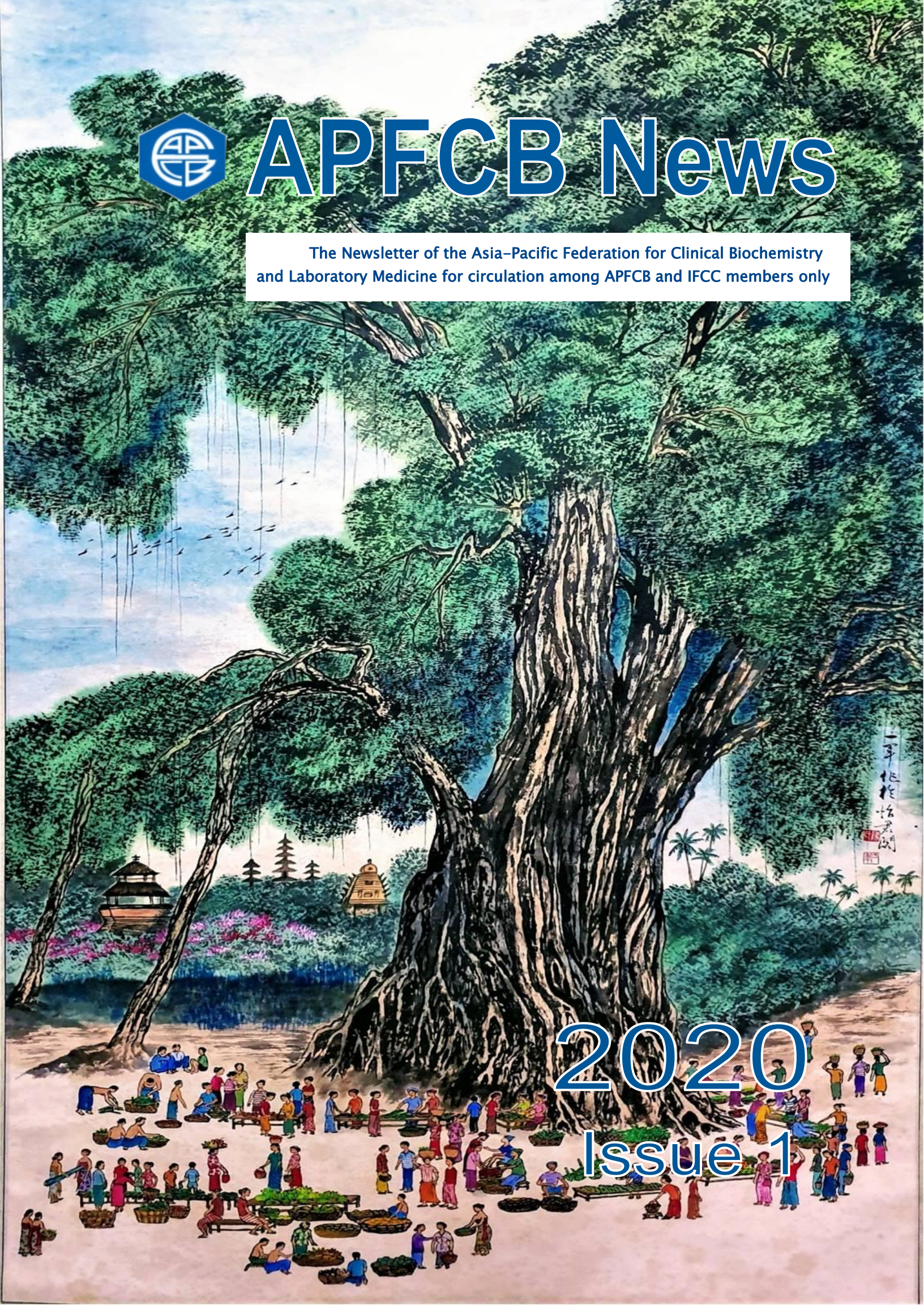




APFCB News

The Newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry
and Laboratory Medicine for circulation among APFCB and IFCC members only

2020
Issue 1



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Submissions

The APFCB News welcomes suitable contributions for publication. These should be sent electronically to the Chief Editor. Statements of opinions are those of the contributors and are not to be construed as official statements, evaluations or endorsements by the APFCB or its official bodies.

Cover page: "Open-Air Market under a Gigantic Banyan Tree
in the Indonesian Island of Bali"

Contributed by Tan It Koon

Founding and Past President APFCB

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From the desk of Chief Editor



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Kuala Lumpur!

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the first issue of the APFCB News 2020.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Executive Board of the APFCB and to thank them for appointing me as the new Chair of Communications and Publications Committee of the APFCB for the term of 4 February 2020 to 31 December 2022. I am indeed honoured. I wish to also express a heartfelt gratitude to Professor Praveen Sharma for his guidance and for years of dedication as the Chair of C-CP and Chief Editor of the APFCB News. I am also very thankful to the C-CP team, Dr Purvi Purohit, Dr Pradeep Kumar Dabla and Dr Rojeet Shrestha who have been helpful in ensuring the successful publishing of this newsletter.

I wish to thank all member societies who have contributed to this issues and would like to encourage more member societies to use the APFCB News as a platform for sharing their activities. The current issue has also highlighted the success of 15th APFCB Congress 2019 in Jaipur, India. Congratulations to Prof Praveen Sharma and members of the organizing committee for organizing this grand and memorable scientific event. Congratulations also to Prof Praveen Sharma for his new appointment as Chair of the Congress and Conference Committee of the APFCB. I am sure his vast experience in this area will continue to benefit the APFCB.

To fulfill my commitment, I am prepared to dedicate my efforts to raise APFCB news and website to further heights. For the information of members, the APFCB website is currently being updated. Any feedback, comments or views for further improvements to the APFCB News and APFCB website would be greatly appreciated. I also look forward to getting support from corporate members the form of advertisements or articles. I take this opportunity to welcome Thermosfisher Scientific as the latest corporate member of the APFCB.

