Report on The Asia Pacific Paediatric Nursing Conference on 26 - 28 Sep 2014

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The Asia Pacific Paediatric Nurses Association (APPNA) is an international Paediatric Nurses Association which was established in 2012 with its inauguration held in Malaysia. Admission as member of APPNA is in the name of national association, there is no admission of individual member. At present, APPNA has 6 members of national paediatric nurses associations/societies in the Asia Pacific Region namely Hong Kong Paediatric Nurses Association, Paediatric Nurses Association of Thailand, Japanese Society of Child Health Nursing, Australian College of Children and Young People’s Nurses, Paediatric and Neonatal Chapter under Singapore Nurses Association, and Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines.

The Asia Pacific Paediatric Nursing Congress (APPNC) 2014, organized by APPNA, hosted by Hong Kong Paediatric Nurses Association (HKPNA) was held on 26, 27 and 28 September 2014 in Hospital Authority Building in Hong Kong. It was the first time The APPNA organized the international paediatric nursing conference for paediatric nurses in AP region since its establishment in 2012. The theme of the conference was "Moving the Frontiers of Paediatric Nursing in the Asia Pacific Region". In this conference, the participants would be able to have more understanding and discussion on
1) the global and current health care issues imparting impact on the child health and paediatric nursing practice,
2) The importance of quality and safety in paediatric care and environment,
3) Leadership skills necessary to advance and make changes in the paediatric environment,
4) Advances in clinical paediatric nursing practice and
5) Parent and patient empowerment.

To promote evidence based practice, abstract submissions were invited. Sessions for free paper oral and poster presentations were arranged for the participants to share their good works of local practice in the conference. Outstanding Oral and Poster Presentation Awards were honored to the best achievers.

In the conference, a total of 28 renowned speakers were being invited to talk on their expert area. Keynote speakers were world renowned experts including Dr. Chan Chok Wan, President of International Pediatric Association (IPA) (2007-2010), Honorary President of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA); Dr. Naveen Thacker, President Elect of APPA; Dr. Masako Kanai-Pak, 1st Vice President of International Council of Nurses (ICN); Dr. Prakin Suchaxaya, WHO Coordinator of the Regional Office for South East Asia; Prof. Chen Jianjun, Chairman of Chinese Pediatric Nursing Association Professional Committee. Besides local nursing experts, other prominent speakers from Mainland China, Australia, Japan, Thailand and Singapore coming from miles across the countries were also invited to share with us their state-of-the-art information and knowledge.

The conference was well supported by prestigious international professional association/council. Congratulatory messages were received from Dr. Judith Shamian, President of International Council of Nurses (ICN) and Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA). Locally, we were honored to have the staunch support from Food and Health Bureau, HKSAR and The Hospital Authority (HA), Hong Kong. Dr. Ko Wing Man, Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR had accepted our invitation and being our Guest of Honor in officiating our Outstanding Oral and Poster Presentation Award Ceremony; Professor Sophia Chan, Under Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR; Dr. Leung Pak Yin, Chief Executive of The Hospital Authority and Dr. Chan Chok Wan, Past President of International Pediatric Association (2007-2010), Honorary President of APPA, Honorary Adviser of APPNA as our Guests of Honor in officiating our Opening Ceremony. Dr. Cheung Wai Lun, Director of Cluster Services and Ms. Jane Liu, Chief Manager (Nursing) of HA also showed their support and encouragement to our nurses via their welcome addresses on Day 2 of the Conference.

The paper submissions to the Conference was overwhelming, we have received 67 abstracts from different countries in the AP region. The papers were reviewed by the Review Panel formed by 5 countries under the Scientific Committee of APPNA. The selected papers were further
presented and scored by adjudicators in the conference. Ms Germac Shen from Singapore presented the paper on “Nursing Assessment at Children’s Emergency” won the Outstanding Oral Presentation Award. Ms Ko Wai Fong from Hong Kong, presented the paper on “A Continuous Quality Improvement Programme to Enhance Medication Safety” won the Outstanding Poster Presentation Award.

The conference was well attended with more than 1/4 of them were from overseas including from China, Japan, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and SriLanka. The feedback to this conference was excellent, participants agreed unanimously that the APPNC 2014 served a good platform for nurses in cross pollination of paediatric nursing knowledge and advanced nursing care. Through this conference, the cohesiveness, commitment and support from our pediatric doctors and nurses in AP region were well testified. I was deeply indebted to all our organizing committee and subcommittee members, our steering committee members, our member associations from different countries of APPNA for their unfailing support, active participation and promotion, with days of hard work in preparation to enable this Conference to become realized. This amazing spirit and collaborative effort in achieving synergy was inspiring. The APPNA would work in partner with the APPA for the forthcoming 15th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatrics and the 5th Asia Pacific Congress of Pediatric Nursing in Hyderabad, India in January 2016. We also look forward to the collaboration with Chinese Paediatric Nursing Professional Committee to co-organize the Paediatric Nursing Conference next year in Beijing, China.