

# Report to the IPA Standing Committee on

**63<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly  
Geneva, Switzerland  
17-21st May 2010**

by Chok-wan CHAN



# The Assembly Report consists of six Sections

- ✦ The World Health Assembly
- ✦ The Technical Sessions on MDG's
- ✦ Meeting with the Medical Students
- ✦ Special Session on the Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel
- ✦ Meeting with Management of CAH/WHO
- ✦ Meeting with Ruth Etzel

# The WHA (I)

- ✦ I attended the WHA representing IPA for the Meeting
- ✦ The meeting is concentrated into five days instead of the usual two weeks by increasing an evening session for the Committee A meetings each day (i.e. three session per day)
- ✦ Address by the Director-General Dr Margaret Chan focused mainly on MDG and the good news that the Influenza A Pandemic over the past twelve months did not produce serious effects. She cautioned healthcare professionals to be on vigilance on the issue

# The WHA (II)

- ★ There are two Invited Speakers for the Assembly this year:
  - ★ Chairlady for the African Council for Woman Health (former President of Liberia)
  - ★ Special Advisor for the UN Secretary-General for Malaria Control
- ★ I submitted two IPA Statements (Tobacco Control and Child Health AND Adolescent Health) but was only allowed to present the one on Adolescent Health. Thanks to Ruth and Swati for supplying information for my preparing the Statements.
- ★ The WHA is busily preparing the Joint Action Plans for the General Assembly of UN on MDG 4 and 5 called by the UN General-Secretary Ban Kit Moon to be held in September 2010.

# 63<sup>rd</sup> WHA Technical Briefings on MDG (I)

- ☀ Three Lunch Sessions were convened during the WHA period:
  - ☀ Progress and Challenges
  - ☀ Lessons Learned
  - ☀ Future Directions
- ☀ The most outstanding speech was by Jeffrey Sachs (Professor for Health Policy and Health Financing of Columbia University and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General on MDG's) who stressed on the importance of health financing from the global community, means for financial contributions and potential sources of money.

# 63<sup>rd</sup> WHA Technical Briefings on MDG (II)

- ✿ A Joint Action Plan to Improve the Health of Women and Children prepared by PMNCH was presented on consultation and was received favourably by WHO.
- ✿ I was fortunate enough to have background about the details from the PMNCH Meeting at Dhaka, Bangladesh and tried to do lobbying for the Partnership.
- ✿ I made comments at the Session on the following:
  - Infrastructure, mission and vision of IPA
  - Our past achievement on the MDG's
  - Our collective effort with other key players on global child health
  - Our emphasis on the implementation of global action plans and initiatives at national levels (national champions for MDG Project)
- ✿ The Way Ahead would mean more healthfinancing and efforts for the implementation of the Joint Action Plan recommended by PMNCH and national levels

## Seminar on the Code of Practice on the Implementation of Recruitment of Health Personnel

- ✿ This is organized jointly by the HWAI, Global Health and Development, Merlin, Medicus mundi and others
- ✿ I represented IPA in attending the Seminar
- ✿ This is the second Code of Practice passed at the WHA (the first one was the Code for Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes in 1981)
- ✿ The main concern was on the efflux of health care personnel from developing countries in Africa and South Asia
- ✿ There was suggestions of penalty and compensation
- ✿ The Global community was requested to stand ready together to facilitate the implementation of this Code

## Meeting with the International Federation for Medical Student Association (IFMSA) (I)

- ✦ This is the second time I met with this Medical Student Group
- ✦ The First time was in 2007 at the WHO WIPRO Regional Meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia which I have reported to the IPA SC before.
- ✦ This time I met two student representatives (one from Italy and another one from Spain)
- ✦ IFMSA has grown and matured significantly since last met. Now they have a permanent premises attached to the World Medical Association in Geneva (over the French side).
- ✦ They have very good infrastructure on various aspect of their functions (e.g., Advocacy, Research, etc) presented in a very nice brochure

## Meeting with the International Federation for Medical Student Association (IFMSA) (II)

- ✱ I introduced the infrastructure and missions of IPA
- ✱ There are three good reasons that IPA is interested to work with IFMSA
  1. As future colleagues
  2. For collaboration of professional activities
  3. For child health advocacy
- ✱ Areas of collaboration
  1. Education (basic and professional educations)
  2. IPA programme areas
  3. IPA Advocacy and Ethics Committees
  4. Information from the IPA Newsletter and Website

# Meeting with the International Federation for Medical Student Association (IFMSA) (III)

- ✱ The Medical Students were requested to contact the following from IPA:
  1. The IPALA Group
  2. The IPA Education Committee
  3. The IPA Secretariat
  4. The IPA Web
- ✱ We agreed on reciprocal participation at our International Congresses:
  1. Their upcoming congresses will be in Montreal in July 2010 and Indonesia in 2011
  2. They are keen to attend our Johannesburg Congress in 2010 and request for complimentary registration or if no possible at reduced rates for TWO medical students.
  3. I promised to bring this to the attention of our Congress Management – **Keith and Peter please give your guidance on the issue and give them our reply**

## Meeting with Management of Child and Adolescent Department of WHO

- ✿ I met with Liz Mason and Chandra Mouli and exchanged views on global child health
- ✿ I was requested to write to the new WHO Regional Directors on importance of the Adolescent Health Programmes from IPA.
- ✿ We also agreed that we should focus on life styles, mental health, obesity, tobacco and alcohol problems for adolescents
- ✿ WHO promised to be active at our Johannesburg Congress in August 2010