Continuing with tradition, the cover-page of this issue of the APFCB News, has been graciously provided by Prof Tan It Koon, founder and past president APFCB. A big thank you to Prof Tan It Koon for sharing his wonderful painting and for his unfailing support to the APFCB. His creative talent is exemplary and indeed inspirational to all of us.

Best wishes,

Raja Elina

Raja Elina

Chief Editor, APFCB News



Message from immediate Past Chief-Editor 2010-2019

At the outset I would like to take the opportunity to thank the APFCB EB for having faith in me as the Chair communication & Publications committee and Chief-Editor APFCB News from 2010 to 2019.



As the Chief-Editor APFCB News, I was extremely fortunate to get a constant support from all the member societies, who made my task easy by contributing to the various volumes of the APFCB News. I extend my sincere thanks to them. I would also like to thank our corporate partners for their support to the APFCB Newsletter in the form of advertisements as well as scientific feature articles at various times.

A very special contribution to the APFCB Newsletter has been an unwavering support by the founding, past President APFCB – Prof Tan It Koon, who in the form of his magnificent art works has been providing amazing cover-pages for all the APFCB News volumes from 2010 till 2019, and I'm sure he will continue to do so in future too. I thank you sir for your amazing contribution during my tenure as Chief-Editor.

My message would be incomplete without a word of gratitude to my excellent publication team of APFCB News, it has been the sheer hard-work and enthusiasm of my team that ensured the success of APFCB News each time it was published.

When I started with the APFCB News, it was published online once a year, in PDF format. Now with time things have changed and we are now publishing it twice a year and in PDF as well as ebook formats. I'm sure there can be further improvements in this newsletter and the new Chief-Editor along-with the publication team shall scale new heights.

I heartily congratulate the new Chief-Editor of APFCB News Raja Elina and wish her all the best in her future endeavors as Chief-Editor of APFCB News as well as Chair Communications & Publications committee.

Lastly, I would like to thank the APFCB Executive Board for having faith in me and giving me the new opportunity of Chair, Congress and Conference Committee and I shall strive to take the CC-committee to new heights.

Best wishes,

Immediate Past Chief Editor
APFCB News



Message from APFCB President

My dear friends and colleague!

Greetings and my best wishes to everyone for a wonderful 2020! I am proud and happy to share some of my thoughts in the first edition of the 2020 APFCB e-newsletter. Without doubt, the most significant challenge occurring at this period in time is the scourge of COVID-19. My prayers and best wishes go out to the countries most badly hit by this – China, Korea and Japan. I'm certain the laboratory communities in affected countries play a vital role in the management of this outbreak and this episode will remind everyone of the value of good diagnostics to the healthcare community. I'm sure with resilience and wisdom, we will overcome this terrible problem and move on with our lives. Meanwhile let us encourage and support one another.

I would like to take us all back to the APFCB Congress in Jaipur, India held in November 2019. I still have very strong memories of the event and what I am most delighted with, is the very strong presence of almost all APFCB member societies at our Council Meeting. I hope that everyone continues to remain engaged and will participate in the many activities which the APFCB will plan and organise over the next few months. Much of this activity is because of strong support from the IFCC. The IFCC have been providing the APFCB with significant funding for our educational efforts and also provide opportunity for member societies to benefit from the IFCC Visiting Lecturer Program (VLP). I encourage all member societies to take advantage of this scheme. The newly elected APFCB EB remains unchanged for this current cycle. This will be the last cycle for the current APFCB EB and the team will not be eligible for re-nomination and election in 2022. The EB have discussed the appointments of the Committee Chairs and we have decided to re-appoint Drs Tony Badrick and Sam Vasikaran, as Chairs of the Education & Management Committee and the Scientific Committee, respectively. I am happy to announce that the newly appointed chair of the Congress and Conference Committee is Professor Praveen Sharma. He was the Organising Chairperson of the successful Jaipur APFCB Congress and the past chairperson of the communications committee. Praveen will bring a wealth of experience to his newly appointed position. The newly appointed Chair of the Communications & Publications Committee is Dr Raja Elina from Malaysia. I welcome her and look forward to working with her in this area. I am happy to share that she has rapidly and eagerly taken up her position with this first edition of the APFCB e-newsletter. Do enjoy the feature articles in this issue.

I wish everyone in our APFCB family a fruitful and rewarding time, both professionally at work and at home with family. Take time to read, enjoy and interact with colleagues and APFCB officers. We are here to serve and to support you in your professional activities. Take good care and be safe.

Yours sincerely,

SK Sethi

Sunil Sethi
President, APFCB





IFCC-TFYS report at APFCB (Asia-Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry) 2019, November 17th-20th 2019, Jaipur India

17th–20th Nov 2019, Jaipur, India: The 15th APFCB Congress, organised at Jaipur, India concluded with informative scientific programme ranges from scientific meetings, plenary lectures, symposia and workshops to Lab expo. Congress was organized at state – of – the – art Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre and joined by hundreds of world renowned experts from India & abroad. Jaipur is also known as “Pink City” and situated in the royal deserts of the Rajasthan state.

IFCC–TFYS was able to continue its education programmes with continuous support of senior members APFCB, IFCC & ACBI with special mention to Organising Chairperson Prof Praveen Sharma. On pre congress day 17th Nov, the joint interactive workshop was conducted by IFCC–CCLM & IFCC–TFYS titled “**Building Tomorrow's leaders by the young generation**”. The workshop was intended to assist young scientists in developing their own strategies for leading in the rapidly evolving laboratory medicine environment. Thus, delivering informative & encouraging talks by Prof Edward Randell (Evolving into an Effective Leader: Key strategies that make a difference), Prof Praveen Sharma (Critical Thinking: Building Good Judgement), Prof Pradeep K Dabla (Leadership & Team Development: Success Together) & Prof Sedef Yenice (Promoting Future Leaders of Laboratory Medicine).



