

The 7th Japanese Primary Care Association Conference

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the Japanese Primary Care Association (JPCA) is an academy where dedicated and passionate family physicians and primary care physicians from all over Japan come together to promote the training of generalists to support the health of the community through accessible, comprehensive and high quality care. Its academic role is not unlike that of the College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) and other similar Colleges and Academy around the region.

This year marks the 7th JPCA Conference held in Asakusa, a charming district in Taito, Tokyo on the 11th and 12th of June 2016. The annual event was attended by Family Physicians from around the Asia Pacific region: Malaysia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore (Photo 1). Although the majority of the conference sessions were in Japanese, there were international sessions in English that catered to non-Japanese participants and this year's theme was "Community Medicine – built by all of us, General Physicians – raised by all of us". There was also a dedicated focus on the future of Family Medicine (FM) and Generalist training.

On the first day of the conference, a special sharing session was organized for young doctors and medical students with the facilitation of Dr Kenichi Satoh, a family doctor working in Singapore. Dr Low Lian Leng, CFPS council member and Dr Shin Yoshida, chairman of the WONCA Asia Pacific Rajakumar movement for young family doctors and faculty member of the Lizuka-Kaita FM Program, shared their experiences on how they integrate teaching of junior doctors and residents during their day-to-day clinic consultation, ward rounds and home visits. Both speakers also introduced the different post graduate FM training structure in their country. Thereafter, the participants were divided into small groups for a more in-depth sharing and discussion. Later that day, Singaporean representatives Dr Alicia Boo and Dr Tay Wei Yi took part in an English oral presentation session on FM research. Dr Alicia Boo shared with the audience her eye opening experiences while doing missionary work in Nepal. Dr Tay Wei Yi presented on the use of Entrustable Professional Activities to achieve proficiency in home care among junior doctors in Singapore, which was awarded the Best Investigator Award (Photo 2).



Photo 1. Conference delegates from Singapore (left to right): Dr Tan Tze Lee, A/Prof Tan Boon Yeow, Dr Kenichi Satoh, A/Prof Lee Kheng Hock, Dr Ng Chung Wai, Dr Alicia Boo, Dr Tay Wei Yi, Dr Kee Loo and Dr Low Lian Leng.



Photo 2. Best Investigator Award: Dr Tay Wei Yi with other Singapore delegates

Images courtesy of Dr Tay Wei Yi

On the second day, A/Prof Lee Kheng Hock, CFPS president along with a distinguished panel of FM leaders from the Asia Pacific region gave an international symposium on the increasing importance of well-trained generalists in modern medicine practice, resurrection of FM as a specialty, FM research and educational strategies for FM training. The day ended with a conference dinner at Asakusa View Hotel, starting with the traditional sake barrel ceremony and followed by a delightful spread of traditional Japanese and international cuisine. There was also a colourful display of Japanese culture, costumes, festival procession, music and drums. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know other like-minded Family Physicians and generalists who are equally passionate about the work that they do in the realm of FM.

The 8th JPCA conference will be held on the 13th and 14th of May 2017 at Takamatsu. We certainly look forward to this conference for continuing networking and connectivity opportunities for Family Physicians around the Asia Pacific region to enhance collaboration to promote FM practice, education and research to world standards.

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