

**Report to the IPA Standing Committee
on
International Workshop on Child Health Care**

**Miramar Occidental Hotel
Havana, Cuba
28 -29th June 2010**

by Chok-wan CHAN



The Workshop

- ✿ Organizers:
 - ✿ The World Health Organization (WHO)
 - ✿ Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
 - ✿ The Ministry of Health of Cuba
- ✿ Participants: Total: 70
 - ✿ Representatives from 10 Countries from Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Rep Dominicana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay)
 - ✿ Representatives from WHO (Liz Mason & Jose Martines)
 - ✿ Representative from IPA (Chok-wan Chan)
- ✿ Chair of Organizing Committee – Dr. Jorge Hadad (Cuba)
- ✿ Convenor – Dr. Lee Guido Lopez (Cuba)
- ✿ Language – Spanish with English Translations

Demographics about Cuba

- ✿ Cuba, the largest Caribbean island, situates at the entry of the Gulf of Mexico. It is formed by 4195 key islands and occupies surface area of 110,000 sq kilometers.
- ✿ Its nature, diverse and prodigal, sample great variety of plants, animals, and more than 280 beaches, virgin islands, caverns, mountains, forests, plains and marshes.
- ✿ Tourism is the principal source of income. Other important industries are sugar cane, tobacco, nickel, rum, coffee and for some years pharmaceuticals and biotechnologicals.
- ✿ Cuba is on the Tropics of Cancer. The eastern region enjoys a warmer climate than the western areas.
- ✿ Spanish is the national language.

Objectives for the Workshop

1. To improve National Child Health Care Programmes, building upon successful experiences on participating countries
2. To Identify lessons learnt, achievements and challenges
3. To formulate, implement, and evaluate intervention strategies, plans and programmes

Programme for the Workshop

- ★ Review “Report on Cuban Experience in Child Health Care 1959 to 2006”
- ★ Country Presentations
- ★ Simultaneous Workshops
- ★ Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary of “Report on Cuban Experience in Child Health Care 1959 to 2006” (I)

- ✿ The Report is based on Case Study of a research work requested by WHO to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cuba.
- ✿ It is conducted by Dr. Jose Martines, Acting Director of WHO Division for Child Health and Development.
- ✿ The Report divided the 50 years period into 5 stages:
 - ✿ First Stage -1960 to 1969
 - ✿ Second Stage – 1970 to 1979
 - ✿ Third Stage – 1980 to 1989
 - ✿ Fourth Stage – 1990 to 1999
 - ✿ Fifth Stage – 2000 to 2006

Summary of “Report on Cuban Experience in Child Health Care 1959 to 2006” (II)

- ★ The Health indicators used in the Report consist of
 - ★ Child Mortality Rate
 - ★ Under-five Mortality Rate
 - ★ Ratio of under-one children vaccinated against Measles
- ★ Health indicators did vary greatly with the economic, political and environmental background factors at different stages
- ★ However there is one feature which is constantly TRUE, i.e. the Child Health Indicators are better than many industrialized countries with much higher Gross Domestic Products (GDP)

Presentation of Country Experiences

- ✦ All 10 countries are from Latin America
- ✦ Each Country Representative (mostly pediatricians) made a 20 minutes presentation on the health state of children within each of their countries
- ✦ Health indicators vary amongst the countries but two common denominators stand out clearly, i.e. **good passion of health workers** and **caring political will of the governments**

Four Simultaneous Working Groups

1. Development of Mother and Child Health Care Programmes
2. Strengthening of Health Care Systems to improve access to Mother and Child Health Care
3. Promotion of Community-based Interventions
4. Discussion on Cooperation Agreements

The working groups discussion were followed by plenary sessions where results and recommendations from each group were reported and deliberated

Key Message

Vital Factors for Good Child Health

1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
2. Political Will of the Government
3. Legal System
4. Health Policy for the Country
5. Attitude of the Professionals
6. Preventive Medicine
7. Education of the Citizens (Literacy)
8. Health Education
9. Environmental Health
10. Others

Summary and Recommendations from the Workshop

- ✦ Finance (GDP) is not the limiting factor for outcome child health indicators
- ✦ Other factors are equally important
- ✦ Community-base Intervention is essential in rural areas, including Integrated Management of Child Illness (IMCI) and these are currently extended further to the care of the mother
- ✦ Regional and International Collaboration are useful to enhance achievement of the MDG by 2015
- ✦ IPA would coordinate child health activities within the region (ALAPE)

IPA Participation at the Workshop[

- ✿ Chok-wan was invited by WHO as President of IPA
- ✿ My trip and accommodation were all financed by WHO
- ✿ I thank Fernando Dominguez-Dieppa (Cuba) and Hernando Villamizar (Colombia) from the IPA Region ALAPE for their immense contribution to IPA as members of our Standing Committee
- ✿ I actively participated at the Workshop and introduce our action plans focus on
 - ✿ the IPA Programmes deigned for global child health
 - ✿ The IPA Activities and Initiatives for the MDG (GAPP, GAVI, IMCI, PMNCH, Countdown to 2015 and others)
 - ✿ The IPA commitment to Exclusive Breastfeeding
 - ✿ The IPA national programmes (the Champions) for child health
- ✿ IPA will work in close partnership with all key players for international child health

Recommendation to IPA by Chok-wan

- ✿ This is a well organized workshop on child health stressing on the importance of factors affecting child health in a country
- ✿ Money is not the only factor
- ✿ International collaboration is vital and IPA should play active roles in this area
- ✿ There are many fellow pediatricians within IPA who speak Spanish and who do not understand English. IPA should endeavour to use Spanish in our publications including Newsletter etc even in the presence of financial and manpower constraints.
- ✿ I learnt a lot of child health conditions from our colleagues within the Latin America and these are useful for our Programme areas and regional participation
- ✿ The Meeting is highly ethical because there are no commercial sponsorship

International Workshop on Child Health Care

Some Snapshots

Chok-wan and Dr Jorge Hadad (Chairman of Organizing Committee)



Liz Mason and Jose Martines (WHO)



Chok-wan at the Meeting Venue



Chok-wan and Meeting Colleagues at Social Dinner



Chok-wan and Colleagues during Tea Break



National Square at Havana



National Museum at Havana



Havana Beach



Attendance Certificate for Chok-wan



International Workshop on Child Health Care

Thank you for your attention!