



International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
Asia Pacific Region

The Manifesto of the Union APR

April 29, 2024

Our Objective

We, Union APR, contribute to action which results in progressive reduction in ill-health, death and the adverse social and economic impact from tuberculosis (TB) and other respiratory diseases and its eventual elimination in the Asia Pacific Region.

Our Actions

The Union APR is dedicated to:

1. Promoting the community, education and scientific work of national TB and other lung diseases associations within the Region and coordinate the activities of member associations. It will work with other organizations having similar objectives in this regard
2. Organizing regional TB and lung disease conferences and encouraging and facilitating the exchange of scientific and other information between member associations and individuals
3. Encouraging the creation and continuance of national TB and other lung disease associations in all the countries in the region and their affiliation to the Union; and working with the Institute of The Union in implementing activities that will enhance TB control in the region
4. Promoting interest, understanding and acting in advocacy of TB and respiratory public health problems in general. Mobilizing support for social health and health education in particular.

The APRC 2024 Declaration

Biennially, the Union APR convenes the Asia Pacific Region Conference (APRC) to facilitate the exchange of new knowledge, promote higher quality prevention and care, and share best practices aimed at alleviating the suffering caused by TB and other lung diseases and improving lives.

This year, the 2024 Union APRC in Taipei notes, with concern, that TB remains the leading infectious disease killer (notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19 in 2020-22) and that it is avoidable and curable. There has been underwhelming progress in the overall global and regional TB control compared with global aspirational objectives and targets set in the WHO End TB Strategy, 2015. There has been some recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic, which interrupted many years of accomplishments against TB and Lung Disorders and the capacity to provide suitable Programs.

The conference reported that TB including latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI), and other lung diseases remain at unacceptably high levels. This is also noted in the WHO Global TB Report 2023.

Members: Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (South), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam



The 2024 Union APRC noted the recommendations regarding TB preventive treatment, the unmet needs for new diagnostics, treatment regimens, and post-TB long-term respiratory care, for further operational research to explore more cost-effective ways to translate the research findings to practice at super-high speed, for improved universal health coverage, the social determinants and multi-sectorial action as well as the support for the 50% of TB patients facing catastrophic costs.

The Conference also addressed the non-negligible influences of non-communicable diseases and environmental factors such as tobacco use, and the need for collaborative a framework between TB and other diseases.

The APR Conference still noticed that the funding for research and development of new tools for diagnostics, treatment, prevention for TB, LTBI, and other lung diseases was insufficiently allocated.

We resolve

Having been informed by the knowledge and direction gained from the Union APRC 2024 in Taiwan, from the UN HLM General Assembly Statement 2023, and WHO Global Targets 2023, we resolve to contribute by implementing through communication, collaboration, consensus and advocacy as in our Strategic Plan (2024-2028). We act in support of the existing National Programs and the professional organizations and individuals.

In the next 2 years, we will continue to enhance our conferences as a venue to provide access to global innovations and evidence for local solutions. APR will support locally relevant operational research in the region so as to produce and disseminate evidence and guidance recognizing the uniqueness and diversity in the region.

Signed

Dr. Ming-Chih Yu
APR Conference President
Taipei

Dr. Elizabeth Cadena
President
Union Asia Pacific Region