17th Nov, Workshop by IFCC–CCLM & IFCC–TFYS titled “Building Tomorrow's leaders by the young generation”

On 26th Nov, IFCC–TFYS organised a symposia with theme of **“Clinical Chemistry to Clinical Laboratory Science – Future Challenges”** Chaired by Prof. Maurizio Ferrari, President IFCC & Prof. Pradeep K Dabla, Chair IFCC TFYS. It was developed to discuss recent trends and challenges in relation to laboratory management, technical developments and educational changes. It included refreshing self experience & point of view by young colleagues namely Dr Marie Lenski (Changing Lab Environment– Perspective from Young Scientist), Dr Santiago Fares Taie (Are we prepared? How can we do it?– Step to the Future), Dr Ashlin Rampul (Core Laboratory Concept), & Dr Joe El-Khoury (Bringing Your Lab to the Operating Room).



26th Nov 2019, IFCC–TFYS symposia under theme of “Clinical Chemistry to Clinical Laboratory Science – Future Challenges”



26th Nov 2019, IFCC–TFYS symposia under theme of “Clinical Chemistry to Clinical Laboratory Science – Future Challenges”

IFCC–TFYS was able to bring **“IFCC TFYS Snibe Travel Awards”** at APFCB 2019 with generous support of Snibe. It helped **“3 Young Scientists”** for travel awards and each Award consisted of a certificate & amount value of the sum SGD–1000 presented at APFCB ceremony. Though not limited, APFCB 2019 presented with tens of Awards & Bursaries supported by IFCC, APFCB, ACBI for young scientists to join congress from different countries.



IFCC–TF–YS conducted its annual functional meeting at APFCB congress discussing important projects of the Task Force, current scenario and future prospects to formalise strategy for programmes 2020. APFCB congress 2019 offered an amazing platform to young scientists for meeting colleagues and sharing experience by means of educational and social gathering. We enjoyed Indian culture with appealing traditional Indian food.



Functional meeting IFCC–TFYS 2019



Functional meeting IFCC–TFYS 2019

IFCC–TFYS is thankful to all senior members and authorities for this unconditional support to young scientists for joining this academic feast. TFYS has also planned to organise first of its own kind “**Young Scientist Forum**” at “**IFCC WorldLab Seoul 2020**” for participation, networking & education supported by IFCC–EB. Looking forward to meet you at WorldLab Seoul 2020.

Report By:

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dabla

Past Chair IFCC–TFYS



IFCC Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CCLM) Report

Members of the IFCC Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CCLM) and of the IFCC Task Force Young Scientists (IFCC-TFYS), held a joint workshop titled “Building Tomorrow’s Leaders by the Young Generation” on Sunday 17th November 2019 at the 15th Asia Pacific Federation for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Congress, which was held during 17th–20th November, 2019 at JECC, Jaipur, India

The following talks were presented:

- *Evolving into an Effective Leader: Key strategies that make a difference* – Prof Edward Randell (Member, C-CLM)
- *Critical Thinking: Building Good Judgement* –Prof Praveen Sharma (Member, C-CLM)
- *Leadership & Team Development: Success Together* –Prof Pradeep Dabla (Chair, IFCC TFYS)
- *Promoting Future Leaders of Laboratory Medicine* –Prof Sedef Yenice (Chair, IFCC C-CLM)

The scope of the presentations included the essential requirements for good leadership, developing fundamental leadership skills, taking responsibility in a new leadership role, identifying and developing future leaders. Presentations were organized in four main areas.

Prof Edward Randell provided a definition of leadership in the context of directing a scientific laboratory.

He described the key strategies, skills, and competencies involved in leading and managing a group of people and offered an understanding of effective leadership and refining strategies for a sustained advantage. Prof Praveen Sharma described the process of developing reasoning abilities for the successful management of the laboratory; the main role of a leader to develop as fair- minded critical thinkers.

Prof Pradeep Dabla discussed the role of the laboratory leader in building and sustaining an effective team. He explained ways of how to communicate with the people in a lab, how to motivate them, how to make decisions and resolve conflicts, and how to set and enforce expectations and rules of behaviour. Prof Sedef Yenice discussed how to seek out people with leadership potential and then find ways to nurture and develop that potential.



All the talks were well received and led to interesting discussion. People enquired about IFCC C-CLM and IFCC TFYS activities. The success of the workshop definitely establishes the need for more future collaboration between these two committees. Members of IFCC Committee on Clinical Laboratory Management (C-CCLM) also presented a symposium entitled “Leading the Appropriate Utilization of Medical Laboratory Services” on Tuesday 19th November 2019 at the same Congress.

The talks presented were:

- Overview and Effectiveness of Strategies towards Appropriate Utilization of Laboratory Services – Prof Praveen Sharma (Member, C-CLM)
- Developing a Roadmap for Laboratory Utilization Management Program – Prof Sedef Yenice (Chair, C-CLM)
- Promotion of Appropriate Laboratory Test Utilization: From financial accountability to Appropriateness and Quality of Care – Prof Edward Randell (Member, C-CLM)

Prof Sharma discussed the various strategies and their effectiveness towards appropriate utilization of laboratory services. Prof Yenice presented a roadmap for laboratory utilization management program. Prof Randell explained the importance of appropriate laboratory test utilization. Prof Sedef Yenice and Prof Thuppil Venkatesh chaired the symposia. A number of delegates attended it. The talks were received well by the attendees and there was an elaborate discussion regarding the role of laboratory audit and importance of laboratory utilization program in today’s world.





15th Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB) Congress, 2019

The 15th Asia-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (APFCB) Congress was held at Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC), Jaipur, Rajasthan, India from 17th to 20th of November 2019. It was organised by Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI) along with the support of Association of Medical Biochemist of India (AMBI). The theme of the congress was “*Laboratory Medicine – Innovation & Integration*”.



