

Report on the Meeting
4th Europaediatric Congress 2009
at Moscow Russia by EPA/UNEPSA

- Date and Venue: 3-6th July 2009 at the World Trade Centre/Crown Plaza Hotel, Moscow, Russia
- Organizer: European Pediatric Association (EPA)/UNEPSA
Host: Union of Pediatrician of Russia
- Professor Alexander Baranov (Congress President)
Professor J Ehrich (Chairman of Congress Scientific Committee)
Professor Andreas Constantinopoulos (EPA Congress)
- Opening Ceremony in the evening of 6th July was officiated by the President and the Health Minister of Russia as well as the Mayor of Moscow followed by excellent Russian cultural show including ballet, singing, folk dancing, philamonics and others. The programme lasted for three hours altogether.
- Venue: Moscow is a city of about 863 years. It was built on the Moscow River at the site of the Kremlin in memory of a three-headed beast. The city currently has a population of 18 million (13 million fixed and 5 million mobile) and a total area of 1100 square kilometers. Traffic is very congested all day long.
- History of Europaediatric Congress
 1. First Congress in Rome (2000)
 2. Second Congress Prague (2003)
 3. Third Congress in Istanbul (2007)
 4. Fourth Congress in Moscow (the Current One)
 5. Fifth Congress will be in 2011 (so as to avoid crashing with the IPA Congress in 2010) but venue not yet decided.
- The Congress is a Scientific Meeting for EPA/UNEPSA which is made up by 38 European countries. The term of office for current officers will expire by the end of this year and election will be held at Florence, Italy on 2nd December 2009. The new EPA/Cockrane Library Journal on Child Health will be launched at the same Meeting.
- The European Seat at the IPA SC between EPA/UNEPSA and the European Academy of Pediatrics (EAP)/CESP was not mentioned and discussed during the Congress but Professor Rubino is trying his best in negotiating for a settlement. We appreciate his effort in accomplishing this noble mission.
- I was invited as President of IPA and my tour expenses were sponsored by the Conference Organizers
- Participants: 3000 pediatricians from more than 80 countries covering all major regions of IPA
- Some Impression about the Meetings
 1. High quality papers mostly presented in English
 2. Main focus on Primary Child Health Care: what an every pediatrician should know in his/her daily practices
 3. Well coverage on the three domains of child health: medical, social and educational.
 4. The Section on “When should the pediatrician refer a child to a pediatric subspecialist (e.g. pediatric cardiologists, pediatric hematologists, etc)?” is especially impressive and relevant. It attracted a lot of interests and discussion from the audience.
 5. Very little emphasis on high-tech and molecular medicine
 6. All scientific sessions are well attended by participants.
- **IPA participation**
 1. Current SC/EC Members: Hussein Bahaeldin, Amido Rubino, Eva Olah and Chok-wan Chan
 2. EC/SC Members of previous sessions: Errol Alden, Ashok Gupta, Manuel Katz, Manuel Moya, Philippe Evrard, Ahmed Younes
 3. Professor A Rubino delivered an excellent plenary keynote on “The Pediatric Disease of Civilization – the Other Side of the Coin”

4. Professor Manuel Katz delivered a lecture on “The Organizational Factors in Primary and Secondary Pediatric Care”
 5. I gave a talk on “International Pediatric Association in Protecting Child Health – the Values and Actions”
- **Update on IPA Activities and Programmes was actively promoted throughout all the scientific and social activities**
 1. I conveyed greetings of IPA and fellow pediatricians of the Big Family to all participants at the Meeting
 2. I endeavoured to update colleagues of recent development at IPA (the new IPA infrastructure, programmes, website, newsletters and others)
 3. I introduced the new IPA Meeting Calendar (Year Planner) for international meetings on child health nicely inaugurated by Naveen and Jane recently to facilitate forward planning of international meetings and to avoid crashing of future meetings. The Calendar aims at covering future period up to ten years and IPA members were requested to make use of the Calendar before finalizing dates for their future meetings in order not to crash with other major meetings such as the October 2009 Meetings for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the APPA Congress in Shanghai. The success of this project depends on the proactive input of members in updating their meeting data.
 4. The IPA Journal on Global Child Health on the Pipelines
 5. The Commitment of IPA to the promotion of Breastfeeding
 6. The IPA effort in achieving the MDG's by our Programme headed by Sverre Lie, Zulfigar Bhutta and Jane Schaller.
 - **Ethics Compliance**
 1. Overall satisfactory with no gimmicks or souvenirs being given out at the venue.
 2. The Exhibition Area situated at a separate hall not on the walkway of participants to the Congress venue
 3. No commercial names and logos were seen on the Congress Bag
 4. There are still rooms for improvement in the following:
 - Infant Formula advertisements still appeared in the exhibition stalls (with real produce of infant formulae being displayed in one of the booths)
 - Infant formula brands appeared at the Programme Brochure
 - Material used at the booths more inclined towards marketing and promotion than for educational purposes.
 5. More education and persuasion are necessary to arouse concept of ethics amongst professionals.
 - **Promotion of IPA 2010 Congress at Johannesburg**
 1. I attempted to promote the Congress throughout my talk and my interactions with all Congress participants.
 2. The promotion materials as scheduled by Kenes never arrived at Moscow. I confirmed this with Eva and Amido at the Meeting venue.
 3. Participants showed their interest in both the venue and the scientific programme and I requested them to visit our Congress Website for further details and download the Registration Forms.
 4. Many of the European participants recommended themselves to be speakers and ESPGHAN (Dr. David Branski) is keen to have a joint session at our Congress. I referred all these requests to Keith and Peter for possible collaborations.
 - **Recommendation to IPA SC/EC**
 1. With the ever-expanding regional congress on child health and pediatrics, it is time that IPA should re-define our role at the IPA Congress. We should try to promote global child health, advocacy, ethics and endeavour to play the role of coordination between child health from different regions and ethnic groups with the target to fill up the gaps in child health not being covered by meetings of our members. We should avoid duplicating our Congress with regional meetings.
 2. We should continue to strengthen the aforesaid IPA Meeting Calendar.
 3. We should try to link up our Programmes with IPA members so that they would not just be quoted as IPA Programmes *per se*. This is one of the ways to realize our goals to provide sense of belonging and sense of participation from members. Members are one of the precious assets of IPA

4. We should be better prepared for promotion of our 2010 Congress in all possible congresses.
5. The Congress Organizers including our Congress President and Scientific Committee Chairman should attend more major meetings of our members if financially feasible and physically possible because this is the critical moment for promotion of attendance.

Report by
Chok-wan CHAN, IPA President
10th July 2009.