

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

- **President's Report**
- **APPES Fellows School**
- **ISPAE Meeting**
- **Special Report—CLAN Activities**

**IN EVERY
ISSUE**

- **Council Details**
- **Future Meetings**

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President's Report

As the sole international pediatric endocrine society in the Asia Pacific region, APPES aimed not only to establish close relationship with our member societies, but also to collaborate with other international and regional societies. The LWPES/ESPE 8th Joint Meeting Global Care in Pediatric Endocrinology was held between September 9-12, 2009 in New York, in collaboration with APEG, APPES, JSPE and SLEP. Prof. Wayne Cutfield, our immediate past president, was among the joint program organizing committee representing APPES. APPES council prepared a very informative newsletter which was distributed to all the delegates of the New York meeting. President's report, APPES council news and membership introduction, APPES 2010 Scientific Meeting and future events, as well as some news from around the region (brief introduction of some APPES member societies) were included in the newsletter. The feedback indicated that was an effective approach to promote a young society like APPES. Thanks for the nice secretary work of Lyndell Wills for putting all the information together.

During the New York meeting, we had the honor to invite all APPES council members, presidents or representatives of the national pediatric endocrine societies of the Asia Pacific region, executive members of the LWPES and some of the committee members of the Chinese Society of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism for an APPES president dinner. This was a good opportunity for the member societies to get better knowledge of each other and to build up strong working relationship. We are grateful for the generous support from the Unites Cell Biotech Co. for this event.

The 11th APPES Fellow's Meeting was successfully held in association with the Pediatric Endocrine Society of Thailand in Ayutthaya, the old capital of Thailand from October 9th to 11th, 2009. Forty five pediatric endocrine fellows from across the Asia Pacific region attended this case based interactive course. We were pleased to have Prof. John Parks, Prof. Louis Low, Dr. Suttipong Wacharasindhu, Dr. Supawadee Likitmaskul, Dr. Somjit Jararatanasiri-

kul, Dr. Jittiwat Suprasongsin, A/Prof. Kah Yin Loke and A/Prof. Maria Craig as our faculty, with Maria Craig as the Convener. Thanks to all of the fellows and the faculty for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment. Thanks to Pamela Ferris from Serono Symposia for her wonderful organization. The meeting was again sponsored by Merck-Serono, we sincerely thanks for their continuous generously support.

The first Biennial Meeting of the Indian Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Endocrinology (ISPAE) and the Paediatric Endocrine Training Program were held in New Delhi from November 11 to 15, 2009. Dr. Maria Craig and Dr. Pik To Cheung attended the meetings as faculty members representing APPES. It is always our hope to work with member country societies to enhance the growth of both country and regional societies like APPES.

It is less than a year away for the 6th APPES Biennial Scientific Meeting to be held in November 17 to 20 in Xi'an China, along with the 12th APPES Fellow's Meeting in November 15-17. The venues will be the Shangri-La Hotel and the Huaqing Hot Spring Resort Hotel in Xi'an for the main meeting and the fellow's course respectively. The Scientific Committee led by A/Prof. Paul Hofman is finalizing another exciting scientific program. The APPES council and the Chinese local organizing committee are working together closely to ensure a successful meeting.

The year of the tiger is coming, full with power, courage, optimism, and passion. I would like to wish our members a very Merry Christmas and healthy prosperous New Year of 2010!

Xiaoping Luo
APPES President



APPES FELLOWS MEETING 2009

The 11th APPES Fellows' Meeting was held in association with the Pediatric Endocrine Society of Thailand from October 9th to 11th, 2009 in the old capital of Thailand, Ayutthaya. The course was attended by 45 paediatric endocrine fellows from across the Asia Pacific region including Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn and make new friends.

