



SPRING 2008

WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

FROM THE PBC CHAIR



Greetings! At the Beijing PBC board meeting the terms of David Carpenter as Chair and Donald Kirk as Vice-Chair came to an end. We all owe enormous thanks to both David and Donald for their tireless efforts on behalf of the PBC. The office bearers

elected at the meeting were Peter Sly as Chair, Bob Arnold as Vice-chair and David Carpenter as Treasurer. David just could not stay away and we were pleased to "press-gang" him into remaining in office! I would like to express my personal thanks to David, who was responsible for bringing me into the Environmental Health fraternity and into the PBC. I look forward to maintaining a close working relationship with him. While I hold the position of Chair of the Board of Directors, David will maintain his stewardship over our funds!

For those who don't know me, I am a Paediatric Respiratory Physician with a clinical practice looking after children with asthma, cystic fibrosis or chronic respiratory diseases at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth, Australia. My initial scientific training was in respiratory physiology and I have research interests in measuring lung function in children of all ages. I first realised that I was interested in Environmental Health when David Carpenter invited me to give a presentation to a PBC meeting held in Manila on "Asthma as an environmental disease". I participated in writing the "Manila Statement" and needless to say I was hooked. I have been collaborating with the World Health Organization on Children's Environmental Health for some years and in 2006 successfully developed a WHO collaborating Centre for Research on Children's Environmental Health, located in Perth which I direct. I see this as being complementary to my new role as Chair of the PBC Board of Directors and a chance to extend the reach of the PBC.

At the Board meeting held in Beijing a decision was taken to hold the election for new Board members electronically, involving all members rather than just those who were able to attend the Beijing meeting. This process increases the involvement of all members and is, I believe, a great step forward. The results of the election are announced elsewhere in this newsletter.

A graphic for the 13th International PBC Conference. It features a blue background with white and red text. On the right side, there is a photograph of two black swans swimming in water.

❖ **SAVE THE DATES** ❖
13TH International PBC
Conference
**'Environmental Exposures
in the Era of Climate
Change'**
20-22 November
PERTH, AUSTRALIA

The Beijing meeting was a great success with nearly 200 attendees. David Carpenter arranged for conference presentations to be published in a special supplement to the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. A meeting report including summaries from the various sessions has been posted on the PBC website. I encourage every one to visit the website and look at the report.

Board member, Dr. Gene Peralta, has continued her impressive efforts on behalf of the PBC by representing us at the 1st Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Solid and Hazardous Waste in Singapore February 28-29th. I am very grateful for all Gene does on our behalf and I encourage other members to take on equally active roles in fostering partnerships between the PBC and other organizations and 'wearing a PBC hat' when organizing and attending trainings and meetings.

We are now entering the planning stage for the next two PBC conferences. The next conference will be held in Perth, Australia with tentative dates of November 20-22 2009. The theme of this meeting will be "Environmental Exposures in the Era of Climate Change" and with your help we plan to put together a stimulating and exciting program. The 2011 conference is targeted for Latin America. More details about both conferences will be included in future newsletters.

Many thanks for your continued support of the PBC!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter D. Sly".

Peter D. Sly, M.B.B.S., M.D., D.Sc., FRACP



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PBC ACTIVITIES

PBC 2007 Conference • China • October 2007



Dr. Kirk Smith of UC Berkeley gives a keynote address at PBC 2007 in Beijing.

The Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health (PBC) held its 12th International Conference October 26-29, 2007 at Peking University in Beijing, China. Nearly 200 scientists, engineers, policy makers, students and government representatives representing more than twenty countries participated in the three day meeting. The conference was sponsored by the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, USA; the World Health Organization; the East-West Center, USA; the Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences; the International Copper Association; and Global Environment and Energy in the 21st Century. A pre-conference training workshop on children's environmental health (CEH) was conducted by an international team of experts and was attended by more than 80 participants. Other conference highlights included plenary talks by several world-renowned experts, a lively student session, and excellent technical sessions on such topics as indoor and outdoor air pollution; health effects of heavy metal exposure; hazardous and solid waste remediation and technologies; climate change; sustainability; children's environmental health; persistent organic pollutants; and cultivation, environment and health. More details about the conference, including abstracts and session summaries, can be found on the PBC website at <http://pbc.eastwestcenter.org/>. Many of the PowerPoint

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presentations from the conference are available upon request. Proceedings of the meeting will be published in the near future as a collection of individual articles in a volume of *The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*.



Nearly 200 people from more than 20 countries attended the three day meeting.

Hazardous Wastes Training Workshop • Thailand • January 2008

On January 29 and 30, 2008, PBC Board Member Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour of the University of Alberta, Canada, taught a workshop entitled, "The disposal of hazardous chemical waste generated from the institutional laboratory" at Rajamangala University of Technology Suvarnabhumi, Huntra Center, Phranakhon Si Ayutthaya, Thailand. There were about 40 participants in the workshop, including science faculty from seven Thai Universities and five high school chemistry teachers. To view the program workshop, please visit the PBC website 'News' section.

WHO/UNEP Thematic Working Group on Solid and Hazardous Wastes • Singapore • February 2008

The First Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Solid and Hazardous Waste (TWG SHW) in Singapore was supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in collaboration with National Environment Agency under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Singapore and the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia



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Pacific (UNEP RRCAP). PBC was invited to attend as an international partner supporting the TWG and was represented by Dr. Genandrialine L. Peralta, PBC Board of Director (Philippines). The PBC was also represented by Dr. Peralta during the 1st regional ministerial forum and the 3rd high level meeting in August 2007 in Bangkok.



