / membership information update, please visit IEA's website: www.ieaweb.org, or write re secretariat at email address: IEASecretariat@link.net

For IEA Online Directory, please visit: apps1.jhsph.edu/iea or via IEA website: www.ieaweb.org - (For IEA Members only)

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