

## 67<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress , Beijing, China, 31<sup>st</sup> August 6th September 2007

Audrey Clarissa, President 2006-07 and Zhining Goh, Chairperson of Education and Practice 2006-07

The 67<sup>th</sup> International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress was successfully held in Beijing, China, the event attended by nearly 3000 participants from around the world. IPSF was represented by Audrey Clarissa (President 2006-07), Zhining Goh (Chairperson of Education & Practice 2006-07) and Karen McGill (President 2007-08).

Apart from boasting of the largest number of participants in recent years, the event also coincided with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the host, the Chinese Pharmaceutical Association. The congress kicked off at the majestic Great People's Hall with an amazing Opening Ceremony which showcased the best of traditional and modern Chinese performance art, including martial arts, Peking opera and Chinese dance. Participants were welcomed by Professor Kamal Midha, FIP President in his speech which also emphasized on FIP's commitment to issues surrounding pharmacists, pharmacy and healthcare today.



FIP President Professor Kamal Midha giving his welcome speech

### Congress sessions

The congress theme was "From Anecdote to Evidence: Pharmacists Helping Patients Make the Best Use of Medicines" and the congress programme was one of the most comprehensive to date, with 32 officially accredited sessions. IPSF was involved in organising four programme sessions.

FIP-IPSF Students' Day on "Social Dimensions of Developing the Pharmacy Profession" saw presentations on culture, professionalism, gender and their impact on pharmacy and the delivery of patient-centred care. Tana Wuliji, FIP Projects Co-ordinator and IPSF President 2004-05 presented on migration and human resources for health, including pilot Moving On III findings which sparked off a lively discussion amongst the small number of attendees.



Zhining presenting during FIP Global Pharmacy Education Consultation

"Experiential Learning" was the topic discussed in the IPSF-FIP Academic Section joint session. A mainstay in healthcare pedagogy, it serves to bridge classroom education and pharmacy practice. Presentations and a panel discussion addressed the evidence-based value of experiential learning in pharmacy curricula, preceptor training and quality assurance of experiential education. Zhining Goh presented students' views on the matter, a discussion summary of the 53<sup>rd</sup> IPSF Congress Education Forum. During the FIP Global Pharmacy Education Consultation, she also presented on student engagement and the need to view students as a stakeholder of the pharmacy profession.

IPSF, the FIP Young Pharmacists Group (YPG) and the FIP Community Pharmacy Section (CPS) jointly organised a Forum for Policymakers to debate on trends in community pharmacy and to debate on the future of the profession. Four topics were discussed: pharmacists prescribing, deregulation of pharmacy ownership, leadership and succession, as well as the role of the pharmacist in the healthcare team. Karen McGill was a keynote speaker on the last topic. The highly interactive format of the session was first of its kind and was very well received. IPSF, YPG and CPS will co-organise a similar session at the next FIP congress, this time together with the Industrial Pharmacy Section.



Speakers at IPSF-Academic Pharmacy Section joint Session on Experiential Learning

"Medication Reviews" as a tool for implementing pharmaceutical care into healthcare practice was the centre of focus of the IPSF-FIP Pharmacy Information Section joint session. Speakers from Australia, Finland and US presented on the models and status of medication reviews in different countries, the challenges faced in the implementation of medication reviews in healthcare, required competencies and training as well as the impact of medication reviews on drug therapies and healthcare partnerships.

### Meetings and collaboration

During the congress, IPSF had the chance to attend some important FIP meetings. IPSF was allowed to observe the FIP Council meeting where the FIP Executive Committee and Council Members discussed and set directions for FIP's work. During the FIP Board of Pharmaceutical Practice (BPP) meeting, Audrey Clarissa presented an IPSF progress report to the BPP Executive Committee. IPSF representatives also sat in various Section business and officers' meetings to understand their activities and to explore possible areas for collaboration.

In addition, this was the first FIP congress where IPSF was provided with a room for an IPSF Business Meeting. This meeting aimed to discuss future collaboration between FIP and IPSF and IPSF was invited to join various BPP Working Groups and joint initiatives. Opportunities and offers for IPSF to collaborate with FIP from this congress shall be followed-up by the Executive 2007-08.

IPSF was also offered to join the SEARPharm Forum (FIP Forum of National Pharmaceutical Organisations in collaboration with WHO Regional Office in South East Asia) as an associate organisation. This will allow IPSF to attend meetings for their projects and initiatives and to strengthen collaboration in the region.



Uttam Budhathoki from Nepal (right) receiving the Mike How Award from IPSF President Dr. Tom Sam

**Mike How Award**

This year was the first IPSF worked with the FIP Industrial Pharmacy Section (IPS) and YPG to offer the Mike How Award which aims to support pharmacy students and young pharmacists with a passion for the industrial sector, preferably from developing countries, to attend one FIP congress. The winner of the award was Uttam Budhathoki, a PhD student at Kathmandu University, Nepal. Uttam was Chairperson of the 6th IPSF Asia-Pacific Pharmaceutical Symposium (APPS) Reception Committee held in Kathmandu, Nepal in July 2007.

**Social events**

Evenings during the congress were nights to remember, filled with opportunities to interact, network and relax. Invitations to receptions, parties and dinners were received. The YPG-IPSF International Evening took form of a karaoke party this year where the young and young-at-heart at congress got together for a late night of fun, drinks and songs. Language challenges and the lack of English songs saw the party-goers singing songs such as "Jingle Bells", and singing to lyrics from pirated video discs. Many new "pharmaceutical singing talents" were discovered that night.



Audrey and Karen with a Chinese student at the IPSF booth in the exhibition hall

The congress ended with a bang with the Goodbye Party at the Great Wall of China, one of UNESCO's heritage sites and Seven Wonders of the World. At a function area not usually accessible to the public, congress participants were treated to a sumptuous buffet spread and performances by a children's choir and drum troupe. After eating, the stage area was transformed into a disco dancefloor where participants and FIP staff and leaders, young and old alike, boogied the night away to celebrate the successful completion of yet another World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The next FIP Congress will be held in Basel, Switzerland from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

**Looking at the FIP congress through the organiser's eye**

*Mohamed Atef, Chairperson of Public Relations 2006-07*

From 29<sup>th</sup> of August until the 7<sup>th</sup> of September I travelled to the land of the great wall, the tea houses on top of green mountains and the valley of terracotta warriors - China. I was part of the FIP team helping to organise the 67<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress in Beijing. The FIP congress is biggest annual gathering for pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists worldwide with an average number of attendees that exceeds 2500. Needless to say, directing and coordinating the congress is a challenging job which needs punctuality, firmness and professionalism in executing day to day assigned tasks.

During the congress the FIP team was divided in to several sub-teams and stations, each with certain task to perform. I was responsible for handling the poster session in the exhibition room. It was very challenging this year as we had almost 700 poster presenters representing different FIP Sections and Special Interest Groups. My day to day tasks included supervising the poster session registration desk, handing poster certificates to presenters and any type of technical assistance regarding the poster session room.

Our day starts with a meeting at 7.30 am in the morning to have the daily briefing and feed back from the past day which I saw it as a very important aspect for the total quality management of the congress. After the briefing each team member goes to their assigned stations. Work is usually finished between five and six o'clock in the late afternoon and we were free to participate in the social events

Finally to sum this up my experience in FIP congress was again a unique one in itself, working with a team from various continents of the globe was truly another amazing experience, not to forget about the "very efficient" Chinese students who volunteered to help in making the congress a real success.



Atef and FIP staff getting acquainted with Chinese pharmacy student helpers



Atef hard at work doing posters