This year we were pleased to have on faculty Prof John Parks (who also joined the faculty of the first fellows meeting in 1999), Prof Louis Low (who has been on faculty for every APPES fellows' school), Dr Suttipong Wacharasindhu, Dr Supawadee Likitmaskul, Dr Somjit Jararatanasirikul, Dr Jittiwat, A/Prof Kah Yin Loke and A/Prof Maria Craig. The meeting was generously supported by Merck-Serono. The format of the workshop consisted of interactive case presentations by fellows, small group discussions, lectures by the faculty and a quiz. Fellows were asked to submit a clinical case for presentation at the meeting - we were all impressed by the high standard of the fellows' presentations and the range of interesting paediatric endocrinology from across the region. Congratulations to Dr Yajie Tong from China who was awarded the best presentation for her case of "Primary hypothyroidism mimicking a pituitary macroadenoma" and Dr Tim Savage from New Zealand for achieving the highest score in the quiz. We worked hard over the 3 days of the course, but enjoyed taking some time out to learn some Thai history and experience an elephant ride!

Thanks to all of the fellows for your hard work in preparing and presenting cases, and your enthusiastic participation in the small discussion groups. Thank you also to the faculty for your commitment to teaching and excellent, up to date lectures. Finally sincere thanks to Pamela, Lyndell and Alicia for your wonderful organization.

Next year's meeting will be in Xian, China from 15—17 November, before the main APPES scientific meeting. Further details regarding the meeting including how to apply will be on the APPES website in early 2010. Fellows who are accepted to attend the course must be members of APPES.

Maria Craig
Convenor



ISPAE BIENNIAL MEETING

The Indian Society for Pediatric and Adolescent endocrinology (ISPAE) held its biennial meeting, ISPAE 2009 from 13-15 November in New Delhi, back to back with the first 3 day pediatric endocrinology fellows' school, ISPAE-PET 2009. We were fortunate to have several distinguished international speakers: Dr Jean-Claude Carel (France), Dr Franco Chiarelli (Italy), Dr Ze'ev Hochberg (Israel), Dr Ram Menon (USA), Dr Pik To Cheung (Hong Kong), Dr Olle Soder (Sweden), Drs Garry Warne, Margaret Zacharin, Maria Craig and Andrew Sinclair (Australia), and Dr Francis de Zegher (Belgium).

A total of 175 delegates from all over India (and a couple from Indonesia) registered for ISPAE 2009, and included pediatric endocrinologists, adult endocrinologists and pediatricians with a special interest in endocrinology. The scientific program included the staple fare of diagnosis and therapeutics, but also several talks on cutting edge topics such as stem cells in endocrinology, molecular diagnosis of gonadal dysgenesis, mechanisms of epigenetics and programming, and more. There was a poster walk covering 34 posters, and a "Run for Diabetes" (converted to a "Walk for Diabetes" by the saree clad delegates!) to commemorate World Diabetes Day at 7 am on 14th November.

It also was the occasion to honor Prof Meena Desai, the founder of our Chapter in 1987, with the ISPAE Lifetime Achievement Award for the enormous contributions made by her over four decades (she began the first ever pediatric endocrine service in India in BJ Wadia Hospital in January 1969). In her key note address Dr Desai traced out the effort involved over these 40 years in building up the specialization in India. She reminded us of the many problems encountered by pioneers like her in gathering data against all



odds, with all kinds of constraints and investigative limitations in the initial two decades. With labs and assays in increasingly easy reach now, it is difficult for us to imagine the courage and conviction necessary for these scientists to chart new paths.

The ISPAE fellows' school (Pediatric Endocrine Training 2009, PET 2009) was organized in collaboration with ESPE and APPES, on 10-13th November. The course content and structure were similar to the APPES Fellows Meet. The faculty comprised of 6 Indian pediatric endocrinologists (Drs Meena Desai, PSN Menon, P Raghupathy, Nalini Shah, Vijayalakshmi Bhatia, and Preeti Dabadghao) as well as 6 interna-

tional experts (Drs Jean-Claude Carel, Olle Soder, Ram Menon, Margaret Zacharin, Maria Craig and Pik To Cheung). Thirty trainees selected from among the 65 applicants from India, and 4 trainees from Indonesia and Thailand, participated in this intensive, interactive, wholly residential program held in the spacious, self-contained campus of the National Institute of Biologicals at NOIDA, 6 km outside Delhi. The teaching format was mainly centered around discussions on the cases previously prepared with faculty inputs via email, presented by participants and moderated by faculty. A rapid fire quiz prepared by Dr Anurag Bajpai was enjoyed by all. The days of hard work were followed by relaxed evenings that promoted networking among the group. These included an introductory dinner with music, a trip to Akshardham temple, and a drive to Delhi, around India Gate and a few other monuments. The ISPAE-PET program was generously sponsored by an educational grant from Novo Nordisk.