# Meeting with Professor Ruth Etzel

## TA for the IPA CEH Programme

- ✿ Ruth presented to me a copy of the Minutes of the Business Meeting of Members of the IPA CEH Programme which is very informative.
- ✿ There will be another CEH Workshop in China in 2010 (?by the Peking University OR by APPA)
- ✿ I confirmed the support of IPA SC on the İhsan Doğramacı Award on Children's Environmental Health and the Award would be announced at the Johannesburg Congress
- ✿ The First Award would be given out at our IPA Melbourne Congress 2013
- ✿ The procedure of award would base on the Protocol presented by Ruth at Ankara

# Conclusion

- ✦ The WHA 2010 is dominated by means and ways to Implement the MDG's by 2015
- ✦ There seems to be tension in fundraising between the healthcare professionals (MDG 4 and 5) and the Global Fund (MDG6)
- ✦ Most agreed that we should take all the MDG's in holistic manner and not to fragment them into piecemeal format. Such collective approach is vital for our ultimate success in achieving the MDG's.
- ✦ IPA should follow up closely with the Medical Student Group and the Code of Practice for Recruitment of Health Personnel

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**Some Snapshots**

# WHA in Session at Geneva



# Dr. Margaret Chan at the Rostrum



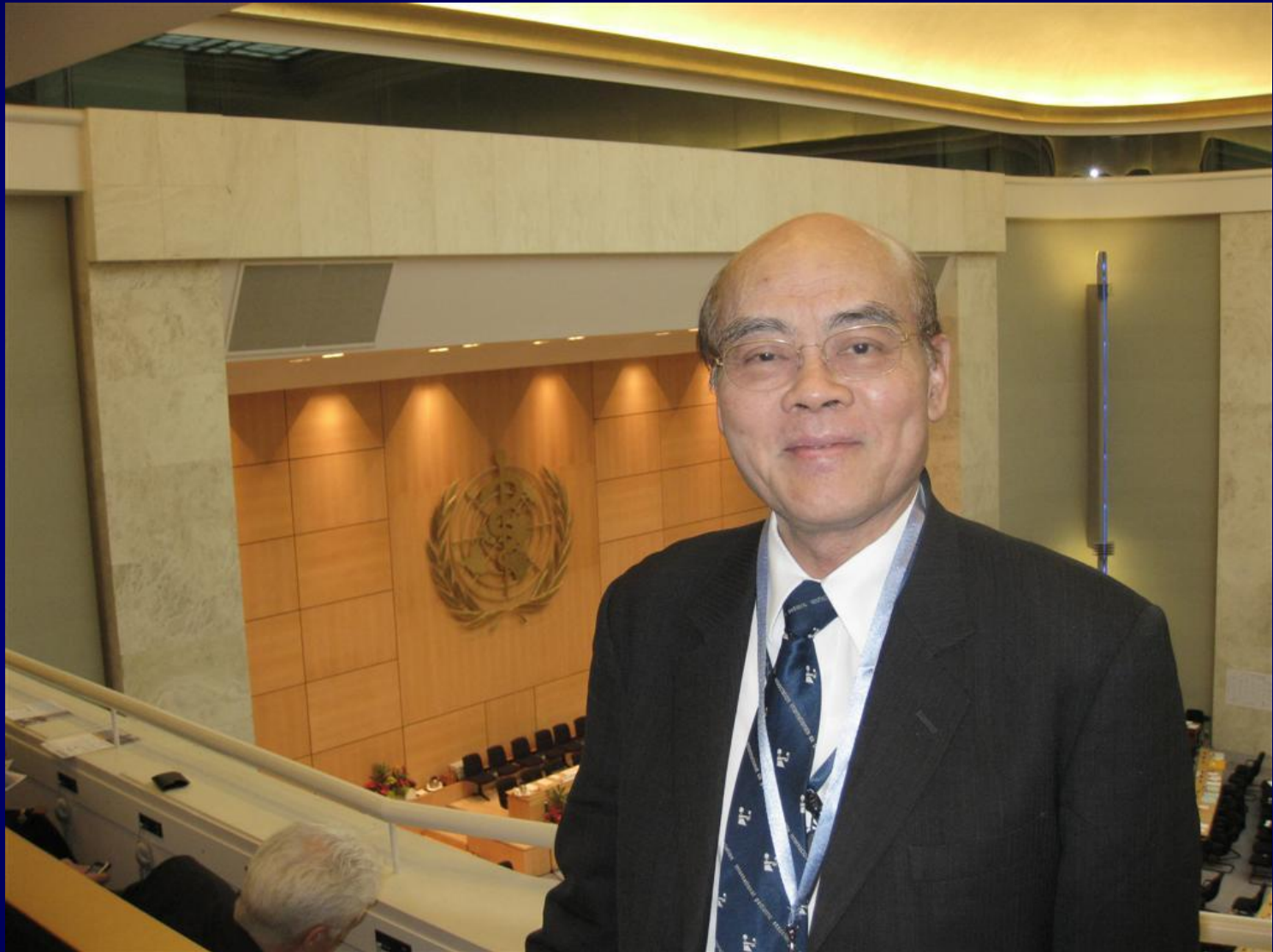
# Invite Speaker on Control of Malaria



# Jeffrey Sachs at the MDG Seminar



# Chok-wan at the WHA 2010



Thank you for your attention!