APACPH 2018: The Golden Jubilee Meeting

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The 50th Conference of the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) was held in Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia, at the University of Malaysia Sabah in September 2018. In the early years of APACPH, we sometimes held 2 meetings a year as we were getting established, so it is actually our 34th year. From an initial meeting of 4 universities in Honolulu in 1984, we have expanded to 82 member institutions representing the major public health teaching and research institutions in our region. This conference included 161 oral presentations and 200 posters from the 621 registrants.

The theme of the conference was “Moving Forward to Address New Challenges in Regional Health.” The opening addresses, lectures, symposia, and posters reflected the challenges of public health in our region. Many of the sessions included further discussions on meeting the Sustainable Development Goals in our region. While we have made huge advances in health, there is still a long way to go before all of our citizens enjoy a high standard of health. Since 1984, life expectancy in the Western Pacific Region has increased by 10 years to 77 years and in Southeast Asia by 13 years to 70 years. This is great progress, but more needs to be done to increase life expectancy to equal the world leader, the European region at 78 years. In keeping with the mission of APACPH, we should stress that this critical task must be...