We look forward to ISPAE 2011 and ISPAE-PET 2011 at Calicut in the beautiful state of Kerala in south India and invite all of you from the APPES region for it.

APPES 2010 SCIENTIFIC MEETING

We are delighted to announce that the 2010 APPES Meeting will be held in Xi'an China.

The dates for the meeting are the 17—20 November 2010. Information will be posted on the website very soon.



SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE



Communities of Children Growing Stronger in the Asia-Pacific Region

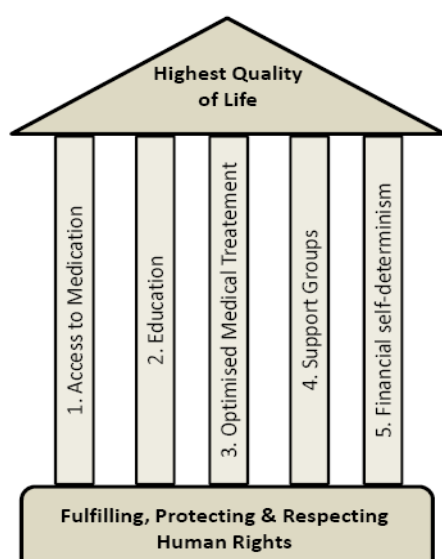
In this issue of the APPES Newsletter, CLAN would like to share some **success stories from our neighbourhood...**

These stories reflect the hard work of our amazing partners; both health professionals and families of children living with chronic health conditions. Given an ounce of hope and encouragement the things they achieve are incredible.

The stories that follow are told around the **5 pillars of CLAN:**

1. Access to Medication & Equipment
2. Education
3. Optimised Medical Management
4. Encouraging Support Groups
5. Financial Self-determinism

It is our hope these stories will deeply inspire. In our neighbourhood there stirs strong and focused development in the field of Paediatric Endocrinology. Together, we are making a genuine difference to the lives of the children in our region. Thank-you to everyone for your generosity of spirit!



Access to Medicine

Alphapharm, KAHAKI, Indonesian Doctors and CLAN unite to make essential medicines available for children with CAH

An exciting new project is underway to help all children in Indonesia who are living with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH) access the essential medicines they need to survive.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of **Alphapharm Pty Ltd** (manufacturers of Hysone / hydrocortisone tablets in Australia), collaborative efforts between **CLAN**, **KAHAKI** (the Jakarta-based CAH Support Group) and the **Indonesian Pediatric Endocrinology Society** have established a two year program that we believe will help children and families achieve longer-term access to CAH medication in Indonesia.



How does it work?

Based on the success of a similar donation made in Vietnam from 2005-2008 (which resulted in hydrocortisone tablets being made available locally by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health), Alphapharm has agreed to donate, for the next two years, enough free hydrocortisone tablets for every child living with CAH in Indonesia. Under the strict guidance of the Indonesian Pediatric Endocrinology Society and KAHAKI Executive, the Hysone medication is then sold to CAH families with prices being set on a sliding scale (full price to those who are able to afford it and free to the very poor). Part of this money is used to purchase Florinef and Solu-cortef from Australia (all three drugs needed to treat CAH are currently unavailable in Indonesia), with CLAN arranging the purchase and couriering of all drugs to Jakarta. From arrival at the pharmacy department at **Dr Cipto Mangunkusumo General Hospital** the drugs are distributed around the country.

Thanks to this generous donation from Alphapharm (and with a little help from CLAN), KAHAKI will have funds left over after purchasing Florinef and Solu-Cortef and these are to be invested back into the CAH Community. KAHAKI is then charged with planning how this money is to be spent: meetings, newsletters, creation of educational resources, communication and other activities are amongst those activities so far proposed.