Prof Praveen Sharma delivering the Welcome Speech



Prof Sunil Sethi delivering his address during Inauguration

Six pre-congress workshops were held in two sessions on 17 November 2019 at Marriot Hotel, Jaipur. The workshops were –

- AACC Global Lab Quality Initiative: Adding value to patient care using quality control (AACC)
- Alzheimer's Workshop (IFCC – ETD)
- Mass Spectrometry in the clinical laboratory (AACB)
- Building Tomorrow's leaders by the young generation (IFCC–CCLM / IFCC–TFYS)
- Requirement for High Quality liquid profiling for cancer diagnostics in clinical laboratory practice (IFCC – EB)
- Multi-dimensional perspectives of Laboratory (ACBI – Roche)

The Congress began on 17 November with the inaugural plenary by Prof Subrat Kumar Acharya. He delivered a talk on *'Ammonia in Acute Liver Failure: It's influence on pathogenesis, Prognosis and Management'*.

There were three plenary lectures scheduled on different days of the Congress by Prof Maurizio Ferrari (*Expanding space for Next Generation Sequencing diagnostics applications*), Prof Sampath Parthasarathy (*Alzheimer's a cerebrovascular disease?*) and Prof David Kinniburgh (*The Opioid Crisis in North America*). ACBI conferred oration awards to the four plenary speakers. Prof Subrat K Acharya was given Awadesh Saran Memorial Oration award, Prof Maurizio Ferrari received Seth G.S. Medical College & K.E.M. Hospital Oration Award, Prof Sampath Parthasarathy received Mrs. And Dr. G. P Talwar Oration Award and Prof David Kinniburgh was given the Prof. T. N. Pattabhiraman Oration Award.

The scientific program of the Congress had 40 symposia containing 134 lectures presented on emerging topics of clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine by various member societies of APFCB, IFCC, AACC, COLABIOCLI, WasPalm etc. Additionally, 40 oral papers and 366 scientific posters were presented in the Congress. Survey during the sessions was also conducted by means of feedback forms for speaker feedback, congress programme, presentation content and services. Participant feedback exhibited the grand success of the congress.

Prof. Leslie Lai was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to APFCB and scientific excellence. There were three IFCC – Visiting Lecture Fellows: Prof Sampath Parthasarathy, Prof Sedef Yenice and Prof Ed Randell. The Congress also offered a total of 47 awards and scholarships to support the participation of young fellows and scientists. The different awards with the number of awardees were:

- APFCB young scientist travel scholarship – 3
- IFCC Roche travel scholarship – 8
- IFCC TFYS Snibe travel grant – 3
- APFCB–RCPAQAP award – 1
- APFCB organising committee travel award – 5.
- Best poster award from organising committee – 8.





Prof Sunil Sethi handing over the Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof Leslie Lai

A total number of 662 participants and 308 exhibitors from all over the world participated in this Congress. A total of 28 companies exhibited their products in the Congress. Four academic societies (APFCB Congress, IFCC WorldLab 2020, IFCC and ACBI) also joined the exhibition.

There were a host of meetings during the Congress. APFCB had its council meeting on November 17, 2019. IFCC ETD and CPD also had their meeting on the same day. IFCC TFYS meeting was on November 19 and IFCC Board meeting was conducted on November 20–22, 2019.



Group photo: APFCB Executive Body

The Congress also hosted a variety of social programmes. The opening ceremony and inaugural dinner were held on November 17, at JECC. The opening ceremony for the Exhibition was held on November 18. On November 19, Cultural programme and Gala dinner was organised.



Inauguration of APFCB Congress 2019



Cultural Program during Banquet Dinner



Valedictory function of APFCB 2019

Valedictory ceremony was held on November 20, where successful completion of the congress was celebrated and the flag was handed over to Prof Helen Martin, AACB for the next Congress, the 16th APFCB Congress to be held in Australia in 2022.



Chinese Association for Clinical Biochemistry CACB (Taiwan)

Contributed by Dr. Woei-horng Fang, Executive Director and National Representative

This brief report summarizes some of the highlights of activities for CACB during the Year of 2019.

1. CACB was the organizer of the 34th Joint Annual Conference of Biomedical Science (JACBS) at the National Defense Medical University Campus, Taipei on 23–24th March 2019. The theme of the Conference was set as “Translating Science into Health Care” and a competition of oral presentation of “From Molecules and Cells to Human Health” was held. CACB was honored to invite the Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Prof. Liang-Gee Chen for the opening remarks (Figs.1&2). Prof. Pan-Chyr Yang, Academician of Academia Sinica, as invited as the Plenary Lecturer to deliver a speech entitled: “Global Rising Health Threat: Lung Cancer in Never Smokers” (Fig. 3). The Conference was concluded with nearly 2500 attendees, 980 posters and 96 vendors.

In addition, CACB also held its annual meeting during the 34th JACBS. We invited Dr. Tjin-Shing Jap, Professor in the School of Medicine, National Yang Ming University and Physician in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Taipei-Veterans General Hospital, to deliver a special lecture on “Epigenetic Related Endocrinology”. Dr. Jap shared recent research advances on how epigenetic regulation impacts the pathogenesis of metabolic diseases. CACB also organized a symposium in concert with the main theme of the JACBS “Translating Science into Health Care”. Three speakers shared the experiences in recent development and the implementation of mass spectrometry technology in the clinical laboratories. Jun-Jen Liu, Associate Professor of School of Medical Laboratory Science and Biotechnology, Taipei Medical University, presented “When ‘high-tech’ meets routine needs: strategy of application Mass Spectrometry in clinical lab of Taiwan.” Dr. Kang-Yi Su, Assistant Professor of Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Medical Biotechnology, National Taiwan University, presented “Lung Cancer Molecular Diagnostic Development from Laboratory Site to Clinical Site.” Dr. Chia-Ni Lin from the Department of Laboratory Medicine, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, presented “Mass Spectrometry Applications in the Clinical Laboratory”. Following the symposium, student’s research oral presentation competition and poster contest were also held. (Fig. 4) Overall, the two-day conference was very successful and truly an enjoyable academic gathering for the attending members of CACB.





