

## New agreement signed with FIP and FIP events

A new agreement has been signed by IPSF President and FIP General Secretary last April. The new agreement has four years validity. It is decided that FIP will help to support IPSF accountancy and we are going to strengthen our collaboration at FIP congresses.

It has also been decided that FIP will support students who register to the IPSF Congress if they are also register to the FIP Congress in Beijing. The reimbursement of 100 Euros will be done during the IPSF Congress in Taiwan. So, IPSF-ers don't miss this chance for a special cut to Taiwan Congress!

The Board of Pharmaceutical Practice (BPP) of FIP held a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Audrey and Zhining represented IPSF at the meeting. BPP is taking steps forward through updating GPP standards, IPSF also had a chance to give a short report on what we are doing with FIP and see possible future collaboration. BPP was happy to hear that IPSF signed a new agreement with FIP.



The Board of Pharmaceutical Science (BPS) of FIP held their biannual 'Pharmaceutical Science World Congress' in Amsterdam, 23-25 April 2007. More than 2500 pharmaceutical scientists attended this meeting. Hundreds of posters were displayed during the meeting. Many new drug discoveries and development in optimising drug therapy was discussed.

Approaches from pharmaceutical sciences to combat counterfeit medicines through detection and prevention phase are also being developed. IPSF was represented by Audrey at this meeting. Some contacts were established during this meeting and hopefully it will bring more added value for you. We look forward to strengthening pharmacy students in science area.

## EPSA Congress in The Hague

The European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA) held their annual congress 16-21 April 2007 in The Hague, Netherlands. Audrey was there to represent IPSF as an observer. Many important issues were discussed there and many decisions were made to strengthen the association. IPSF would also like to congratulate the new EPSA executive which is led by Oana Chirita from Romania. We wish you all the best and a successful year.



## UNESCO Executive Board Meeting

The UNESCO Executive Board was held 12-13 April 2007 in Paris, France. The Executive Board in charge of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) discussed the needs to strengthen the collaboration between NGOs, UNESCO regional offices, and National Commissions.

IPSF is part of the Joint Programmatic Commission on youth (JPC on youth) which unites international youth NGOs having official relations with UNESCO. This JPC was created with the support of UNESCO youth section. We had a pre-meeting a day before the Executive Board. During the meeting we discussed UNESCO mid-term strategy, non-formal education day that will be organised in December at UNESCO



Headquarter, and also to prepare our involvement in the Executive Board. In the meeting, it was decided that Audrey, IPSF President to represent the JPC on youth for an intervention in the Executive Board.

In the intervention, we explain that NGOs work in many UNESCO field of competence and better communication with the national commissions and UNESCO regional offices will help to avoid the duplication of work between NGOs and member states. Hopefully, this will help many UNESCO projects to run efficiently and effectively with the help of NGOs.

### **International Health Workforce Conference Zhining Goh, Chairperson of Education and Practice**

The International Health Workforce Conference, organised by the Health Research and Educational Trust and the International Hospital Federation, took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 22nd and 23rd March 2007.

With A Call for Action: Ensuring Global Human Resources for Health as theme, this event brought together representatives from various health disciplines such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy and physical therapy, as well as academics, policy-makers and administrators in the field of healthcare human resource from over 40 countries. Recognising that one of the starting points of workforce development is the education of healthcare professionals, IPSF is proud to be the only healthcare student organisation represented at the conference, signifying the importance of the student as an important stakeholder of the pharmacy profession. The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) was a partnering organisation for the conference and also represented in the event's Scientific and Planning Committee.



The World Health Report 2006: Working Together for Health estimated a global shortage of 4.3 million healthcare workers, with the condition most severe in the poorest countries such as sub-Saharan Africa. World Health Day 2006 of the same theme was dedicated to raise awareness of the global crisis in human resources that is hindering healthcare delivery around the world. In addition to the shortage, the phenomenon of migration or the "Brain Drain", further implicates matters as workers move from developing to developed areas in search of better opportunities, causing devastating losses to where they are needed the most.

The two-day conference was a discussion platform for the creation of an action plan to address the health workforce crisis. The transnational and transdisciplinary nature of the solutions to the problem was clear. There was a need to rely less on governments to solve the issue; healthcare provider and professional organizations as well as donors from both public and private sectors all have a role to play in developing, managing and retaining the workforce. Source countries of migrant workers need to engage their communities to take charge of their problems while recipient countries need to be more aware of their responsibility in the global workforce situation and adhere to ethical hiring practices despite their own shortages. Countries need to identify the competences required of healthcare professionals as relevant to their societal and cultural needs and for appropriate recruitment, education and training to be conducted. For healthcare systems to be sustainable, the economy of a country needs to be stable and sustainable as well. There is a need to research into evidence-based legislative, workflow and administrative changes to address the root causes of the health workforce problem.

At the same time, human mobility is an unavoidable aspect of globalisation and all individuals have the right to seek better life conditions. There is a need to look into integrating such migrant workers into their adopted societies, as well as evaluating the impact on healthcare delivery in the recipient societies when migrant health workers and patients bring with them their healthcare beliefs. Short term migration whereby

workers return to their origin countries have shown to have significant benefits; however there is a need to train workers such that their skills are relevant upon return.

Professor Claire Anderson, President of the FIP Academic Pharmacy Section, gave an opening plenary lecture for the conference. She spoke of the need for a team approach to healthcare, the need for the public to be their own health managers and the role of the pharmacist. Her presentation enlightened many present on what pharmacists can and are doing.

The pilot results of IPSF's Moving On III research project on Emerging Pharmacists and their Intention to Migrate were presented by Tana Wuliji, Moving On III Chair and FIP Project Co-ordinator in a parallel session moderated by Professor Ian Bates from the School of Pharmacy, University of London. In her presentation titled Root Migration Drivers: Identifying opportunities to strengthen the pharmacist workforce, Tana spoke also about the current state of pharmacist migration and migration theories from the FIP Global Pharmacy Workforce and Migration Report. The key message from her presentation was that migration is not the cause of the workforce problem. Rather, ground issues relating to the practice environment, poor recognition of roles and role development, limited opportunities for career progression and training as well as wider social and political issues are all contributory to the shortage and unequal distribution of pharmacists worldwide.

The World Health Organization will focus on primary healthcare in 2008 and it would be a good opportunity for pharmacists, as one of the most accessible healthcare workers, to re-define the roles they play in healthcare, to explore new areas for development and to address issues that affect the delivery of quality care.

What are the workforce issues pertaining to pharmacy and/or healthcare in your country? What are pharmacists in your country doing in primary healthcare and what else do you think they should or can be doing? Send your comments and views to [eduprac@ipsf.org](mailto:eduprac@ipsf.org)!

**The current dataset for Moving On III is still undergoing qualitative analysis and thereafter will the questionnaire be revised and released for further data collection. A big thank you to all research co-ordinators who have contributed data so far! The Moving On III Research Group is still open for new countries to join us in this landmark study. Research co-ordinators will be required to distribute the project questionnaire to final year pharmacy students in their country/school and aid in data entry. Please contact Tana at [twuliji@varsity.co.nz](mailto:twuliji@varsity.co.nz) for further details.**

**A copy of Tana's presentation can be requested from your country's Moving On III co-ordinator or from [eduprac@ipsf.org](mailto:eduprac@ipsf.org). Video recordings of the conference sessions will be available online at <http://www.hret.org/hret/publications/ihwm.html> soon.**