

2008 APRU World Institute Public Health Workshop & Keio University's 150th Anniversary Dinner

STRENGTHENING public health systems in the Pacific Rim was the focus APRU World Institute (AWI)'s workshop hosted by the University of Tokyo from 23-25 June.

Addressing some 60 leaders from the Pacific Rim region, NUS President Prof Shih Choon Fong, who is also the Chairman of the Governing Board of AWI, shared his views on strategic issues concerning the role of research universities and public health, while NUS' Senior Deputy President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan spoke about NUS' role in addressing issues of Singapore's ageing population and the prevalence of chronic diseases.

The Workshop which was co-chaired by NUS Prof Lim Meng Kin who is AWI Public Health Director, also saw speakers from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Keio University, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Sydney, and the University of Tokyo, as well as the Regional Director (Western Pacific Regional Office) of the World Health Organization.

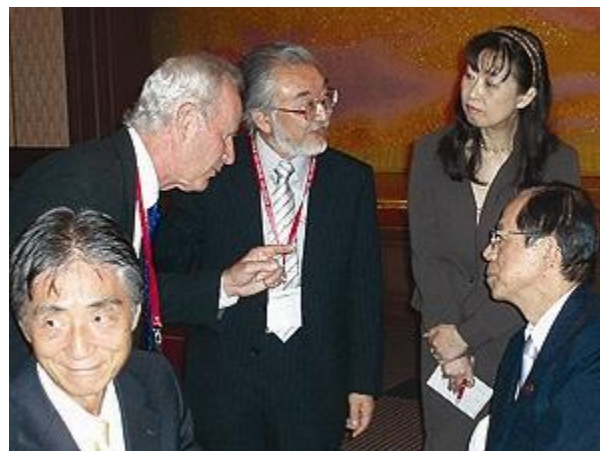
One of the outcomes of the Workshop was the endorsement of a new public health research project that would involve comparative approaches to chronic diseases around the Pacific Rim. NUS' Prof Lim will direct AWI's international research coalition in this project. Besides NUS, institutions which have committed to be charter members of the project include Stanford University, University of Tokyo, Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Sydney, National Taiwan University and the Claremont Graduate University. Hanoi School of Public Health, Peking University, University of California at Los Angeles and University of Malaya and the University of British Columbia have also shown strong interest to become charter members.

In addition to this public health project, NUS is also a key player in the AWI Climate Change research project, Pacific Rim Cities: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies (CMAS) Project which focuses on the impact of climate change on water availability and the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies in eight Pacific Rim cities - Singapore, Bangkok, Hanoi, Danang, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne, San Diego and Tianjin. Sponsoring this project are NUS, Asian Institute of Technology, Chulalongkorn University, Development Research Center of the State Council of China, Kyoto University, Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH), Tsinghua University, University of Malaya, University of Melbourne and University of California at San Diego.

Prior to the recent G-8 Summit hosted by Japan, its PM Mr Yasuo Fukuda had the occasion to discuss critical issues concerning public health and chronic diseases with AWI Managing Director Prof Richard Drobnick and other APRU presidents and delegates at Keio University's 150th Anniversary Dinner, held in conjunction with the 12th APRU Presidents Meeting. These issues featured prominently in the discussions of G-8 Summit leaders.



HEALTH MATTERS: University leaders at AWI Public Health Workshop. Inset: NUS Senior Deputy President Prof Tan Chorh Chuan speaks on Singapore's ageing population.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND PUBLIC HEALTH: AWI Managing Director Prof Richard Drobnick (2nd from left) sharing AWI research projects on Climate Change and Public Health with Japanese PM Yasuo Fukuda (extreme right) at the gala dinner celebrating Keio University's 150th Anniversary.