So what is happening to address solutions for medium and longer term access to essential CAH medicine in Indonesia?

Now that hydrocortisone and fludrocortisone tablets are on the **WHO Essential Medicines List for Children (WHO EMLc)**, the wonderful Indonesian Paediatric Endocrine Society has started work with National pharmaceutical companies to arrange local registration, importation... and perhaps one day even local manufacture! In addition, successful early trials of micro-finance in Indonesia (see *Overcoming poverty and finding financial independence*) have given CLAN confidence that longer-term access is a viable future option.

Improving access to medicine is a three step process:

1. **Short-term** – humanitarian aid / drug donations
2. **Medium-term** – registration of drugs in country
3. **Long-term** – helping all families achieve affordable access to medication and health-care through financial independence, and other strategies such as health insurance and healthy public policy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.whatisclan.org
info@cahclan.org

Education at all levels

Lots happening in Vietnam in the field of Diabetes

For Children - Sincere thanks to Diabetes NSW Australia, for creating a Vietnamese version of Professor Bumblebee (a delightful, animated Diabetes DVD that teaches children all about Diabetes). In June 2009 CLAN screened the DVD at all Diabetes Club Meetings (held at the three largest Paediatric Hospitals in Vietnam), and the children and families gave it a huge thumbs up!



For Families – In 2009 the comprehensive educational resource Caring for Diabetes in Children and Adolescents – A parent's manual was made available for the first time in Vietnamese language. This was thanks to the generosity of **Novo Nordisk Australia** who paid for the translation, and the authors who paid for the book to be printed (in glossy full-colour!) and 3000 copies made freely available to CLAN for distribution to families, health professionals, Hospitals, Universities and medical schools throughout Vietnam. Sincere thanks must also go to Professor Khue and the **Vietnamese Diabetes Association** for distributing the books at their Annual Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) this year, attended by 150 doctors and nurses working in the field of Diabetes. What a way to raise awareness about Diabetes in Childhood!



For Health Professionals – After six months of free English lessons provided by **RMIT University in HCMC**, Ms Van Nguyen (a nurse from the Endocrinology Department of Children's Hospital 1 in HCMC) was sponsored by the **Hoc Mai Foundation** to come to Australia and spend three months training at **Children's Hospital Westmead** with the staff in the Institute of Diabetes and Endocrinology. Whilst learning about Diabetes and CAH management in Australia, Van also developed a small Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) implementation project (approved by the Directorate of her Hospital) to promote training for all colleagues in her department on her return home. CLAN and CHW will continue to support Van and the Endocrinology Department at Children's Hospital 1, and will continue evaluations to determine if this capacity building project reaps the expected rewards for the children and staff. CLAN is also grateful to **Novo Nordisk** for sponsoring a week-long nurse-training project at the National Hospital of Pediatrics in June 2009. Paediatric Diabetes Educator Karen Jamieson's course built on the efforts of Ms Claire Henderson in 2008. Supporting **research** into Diabetes is another important priority, and early collaboration in this domain is also underway.



For Policy Makers - At the International Conference on Realizing the Rights to Health and Development for All held in Hanoi in October 2009, Dr Kate Armstrong presented how the grassroots community development model of CLAN can embrace international and multi-sectoral collaboration to progressively realise children's rights to health, and improve quality of life for those living with chronic health conditions in resource-poor countries. At the same conference, **Mr David Beran** (sponsored by **Royal Children's Hospital International**) presented the findings of the **IIF's 2008 RAPIA survey in Vietnam**. Presenting on the topic of children's rights and health to Ministry officials and dignitaries in Vietnam was an exciting experience, and we sincerely thank the Communist Party of Vietnam and the University of New South Wales for the opportunity.



For National and International Communities – Thanks to collaborative efforts with so many partners, awareness of the needs of children living with Diabetes in Vietnam is increasing. The **International Diabetes Federation** was involved in the recent training course for health professionals in HCMC, the **International Insulin Foundation** conducted an extremely successful and informative **RAPIA Survey in 2008**, and the Australian NGO **Insulin For Life** is collaborating with The Fund of International Friendships of Diabetics in Vietnam (IFDV) in Danang.



