

URMPM Newsletter – Nov. 1, 2005

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President's Greeting for the 2nd Asia Pacific Conference 2005.

Conference homepage <http://www.urmpm.org/2APC/>

SELAMAT DATANG is our way of welcoming all delegates to our beautiful and peaceful 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. We are also deeply honoured to host you to our Second Asia Pacific Conference on Risk Management in Preventive Medicine in Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia scheduled on October 1-3, 2005. 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 in Preventive Medicine (URMPM), and the Asia Pacific Center of the URMPM is greatly honoured to be given this opportunity to host this Second Conference. The First Conference, which was jointly conducted with URMPM in Tokyo and Kyoto in 2003, was a tremendous success considering the difficulties faced by its pioneers under the able leadership of URMPM Chairperson, Ryoji Sakai (Chair person of World Health Risk Management Center, Prof. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology). Since then, URMPM has successfully concluded a series of international conferences, including e-conferences, in Ukraine and Russia, and the last one in Costa Rica was a huge success.

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 occupational safety and health (OSH) especially in relation to work stress and mental health, occupational asthma and related 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.

Thank you and see you in Kota Bharu.

Rusli B. Nordin

MBBS; MPH; PhD

Professor of Community Medicine

President, Second Asia-Pacific Conference on Risk Management in Preventive Medicine (2005)

Vice President of URMPM, Head of Asia Pacific Center of URMPM