Group photo of the meeting. Front row, 2nd from left is Dr. Gene Peralta; 4th from right is Mr Hiroki Hashizume, Chair of TWGSHW

The two-day meeting consisted of presentations from member countries on the status of solid and hazardous waste management. International partners such as WHO, UNEP, PBC and OECC described their respective organizations and their related programs and offered their contributions to the TWG. Dr. Peralta gave an overview of PBC and suggested that PBC could support the TWG in the following ways: hosting a TWG meeting; conducting training courses; engaging in collaborative research; conduction joint action projects; providing experts/consultants; and preparing proposals for funding, among other activities.

The TWG SHW work plan is focused on municipal waste, medical waste and e-waste. A checklist of municipal waste management in the member countries with information on good practices for the 3Rs was developed in 2007. A questionnaire on status-quo and issues of medical waste management in the member countries and the results will be compiled in 2008.

Dr Peralta met with representatives of other NGOs, including Mr. Koji Nishimiya of the Overseas Environmental

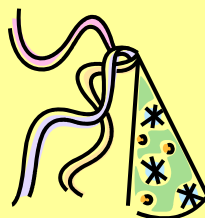
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Cooperation Center, Japan which provides financial support through grants and training courses. Possible collaboration with PBC will be explored.

The second TWG SHW meeting is planned for early October 2008 with the venue to be decided. The objectives of the meeting for health care waste are to present the synthesis report on the status quo and develop regional collective action points. The objectives for the municipal waste are to introduce good practices, identify immediate action points, and discuss regional collective action points.

To view or download the complete TWG meeting report as well as links to the agenda, the TWG website and more, please visit the PBC website.

PUT ON YOUR PBC HAT!



If you are able to 'wear a PBC hat' while giving a training, participating in a meeting or organizing a workshop, or if you see other opportunities to increase PBC's visibility and impact in the region, please let the Secretariat know. We are developing a general PBC PowerPoint presentation for use by board and general members at relevant functions around the region. We will also provide you with PBC brochures for distribution. Also, your participation may be eligible for modest funding by the PBC mini-grant program.

Children's Environmental Health Seminar • Australia • April 2008

The WHO collaborating Centre for Research on Children's Environmental Health, the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and the PBC jointly sponsored a seminar entitled "Lead in Children in Western Australia" on World Health Day (April 7th). This topic was chosen after a recent incident where the port town of Esperance Western Australia was exposed to high levels of lead in the environment resulting from unsafe transport of lead for export. Speakers at the event included Dr. Robin Guttinger, Chief Resident, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children who spoke on the clinical effects of lead exposure on

PBC NEWS

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children and Professor Alison Jones, Professor of Medicine and Clinical toxicology, university of Newcastle who spoke on risk assessment and risk communication strategies.

Graduate Certificate in Children's Environmental Health • Australia • Ongoing

The WHO has recognised that a significant barrier to improving Children's Environmental Health globally is the lack of sufficient education and a sufficiently trained work force in the area. In an attempt to address this deficiency the WHO collaborating Centre for Research on Children's Environmental Health, in conjunction with Curtin University of Technology, Perth has developed a graduate certificate in Children's Environmental Health. This course for credit is delivered as a fully online course and consists of 4 units. The course is designed for those either working in the area or wanting to move into Children's Environmental health. The



course can be done full time in one semester or part time, taking one unit at a time. Further information can be obtained from CEH@curtin.edu.au.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The PBC is delighted to welcome eight new board members elected in early February. They are: Dr. Lilian Corra of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, Argentina; Dr. Budi Haryanto of the University of Indonesia, Depok; Dr. Andrea Hinwood of Edith Cowan University, Australia; Dr. Fujio Kayama of Jichi Medical University, Japan; Dr. Kyoung Woong Kim of the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology; Dr. Conchita San Nicolas Taitano of the Environmental Protection Agency, Guam; Dr. Shinsuke Tanabe of Ehime University, Japan; and Dr. Tao Shu of Peking University, China. More details on their backgrounds and areas of expertise are available on the PBC website.

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PBC MINI-GRANTS

The PBC is continuing its program of providing a limited number of mini-grants to activities in the region that help to achieve PBC goals. The grants are small - US\$150 - \$400 - but can nevertheless play an important role both in providing much-needed resources to small initiatives and in expanding the PBC's visibility in the region. Projects that have received mini-grant funds to date include a training provided to Philippines Dept. of Health professionals in the area of Children's Environmental Health; a symposium organized by board member, David Koh, in Singapore that focused on environmental health and board member Genandrialine Peralta's participation in the Singapore TWG workshop in February of 2008. If you know of a relevant project that might benefit from a PBC mini-grant, please contact the PBC Secretariat.

WEBSITE TRANSLATION

The Secretariat is working with Mr. Luis Jorge Mendoza, a graduate student at the University of Arizona, Tucson, to translate the PBC website into Spanish. Many thanks to Mr. Mendoza for sharing his expertise with the PBC. An abbreviated version of the Spanish website is now up and running.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR IDEAS

Please share your suggestions on additional ways the PBC can participate in dialog and activities that have to do with

environmental health issues in the region.



We also welcome your ideas for fundraising, increasing membership, increasing collaboration with like-minded organizations, and being more effective at increasing awareness and cooperation regarding threats to human health and the environment in the Pacific

Basin region. Finally, email us your ideas on items to include in our quarterly electronic newsletter.