The Power of Twinning

Since 2008, Staff from the **Institute of Diabetes and Endocrinology at Children's Hospital Westmead (Sydney, Australia)** have been collaborating with colleagues at the three main Children's Hospitals in Vietnam, to support the ongoing development of Paediatric Endocrinology in Vietnam.

Thank-you so much to all the staff involved!





International Diabetes Federation

Saving lives around the world



Optimisation of Medical Management

An Update from Pakistan - Dr Yasir Khan

The **National Institute of Child Health (NICH) in Karachi** is a 500 bed tertiary health care hospital and it caters to a very large pediatric population. Presently the endocrine out-patient department has over 5000 registered patients. Due to the high turnover of patients, CAH and Diabetic patients were in the past not able to receive the level of healthcare they truly deserved.

Considering that Pakistan has an estimated 61,196 children with Type 1 Diabetes (World Diabetic Atlas 3rd Edition), it is truly unfortunate that among their number only a few thousand have been diagnosed, and makes the situation seem very grim for these children. In fact, both CAH and Diabetes generally remain undiagnosed until patients present with a life threatening adrenal crisis or diabetic coma.

The journey towards betterment took a drastic turn in October 2007 when Professor Syed Jamal Raza had the chance to meet with CLAN. After this meeting and with the collaboration of CLAN, Educator Dr. Yasir Naqi Khan was hired to look after CAH and Diabetic patients. **Atfaal Welfare Society (AWS)** was registered to cater to the needs of all endocrine patients and all past individual efforts were brought under its umbrella. With the aim of establishing a model health management system in Pakistan for all endocrine patients, plus motivation and inspiration from CLAN, the voyage began.



Diabetes

Presently the National Institute of Child Health has a thriving Diabetic Outpatient Department of around 500 children. The diabetic team headed by Professor Syed Jamal Raza includes three consultants, a nutritionist, a lab technician, a nurse and an educator. Atfaal, through various partners, has been able to arrange everything free of cost for patients. With the help of various partners, Atfaal is also committed to providing free glucometers to all patients. The latest insulin treatments (regular, NPH and analogue pens), glucometer strips and investigations (HbA1C, microalbuminuria etc) are funded solely by Atfaal Welfare Society.

A patient education program has been established, and consists of four modules dealing with everything from insulin techniques to nutritional management of diabetes. Every patient and their family is required to attend this program and on graduation is presented with a 'Diabetic Basta' (Basta means bag in Urdu). This kit includes a glucometer, a box of glucometer strips, nutritional measuring tools, RBS logbook, diabetic education materials and a stuffed toy which indicates the diabetic injection sites.

A doctor education program has been started in which trainees at NICH are rotated in the endocrine ward. Workshops for general physicians, pediatricians and other health care professionals are held on a regular basis, and cover various aspects of childhood diabetes, including updated management of DKA. The unified DKA protocol compiled from latest ADA and ISPAD recommendations has been established and a poster has been designed for distribution, making it possible to achieve standardised treatment of DKA in hospitals all over Pakistan. General awareness programs have been organised in schools and the community to educate teachers, students, parents and society about childhood diabetes.

Entertainment events have been organised for our patients and their families in which all activities are carefully chosen so that they are a source of fun and education. All types of diabetic materials dealing with nutrition, management and treatment of diabetes have been designed both in Urdu and English to help patients and their families better understand diabetes.

CAH

The National Institute of Child Health proudly teamed up with CLAN and RCH in writing up the proposal to include Hydrocortisone and Florinef into the **WHO EMLC**. Through this project thousands of CAH patients and their families will benefit all over the world.

Investigation is the mainstay in treatment of CAH and realising this AWS is providing 17OHP on a cost to cost basis, and free to extremely poor patients. Private labs charge obscene amounts for such investigations, making them out of reach for the majority of patients. Medicines are arranged in limited quantity for non-affording patients free of charge.