Figure 1 Chairs from the 9 Associations and the Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology, Prof. Liang-Gee Chen at the opening ceremony of 34th JACBS.



Figure 2 CACB board members, Chairs from the 9 Associations and the Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology, Prof. Liang-Gee Chen at the opening ceremony of 34th JACBS.



Figure 3 Plenary Lecturer of the 34th JACBS: Prof. Pan-Chyr Yang.



Dr. Jun-Jen Liu, Dr. Kang-Yi Su and Ms. Wei-Lan Chu and Prof Fang at the CACB symposium in APFCB Congress 2019 Jaipur.

CACB hosted a symposium discussed about the recent advances in mass spectrometry that have been applied to the areas of toxicology, biochemistry, endocrinology and genetics. Three speakers: Dr. Jun-Jen Liu, Dr. Kang-Yi Su and Ms. Wei-Lan Chu presented the applications of mass spectrometry in the clinical laboratories in Taiwan, including the current methods for preparing patient samples before analysis by mass spectrometry, utilization of nucleotide mass spectrometry for achieving cancer precision medicine and monitoring of antiepileptic therapeutics. The challenges and opportunities of clinical application of mass spectrometry were discussed and we wished to see more clinical adoption of mass spectrometry-based tests in the near future.



PERKUMPULAN KESEMINATAN KIMIA KLINIK DAN LABORATORIUM INDONESIA
INDONESIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry (IACC)

It has been another busy year for the AACB.

IACC's Step by Step with Sten Westgard Seminar:

IACC in cooperation with Abbott Diagnostic held a Six Sigma Workshop in Jakarta attended by 100 participants. This year we raise the topic: Implementation of Six Sigma in Hematology & Imuno-serology and Update on TEA and QC Frequency



Preanalytical Phase: Past, Present & Future

IACC in cooperation with BD held a Pre-analytic Symposium, attended by 80 participants of MIHY Program, with topics covering:

1. Managing the quality of blood sampling: what are we missing?
2. Tube Validation—key step to comply with the current guideline
3. Tackling preanalytical challenge in Laboratory Automation
4. Preanalytical Quality Improvement

3. The 15th National Congress of Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry

The National Congress of the Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry (IACC) are routine activities organized by the IACC Executive Board in collaboration with the IACC Branch every 3 (three) years. During the National Congress activities, branch representatives will elect the new President of IACC.

The triennial congress was held in Solo on 31th October – 2nd November 2019. A scientific seminar with a theme of: Enhancing Patient Care through Laboratory Quality Improvement preceded by Laboratory management workshops regarding Uncertainty of Measurement in Laboratory and Workflow Analysis in Integrated Laboratory was attended by around 300 participants from 11 branches from all over Indonesia.



The congress has successfully elected a new President: Dr. Tjan Sian Hwa, SpPK., MSc, handing over the position from the past president: Dr. July Kumalawati, SpPK., DMM



MOU signed by HKKI, PDS PatKLIn and PATELKI

Investigator:

1. Dr. Sita Latumahina, SpPK & Dr. Dennis Jacobus, SpPK
2. Dr. Dewi Yenita, SpPK & dr. Marina M. Ludong, SpPK
3. Dr. Miswar Fattah, MSI & Nur Irawati, SSI

Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry (HKKI/ IACC) initiated the cooperation with Indonesian Association of Clinical Pathologist and Laboratory Medicine (PDS PatKLIn) and The Indonesian association for Medical Technologist (PATELKI) to do the research for 17 parameters of Indonesian Reference Interval Study called INDRI Study. This study endorsed by IFCC and Prof. Kiyoshi Ichihara Japan. The first phase of INDRI Study will sponsor by Abbott Diagnostic. INDRI Study will get the samples from several cities in Indonesia such as Jakarta, Padang, Manado and Kupang



Discussion on MOU of INDRI Study of three organizations and Abbott Diagnostic

The Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry (IACC) founded in 1980 in Jakarta is an organization for scientists and professionals who has interest in laboratory science or working within laboratory. The Indonesian Association of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory is based on the spirit of unity among its members to improve the science and technology of Clinical Chemistry for human welfare. The aim of IACC is to provide a forum for activities, fostering and developing clinical chemistry and other fields within the medical laboratory, both independently and in collaboration with other scientific societies and professions.



Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)

The 59th Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry

During September 27–29, 2019, the 59th Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC), chaired by Prof. Mano (Tohoku University), was held in Sendai-city, which is located about 400 km north of Tokyo. More than 930 participants gathered to Sendai International Center, and enjoyed academic programs as well as beautiful town. The theme of this meeting was set at “Clinical chemistry for creating the future medicine”. The meeting included a chairperson’s lecture, 2 plenary lectures, 3 educational lectures, 22 symposia/workshops, 12 luncheon seminars, 1 evening seminars, 1 satellite seminars and 108 poster presentations. In plenary Lecture 1, Prof. Maekawa (Hamamatsu University School of Medicine) talked about the future path of clinical chemistry. Prof. Dezawa (Tohoku University) gave a lecture on a new treatment concept for Muse cells, which is expected to have clinical applications in the future, in plenary lecture 2. In educational lecture 1, Prof. Matsue talked about center of innovation of project in Tohoku region. In educational lecture 2, Prof. Aoki gave a lecture on the pathophysiological function of lysophospholipid mediators. In educational Lecture 3, Prof. Ishihama gave a lecture on proteomics for drug discovery. A number of symposiums were held for creating future of clinical chemistry from various perspective.





In the banquet (evening at 28th), traditional foods and precious "Sake" of Miyagi prefecture were served. In addition, 30th of Annual Meeting of Tohoku Branch of Japanese Society of Clinical Chemistry was also held in the meeting. In conclusion, very active and meaningful discussions were held at every venues in the annual meeting. They will contribute to the sustainable development of clinical chemistry and future healthcare.

