

Welcoming Address by the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of APCRMPPM 2005 & President of the Asia Pacific Chapter of URMPM & MSRMPM & Vice President of URMPM

- Salutations to VVIPs, VIPs, Distinguished Speakers, Participants
- On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to graciously welcome all of you to the Second Asia Pacific Conference of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (APCRMPPM 2005).
- The First Asia Pacific Conference of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (APCRMPPM 2003) was jointly conducted with the International Conference of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (ICRMPPM) organized by URMPM in Tokyo, Japan in 2003. Following the success of the first World Congress and several other conferences in Russia (2004, 2005) and Costa Rica (2004) as well as recent e-conferences that address crisis management of epidemics, and natural disasters that include the aftermaths of earthquakes, tsunami, and hurricanes, the founding members of URMPM (Ryoji Sakai, Stephan Morgenthaler, Rusli Nordin and Taro Shirakawa) have decided to convene the second conference in the idyllic city of Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia in order to share the new science of risk management for preventive medicine with wider audiences.
- Again, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to say SELAMAT DATANG to all distinguished delegates to our beautiful and peaceful city of Kota Bharu and country, Malaysia. It has always been our tradition to honour all esteemed guests to our country and in the spirit of warmth and friendship, we would like to say SELAMAT DATANG to all of you. Kota Bharu, meaning NewCastle, is an idyllic city situated in the East Coast State of Kelantan and offers the best of both modern and traditional that so vividly captures the heart of Malaysian cultures. The setting is certainly conducive for serious deliberations on issues pertaining to risk management in the 21st century whilst providing ample opportunities for relaxation and capturing traditional hospitalities in pleasant surroundings. Kota Bharu is also a gateway to so many other wonderful and interesting destinations, including sparkling white sandy beaches, tropical rain forests, and so many other destinations in Malaysia and beyond.
- This conference is certainly an important milestone in the development of the Union of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (URMPM), and the Asia Pacific Chapter of the URMPM together with the Malaysian Society of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (MSRMPM) are greatly honoured to be given this opportunity to host this Second Conference. This conference is also indebted to the support given by various groups and agencies that clearly recognize the value of such development of innovative sciences and knowledge that could provide important contributions toward healthcare services worldwide. The research group called NORMS (National Occupational Risk Management Program), a Top Down Intensification of Research in Priority Areas (IRPA) Program funded by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MOSTI) that comprise of 5 Projects – OSIS, OES, RMOA, OSH RISK & COVERED – have come together to promote occupational safety and health through the risk management science approach. This platform clearly allows for dynamic discourse between healthcare professionals and the sharing of experiences and research findings that clearly underscore the importance of health risk management strategies and approaches that could very well replace the rather limited scope of purely risk assessment models and approaches of the 20th century. Risk management incorporates both risk assessment approaches and the inclusion of risk perception and risk communication in the promotion of health, and prevention and control of health risks. Obviously, we now have a new management tool

that is more comprehensive and could respond to the new challenges posed by global crises as attested by recent Katrina Disasters in New Orleans, USA, Tsunami Disasters in the Asia Pacific Region, SARS Epidemic in Asia, Avian Flu in Southeast Asia and a host of other impending disasters.