The educator is available 24/7 to tackle any problem that the patient may encounter. If the patient and his family are traveling to remote areas and come across a medical emergency, the educator can be contacted to give guidance to the attending physician. All questions ranging from nearest point of availability of medication, disease information and special care required can be answered by the CAH educator.

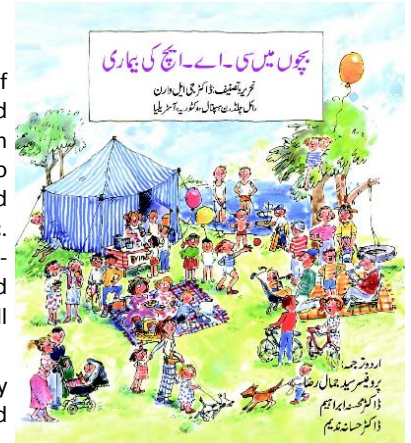
Professor Gary Warne's book for CAH families has been translated into many languages and is given to every CAH patient on diagnosis. CAH patients are attended to separately in the out-patient department by the educator, as he is aware of every individual patient's medical history.

Present projects – "If you don't know where you are going any road will take you there" Alice in Wonderland

With our goal in mind we are willing to travel on any road which will help us achieve our objectives. Presently, Atfaal Welfare Society is in the process of organising separate clubs for CAH and Diabetes. We have always understood such clubs are hugely beneficial for our patients and their families. They give opportunities for our patients to interact with one another and learn from each other's experiences. Preparations are being made to hold an annual meeting in collaboration with CLAN for CAH patients so we can share our experiences on an international level, allowing other developing countries to gain benefit from them also.

Atfaal has also started helping all registered Diabetic and CAH patients complete their education by providing uniforms, books and school fees, as we understand that a good education is an essential requirement to becoming an active member of society. This has also been a huge incentive to our patients to regularly attend our clinics.

We are also looking into funding for Serum Renin so that this crucial investigation can be available free of charge for our patients. In addition, special attention is being given to increase the quantity of medicine Atfaal distributes among our CAH group through private donations.



Encouragement of Family Support Groups

A Milestone in Manila for the CAH Club

Since the 'birth' of CAHSAPI in 2005, this small community of children and families in the Philippines has grown and developed thanks to the support of doctors at the Philippines General Hospital in Manila and the PSPME (Philippines Society of Paediatric Metabolism and Endocrinology). Despite the hardship of enduring woeful access to hydrocortisone and fludrocortisone, CAHSAPI have continued to forge a path for themselves – and others (see Box 1 for the recent letter from a CAHSAPI member to CLAN).

Despite their own hardships, in 2008 CAHSAPI wrote to the World Health Organisation and supported the global push for acceptance of hydrocortisone and fludrocortisone tablets within the WHO EMLC — they did this on their own letterhead paper no less! Moreover, in 2009 CAHSAPI contributed an article to the United States' CARES Newsletter as an independent CAH community, and are now members of the international CAH community in their own right.

Sincerest congratulations to CAHSAPI and PSPME on their amazing and consistent efforts over the last five years. We hope that in the very near future hydrocortisone and fludrocortisone tablets are locally registered and available at an affordable price to all Filipino children with CAH.

Overcoming poverty and finding financial independence

Trialling micro-finance in Indonesia

After reading about early efforts in Vietnam to help CAH families through micro-finance and enterprise development, CLAN was approached by families in Indonesia who wanted to have a go. They had business ideas and a wealth of enthusiasm and commitment... How could we say no?

After extensively investigating the appropriate way to proceed, CLAN and the CAH community eventually agreed on a protocol (which had been translated into Bahasa Indonesia), and in 2009, after a prolonged period of saving and planning, families embarked on their business ventures.

To date all loan payments are either ahead of or on schedule and the program's first formal evaluation has been very promising (also see recent update in Box 2). In the future CLAN plans to partner with others in the field to expand this program even further. It is our dream that in the future the family of every child diagnosed with a chronic condition will have access to urgent financial counselling and support as soon as possible. The reality is that the financial status of a family has as much of a bearing on morbidity and mortality as any medical test or treatment anyone can offer, so it is vital we care as much about this as we do about blood test results and doses of drugs. Clearly though, such support is beyond the scope of health professionals alone. Multi-sectoral collaboration will be the key to any sustainable solution.