Written by Mano N & Maekawa M, Tohoku University



Malaysian Association Of Clinical Biochemists (MACB) 2019

The MACB organized the following activities in 2019

1. APFCB–MACB Chemical Pathology Course Part 3 2019

The APFCB–MACB Chemical Pathology Course was held on 15–16 January 2019. The speakers included seven local speakers together with Dr. Tony Badrick (Australia) and Dr. Loh Tze Ping (Singapore). The course was attended by 120 people. Lecture topics included Bone and mineral markers, Prolactin and macro prolactin, Cardiac markers and CVD, HCG measurement, Pituitary Function, Enzymology, Biochemical investigation of abnormal growth, Nucleic acid techniques, Interferences in immunoassay. Reproductive hormones, Natriuretic peptide, Chromatography, Circulating DNA, Pre analytic factors affecting test results, Urine analysis, Fluid analysis: Pleural and Peritoneal, CSF analysis, Liver Disease and Case Discussions.



Dr Tony Badrick, Chair of APFCB Education Committee with MACB Members at the APFCB–MACB Course, 2019

2. APFCB– MACB Statistics Workshop

This one-day event was conducted by Dr Tony Badrick and Dr. Loh Tze Ping (Singapore). A total of 150 participants attended this workshop. Topics covered include Introduction to Statistics, Method Evaluation, Reference Intervals, Introduction to QC, Sigma metrics, Moving Average, Uncertainty of Measurement and QC for low volume assay.



Participants at the APFCB-MACB Statistics Workshop, 2019

3. MACB ISO 15189 Workshop

This workshop was organised with the support of Roche Malaysia educational grant and was held at National Cancer Institute (IKN) in Putrajaya on 19 August 2019. This workshop was attended by 70 participants. The main objectives were to give guidance to laboratories preparing for MS ISO 15189 accreditation, create better awareness on the common non-conformances and observations raised in audits and how to overcome them and to create better understanding on the requirements of MS ISO 15189

4. Quality Management and Accreditation of Point of Care Testing (POCT) in Blood Gas Analysis

This symposium was organised in collaboration with Straits Scientific Sdn Bhd and Instrumentation Laboratory on 28 August 2019 at Wisma Sejarah, Jalan Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur. 58 participants attended this event. Speaker were Professor Sharon Ehrmeyer from the University of Wisconsin, USA who spoke on "POCT Quality Management and ISO 22870" and Dr. Ana Daliela Masiman, Chemical Pathologist from Hospital Melaka on "POCT Challenges & Guidelines in Malaysia.

5. Safety and Health Workshop: HIRARC for Health Care Facilities

A safety and health workshop was held on 26 & 27 November 2019. The aim was to enhance awareness on safe and healthy working conditions particularly among laboratory workers. This workshop mainly focussed on conducting HIRARC (Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control) as a proactive way of managing hazard and risk. The workshop also covered

Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)

- Different types of Laboratory Hazards
- Safe Handling of Fume Hoods
- Management of Chemical Wastes
- Management of Big and Small spills
- Practical Session on HIRARC

6. 29th MACB Conference

The conference with the theme 'Clinical Laboratory Medicine in the Era of New Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities' was held at Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 16 and 17 July, 2019. The conference was officiated by YBhg. Datuk Dr Christopher K.C. Lee, Deputy Director of Health Malaysia and was attended by more than 200 participants. At the conference, the Deputy DG of Health presented a keynote address on the topic of 'The Future of Healthcare in Malaysia'.

The conference had 3 plenary lectures on the following topics:

- The Impact of New Technologies on the Current and Future Practice of Clinical Laboratory Medicine presented by Sergio Bernardini, Italy, IFCC Visiting Lecture,
- New Technologies in the Management of Diabetes Mellitus presented by Suni Sethi, Singapore,
- Confidentiality and Lab Ethics in the Era of Social Media presented by Hanita Othman, Malaysia.

In addition, 4 symposiums on topics of New Biomarkers in Disease Management, Challenges and Opportunities in Laboratory Medicine, Establishing Reference Intervals and Importance of Quality Management were also presented. There were also 5 educational workshops, oral and poster presentations as well as a trade exhibition. In conjunction with the conference, a Pre-conference workshop on the topic 'How to Conduct Quality Improvement Study' was held on 15 July 2019. This workshop was conducted by the Quality Unit from Hospital Kuala Lumpur



Plenary Lecture by Assoc Prof. Dr Sunil Sethi, APFCB President at the 29th MACB Conference

8. MACB Participation at APFCB Council Meeting in Jaipur on 17th November, 2019

Bid to host the 17th APFCB Congress 2020

MACB President, Dr Raja Elina attended the APFCB Council meeting as the national representative. At this meeting the MACB made a bid to host the 17th APFCB Congress. The competition between MACB and the Chinese Society of Clinical Laboratory (CSLM) saw the MACB winning the bid.



Bid presentation by MACB President at the APFCB Council Meeting in Jaipur, India

9. MACB Participation at the 15th APFCB Congress in Jaipur

The MACB gave strong support to the 15th APFCB Congress. Eight MACB council members and Chairman of Publicity and Communications Committee attended the congress.



MACB Council Members and Chair of the Publicity and Communications Committee at the 15th APFCB Congress 2019, Jaipur, India

In addition, the MACB also sponsored the Chronic Kidney Disease Symposium where the following topics were presented:

- National Survey of eGFR and urine albumin reporting by Pavai Sthaweshwar
- Recommendations of the MACB CKD Task Force on Laboratory Reporting of eGFR and urine albumin by Dr Leslie Lai
- The implementation of eGFR reporting in the Ministry of Health Hospitals in Malaysia by Siti Sharina Anas

10. Asian Conference on Biomedical Research and Laboratory Medicine (ACBRLM)



The MACB in collaboration with the Biomedical Association and the Association for Scientific Officers of MOH will be hosting the ACBRLM with the theme of Revolutionizing Laboratory Medicine Through Research and Innovation that will be held on 18–19 August, 2020.