- The First World Congress, which was jointly conducted with URMPM in Tokyo in 2003, was a tremendous success considering the difficulties faced by its pioneers under the able leadership of Prof. Ryoji Sakai. Since then, URMPM has successfully concluded a series of international conferences, including e-conferences, a couple of real conferences in Russia, and the last one in Costa Rica was a huge success.
- The last 2 conferences, the first in Tokyo in March 27-28, 2003, and the second in Costa Rica 2004 have successfully clarified the scientific framework of risk management for preventive medicine and health sciences, since preventive medicine and health sciences of the 20th Century have developed very high advances in risk assessment science while few advances in risk management science was made. And safety policy science is clearly required to be developed together with health policy science. The World Congress in Tokyo, Japan focused on the framework of risk management for preventive medicine beyond cultural differences, and internet development for global communication. Four symposium, 10 panels and 9 workshops were divided into principles and methods of preventive risk management on the aspects of statistics, clinical preventive medicine, behavioural science, information science, forensic medicine, bioscience, epidemiology and monitoring, health policy and economics, education, and international cooperation. Nine workshops were carried out on safety of drug, food safety, medical accidents, environment and ecology, disasters and accidents, communicable diseases, and aging populations.
- Risk management is a central dogma and a final goal of medical and health sciences. And, the recent and rapid technological innovation creates socio-economic globalization, which generates new and various kinds of global health issues due to the promotion of technological transfer from one country to another including developing countries. This technological innovation has spread without prior fine adjustment to the man-environment system that is critical to developing nations.
- The current risk management principles show several characteristics: 1) The final goal of management is to obtain the best benefits by managing our limited resources; 2) Information collection, analysis and interpretation and the best allocation of available resources through priority setting are the basic processes in modern risk management science; 3) Definition of health risk management should target 'man & environment' as the primary focus; 4) Health risk management is a comprehensive combination of management system factors and human behavioural factors; and 5) Health risk management activities are necessary before the establishment of fine dose-response relationships.
- Globalization of human activities requests a new global management of human health risk. Comparing the organization of Risk Management System in current economics, human risk prevention requires further comprehensive and complex instruments involving risk diversity through multiplying networks, in-depth principal and global system as well as risk comparison. However, it is obvious that global technological innovation in the world is also one of man-made environments. Thus, 'man and environmental system' is disclosed to be a central concept to establish health risk management, even to prevent health issues due to recent global technological innovations including medical innovation, which is suspected to generate AIDS, medical accidents, mad cow disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE) and international frustrations due to acceleration of the global wealth imbalance. We are certainly pleased if the current proceeding is helpful

in identifying the tools of the new health risk management science for recent global technological innovation based on previous risk management theory for preventive medicine.

Thus, the coming conference would like to engage professionals, academics, scholars, scientists, managers and representatives of workers that are concerned about issues in risk management in preventive medicine to deliberate and examine recent developments in preventive medicine and occupational safety and health (OSH) especially in relation to stress and mental health, asthma and related respiratory disorders, solvent exposure and management, ergonomic designs in workplaces, and OSH risks and management in Small and Medium Industries (SMIs). Risk of chemical exposures and management, including pesticides and chemicals commonly employed in industries in the Asia Pacific region, will also be examined critically and we certainly expect a lively discussion on these issues. The threat of emerging infections in the Asia Pacific region such as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Nipah Virus, and the more recent outbreak of Avian Flu has had major impacts on regional economies and securities and therefore warrant serious deliberations in future prevention and management. The conference also welcome papers that seek to provide concepts, models, and strategies in dealing with other important aspects of risk management in preventive medicine. We certainly hope that this conference will contribute towards a better understanding of risks management in workplaces and the environment, and that the concepts, models and strategies proposed and examined will go a long way towards improving the lives of current and future generations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Universiti Sains Malaysia for providing technical support, the URMPM and the World Health Risk Management Center (WHRMC) for international collaboration. I would also like to thank our various sponsors including Syngenta and the Malaysian Society for Infectious Diseases and Chemotherapy (MSIDC) for sponsoring many of the speakers. Our special thanks to the Ministry of Health for supporting our conference through participation, and various companies that have taken up the exhibition booths. To the many friends, students and comrades that have put in tremendous effort into making this conference a success, I take my hat off to all of you. Last but not least, to the ever persistent and untiring effort of my Secretariat and Organising Committee members, who have relentlessly persevered despite the many obstacles and frustrations, my heart goes out to all of you. May God bless all of you for your sincere deeds.

May the conference bear fruitful outcomes to all of us.

Thank you.

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Chairperson of Organizing Committee
APCRMPM 2005