Box 1—Email from a CAHSAPI Club Member

Hello CLAN! Last November 30, 2009 (Monday) I attended the CAHSAPI 6th General Assembly at Philippine General Hospital (PGH—see photo below). I've met a lot of new members. I shared my stories and hope I touched others' lives. They've introduced us to the new fellows (Doctors) at PGH Pedia. We also discussed how to get medicines on our own. We know that you cannot donate us every time we need medicines. We are doing everything we can so that we can import medicines but it's hard. Your donation (medicines) were sold at a very minimal amount I think (a handling fee to cover Customs duties and the courier's storage fees). The doctors are talking to a pharmaceutical company here in the Philippines. They can import the medicines but they estimated the price of 1 tablet at 90 pesos (USD \$1.95). We think that families cannot afford it. You know the life here in the Philippines. We are finding ways to import medicines. We are very thankful that you are here to support us. I know someday CAHSAPI can stand on its own through your guidance. Thanks! God Bless.

Box 2— A letter from the micro-finance group in Indonesia

Dear CLAN - I'm excited to be able to email you again. The last three months I have been running out of time but very inspired in my work, all thanks to you. Thank God that in the past two months my 'sempoa' (Note: this is a Chinese traditional calculator, that has been used by many tutorial places in Indonesia, in the belief that this helps to improve math skills) course has been very well attended, to the point where I had to decline some students, given the time and place limitations. Even with only 20 students, I feel overwhelmed. Other than that, I have been selling meatballs in the local school canteen... from the sales margins I was able to pay for staff and rental. This is because I also have to look after my children and the course. I (also) design children's T-shirts, which I then pass on to local tailors to be made. This is yet another new business that I am starting. Hence, I have only just found the time to write this email, since I have got into the rhythm of a busy life!

I shall end my email here. I will forward the proposal from (XX), an IKAHAK member, who would like to join the EDP. Once again thank you so much for your help. It feels like we will never thank you enough for all that you have done for all of us in Indonesia. We wish you and your family every happiness.



“And they all lived happily ever after...”

One day, it is CLAN's hope that we can finish all of our stories this way. But until then, we encourage everyone to consider ways that they can become involved in this movement for change, and we thank all those who have had the compassion and courage to step outside their comfort zones and risk getting involved.

To paraphrase the great Nelson Mandela :

“helping children living with chronic medical conditions in resource-poor countries is not a gesture of charity; it is an act of justice.”



APPES COUNCIL

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An invitation is extended to all APPES members to submit news for the newsletter.
The newsletter will be published 4 times a year.

If you would like to submit articles or photos, please do so via email on appes@willorganise.com.au

Future Events

2010:

March 26—30

International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE) 2010
Kyoto, Japan
www.congre.co.jp/ice2010/

Sept 5 - 11

35th Annual Meeting of ISPAD, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Sept 22 - 25

49th ESPE Meeting
Prague, Czech Republic

Nov 17—20

APPES Scientific Meeting
Xian, China

If you have a meeting you would like to add to this listing, please email the APPES Secretariat on appes@willorganise.com.au with the following details:

- Name of Conference, City/Country where being held, Website Address and Contact Email Address

APPES wishes all members a happy holiday season and the best wishes for the start of 2010.

The APPES Secretariat office will be closed from 23 December—18 January 2010

APPES WEBSITE FORUM

A website clinical forum has been established – for members to post cases, share ideas and diagnosis.

The website for the forum is: www.forum.appes.org OR you can log on from the APPES website. For full instructions, click on the link on the APPES Homepage: www.appes.org

You need to register to use this forum (this is separate to your APPES membership registration).

We encourage all members to utilise this method of easy communication throughout the region.

Please do not hesitate to contact the APPES Secretariat if you have any problems using the Forum. Your comments and feedback are invited and most welcome.