Nepalese Association for Clinical Chemistry (NACC)

Prepared by Mr. Ram Vinod Mahoto, General Secretary, NACC

Nepalese Association of Clinical Chemistry (NACC) is a national society working in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in Nepal. It is established in 2014, and includes MD, MSc, PhD students, Faculties, researcher in the clinical Biochemistry as its members. We are working for the professional welfare and quality laboratory report of patients.

Participation in 15th APFCB, 2019, Jaipur, India

Members of NACC participated in the 15th APFCB congress held during 17–20, November 2019 in Jaipur, India. Overall, the four-day congress was very successful and a remarkable academic gathering for the attending members of NACC. General Secretary of the organization participated in the APFCB council meeting held at 9.00 AM –1.00 PM on 17th Nov. 2019 and had discussion on the relevant issues. The informative scientific program along with the plenary lectures, breakout sessions and workshop on varied issues related to laboratory medicine by the experienced speakers was outstanding.

Travel Grant Awardees

Our young members Dr. Rojeet Shrestha, Dr. Vivek Pant, and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Shah awarded with Siemens Healthineers, Roche and APFCB organizing committee travel award respectively to present their research findings. The participating members of NACC had a group meeting on 18th November at Jaipur International Conference Centre (JECC). The group had opportunity to update and refresh knowledge, interact with IFCC, APFCB executive members and laboratory medicine scientists from around the world. We encouraged to see the mass of participants and gained the great sense of confidence for the future of our profession.

Group discussion

We had a group discussion of Nepalese participants and made the following conclusion. Promote continuous professional development in our country by organizing scientific session on laboratory statistics, reference interval, evidence based laboratory medicine and clinical research. It is necessary to conduct a workshop in every medical college of Nepal in order to updates the updates in clinical laboratory medicine. We strongly urge all members of NACC to consider attending the next scientific congress organized by IFCC and APFCB. I am very much thankful to the conference organizing committee of 15th APFCB IFCC, and APFCB, Roche Diagnostic, Siemens and organizing committee for providing the travel support to our members.





NACC General Secretary during Council meeting of APFCB



Nepalese delegates to APFCB congress



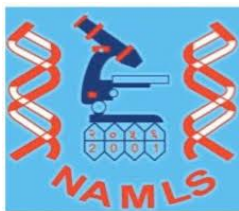
Dr. Rojeet Shrestha and Sanjaya K Shah receiving young scientists award in award ceremony



Sanjaya Kumar Shah

NAMS, Purbanchal University, Nepal

It is my great pleasure to write my experience over the 15th APFCB CONGRESS 2019, JAIPER, INDIA. I would like to thank the entire team of APFCB for selecting me for the APFCB organizing Committee Award and also for providing me an esteemed podium to present my research work, entitled 'Profile of Vitamin D and Vitamin D receptor polymorphism BSMI and FOKI in end stage renal disease of Nepalese patients'. APFCB Congress has podium for sharing our respective knowledge in research, conferring trends and cutting edge technologies. I appreciate team of APFCB Congress 2019 for their hard work to conduct a very well organized conference which augmented my knowledge. Recognition of research work, through this prestigious award has inspired me to work hard. I would like to offer sincere gratitude to NACC, APFCB and IFCC.



Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS)

Rajesh Kumar Gupta

General Secretary, NAMLS

Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS) is one of the non-governmental and non-profitable organization which is now full member of IFCC and APFCB since 2010. Since its establishment, NAMLS is working for the betterment of medical laboratory service and its professional members. NAMLS is also continuing its journal publication annually. The activities of NAMLS are briefly described below;

IFCC DQCML Workshop: IFCC, NAMLS and NACC have jointly organized a workshop on Developing Quality Competency in Medical Laboratories (DQCML) of Nepal, followed by External Quality Assurance System (EQAS) program from May 28–29, 2018 in Kathmandu. This EQAS program was first time launched in Nepal to enhance the quality reporting system. This program helped us to find out the error of laboratory reports and guided how to minimize it. The international experts participated in this workshop were Prof. Dr. Egon Amann, Dr. Renze Bais and Dr. Annette Thomas. They visited the laboratories taking part in this External Quality Assurance program and advised/trained the laboratory professionals of Nepal.





AACC GLQI Workshop: Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Science (NAMLS), American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and Wallace H. Coulter Foundation (WHCF) were jointly organized a workshop on "Global Lab Quality Initiative (GLQI): Adding Value to Patient Care Using Quality Control" from August 22-23, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Members of AACC's Asia-Pacific Working Group, along with host country clinical chemistry experts, were delivered the workshop. The workshop was intended for medical technologists, supervisors, directors, in-vitro diagnostic researchers, development scientists, and clinical chemistry students. The international experts participated in this workshop were: Dr. Victoria Zhang, Dr. Robert Rej, Dr. Gary Horowitz, Dr. Sridevi Devaraj, and Mr. Elias Caro.





NAMLS AGM: The AGM called by NAMLS on 9th November 2019 at Kathmandu, Nepal has elected new Executive Body of NAMLS. The newly elected members are:

Mr. Khelananda Prasad Singh (K.P. Singh): President

Dr. Mahendra Prasad Bhatta: Vice President

Mr. Pushpa Raj Khanal: Vice President

Mr. Arun Bajra Bajracharya: Vice President

Ms. Numaya Gurung: Vice President

Mr. Govinda Prasad Akela Paudel: Vice President

Mr. Surendra Madhup: Vice President

Mr. Shantos Subedee: Vice President

Mr. Nabal Kishor Yadav: Vice President

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Gupta: General Secretary

Mr. Rakesh Pokhrel: General Secretary

Mr. Kamal Shrestha: Secretary

Ms. Rushila Chitrakar: Treasurer

Mr. Pramod Kumar Yadav: Member

Mr. Dipesh Tamrakar: Member

Mr. Keshav Acharya: Member

Mr. Santosh Shah: Member

Mr. Nabin Acharya: Member

Mr. Dharendra Yadav: Member

Mr. Shailesh Yadav: Member

Mr. Surendra Koju: Member

Mr. Somakant Baral: Member

Mr. Manoj Mahato: Member

Mr. Roshan Pandit: Member

Mr. Shatrudhan Prasad Gupta: Member

Ms. Jotshna Shakya: Member

Mr. Bimlesh Jha: Member

Ms. Renu Shakya: Member

Mr. Laxman Pokhrel: Member

Mr. Lilambar Jha: Member

Mr. Dipendra Mandal: Member

Mr. Shankar Shahi: Member



Open-Air Market under a Gigantic Banyan Tree in the Indonesian Island of Bali, *Dr Tan It-Koon*

With its beautiful beaches, coral reefs, volcanic mountains, terraced rice fields and scenic landscape, the idyllic Indonesian island of Bali is well known and popular as a holiday resort. Bali is unique in its religious practice and customs. Unlike the majority of the Indonesian population who are Muslims, the main religion in Bali is Hinduism which bears strong influence on the culture, customs and daily life of the local inhabitants. There are some 20,000 Hindu temples on the island. The natural scenic beauty of the island and its people, as well as long history of well-developed performing and visual art forms, have attracted many established artists from Europe and neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia to visit or even take up long-time residence there to create beautiful art works. Local Balinese men are themselves well-known for their skills in traditional and modern wooden sculptures as well as unique traditional folk-art style and modern paintings which are highly popular with visitors to the island. The men often stay at home to engage in artistic work as a profession to earn a living while the womenfolk toil in the farm and perform other jobs outdoor.

My painting is inspired by the busy open-air market in the shade of a gigantic banyan tree. The market comprises of vendors of seasonal fruits (such as guava, snakeskin fruit, chiku, coconut, dragon fruit, duku langsung, rambutan, papaya, soursop, mangosteen, banana, pineapple, jackfruit, durian, kedondong) and vegetables (such as kangkong, lady's fingers, green beans, red and green chilli, Avocado, sweet potato, garlic, onion, tapioca), other sundry fresh and dried foodstuffs, as well as small items of daily necessities. Besides the ubiquitous coconut and banana trees, it is quite common to see banyan trees in Bali. Banyan tree is an integral part of the temple for the dead (which includes the cemetery) in Balinese villages as it represents the eternal cycle of death and rebirth, and protects the spirits after death. According to Hindu beliefs, leaves of the tree are used in cremation ceremony. Some banyan trees that are centuries old have grown to spectacular heights of 80 m and tower above all other trees. Over time, mature trees developed dangling air-roots on tree branches. When these roots reach the ground, they grow into sturdy trunks themselves, eventually forming a network of large tree trunks supporting a huge canopy of leaves on top. Thus in Indonesia, banyan tree is a symbol of unity and power and is depicted in its national coat of arms. The tree is considered to be sacred or spiritual as they are believed to be the abode of Gods and spirits of ancestors. At the same time, the spiritual nature of the tree is believed to attract demons. Shrines can be found at some banyan trees for people to appease the supernatural beings and ward off the demons.

In many stories of [Philippine mythology](#), the banyan is said to be home to a variety of spirits and demon-like creatures. Children at a young age are taught never to point at a fully mature banyan tree for fear of offending the spirits that dwell within them, especially when they are new to the place. Filipinos always uttered a respectful word or two to the spirits in the banyan tree when they are near one, walking near or around it to avoid any harm. It seems that many Filipinos believe that provoking the spirits in a banyan tree can cause one great harm, illness, misfortune, untold suffering, and death.

In China, Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian province, has a well-known nickname "The City of the Banyan Tree". According to Qiu Taibin, a local gardening expert, Fuzhou got the nickname as early as the Tang Dynasty (618–907), when a poem referred to it as the city of banyan. It is a typical local plant, with value in both environmental protection and landscaping. The tree has great vitality, allowing it to grow on barren land. Its boughs branch out wide and far, offering shade to people in hot summer. According to local residents, Chinese President Xi Jinping, who was Party chief of Fuzhou in the 1990s, has a special love for the banyan tree, saying it is a plant crucial to Fuzhou's environmental efforts. Since the late Tang Dynasty, local administrators have called on residents to grow banyan trees to create a better environment. I was told by a local retired teacher that at the entrance of most villages in Fuzhou's suburbs, there is always a hundred-year-old banyan tree, offering locals a venue for meeting and relaxation in its ample shade.



In India, the banyan tree is also called Indian or Bengal fig. It is considered sacred and can be seen near a temple or religious centre. In [Hinduism](#), the leaf of the banyan tree is said to be the resting place for the god [Krishna](#). It is the national tree of India. The largest Banyan tree in the world is found in India, located inside the Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Botanical Garden in the state of West Bengal, located near the city of Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta). Known as the Great Banyan Tree, it is estimated to be at least 250 years old. It has been featured on postage stamps and attracts more visitors than the actual botanic garden, which harbours exotic plants from around the world. There are two other famous big trees in India, one in the outskirts of [Bangalore](#) and another in Jaipur district of Rajasthan.

The entire island of Bali is like a huge garden, dotted with bright and colourful flowering plants like hibiscus, frangipani (Bali's national flower) and bougainvillea which thrive well in the fertile volcanic soil. Thus, brightly coloured flowers, coconut trees and multi-tiered temples are featured in the background of my painting.

For decades, Bali is known as the most popular resort for relaxation, family vacation, and important celebration events like birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. Over the years, it has developed infra-structures such as attractive hotels and conference facilities to become a renowned venue for regional and international conferences. It was the venue for the 3rd Congress of the Asian-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine in 1985 and the 13th Congress in 2013. I am glad to have helped in the organisation of the 1985 Congress as an Adviser and the President of the Federation.

The following photo shows how large a mature Banyan Tree can become.

