

# AAMH

Asia Australia Mental Health

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## **2006 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

### **China**

- AAMH members worked with The National Centre for Mental Health China to assist in the development and implementation of an evaluation strategy for their national community mental health program
- A key program supported by the collaboration is the innovative “686” community-based mental health service program involving 60 sites in both urban and provincial areas throughout China who are developing various aspects of community mental health service delivery. A database of over 40,000 new community patients receiving treatment has already been created.
- In June 2006 a further group of 20 mental health leaders from across China came to Melbourne for a lecture and site visit program. This completed a two-year Melbourne-based training program of regional directors and heads of hospitals covering all regions in China.
- AAMH members participated in China’s World Mental Health Day program in Beijing
- A tripartite training program was negotiated between Hong Kong, China and AAMH to develop multi-purpose case managers for China

### **Malaysia**

- The Malaysia-Australia Cooperation in Psychiatry and Mental Health initiative began a 3-stage training program on 22-24 January 2006 in the Genting Highlands Malaysia for 20 Mental Health Professionals and Ministry of Health officials. AAMH members facilitated a three day intensive introductory program. The program was highly rated with participants who had not previously worked in multi-disciplinary teams.
- The leadership of mental health in Malaysia transited both in the Ministry of Health and the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist. AAMH hosted a delegation of the new leadership in November 2006
- Training occurred in Malaysia and Australia throughout the year for Malaysian mental health professionals facilitated by AAMH staff

### **Korea**

- The second annual meeting of the Seoul-Melbourne International Collaboration in Mental Health Program, an AAMH initiative, occurred on Monday 20th March as part of the Seoul International Mental Health congress. Seven AAMH personnel been took leading roles in the proceedings and were hosted by the Seoul partners.



- The second stage of the tripartite training occurred in Guangzhou from 13th – 17th March, 2007. This stage involved training approximately 200 mental health professionals from 80 districts in China in the principles and application of case management.
- The next stage of the project will see many of these participants attending case management clinical placements in either Hong Kong or Melbourne over coming months.

### **Mental Health in Disasters Project**

- Asia-Australia Mental Health is being supported by AusAID to work with Peking University (National Institute of Mental Health) to develop culturally sensitive guidelines for protecting the mental health of children post-disasters. The project stems from the global need to address the effects of natural and man-made disasters on the mental health, not just physical health, of the most vulnerable.
- On 15th March 2007 a meeting was convened in Guangzhou involving Chinese experts in disaster mental health for children and Asia-Australia mental health personnel. As a result of this meeting, a strategy for devising key guidelines for mental health first aid for children in disasters was developed to be implemented over the next twelve months.

### **Other projects**

- A group of mental health administrators and clinicians will come to Melbourne for site visits and training in community mental health

### **Malaysia**

- The Malaysian program of human resource development and training will continue throughout 2007 in the planned phase 2 and phase 3 of the program.

### **Korea**

- The third annual meeting of the collaboration will occur in Seoul in April in conjunction with the WPA Regional Meeting.
- Training for Korean mental health clinicians will continue in Melbourne.

### **Japan**

- An ongoing program of formal and informal exchanges in mental health development will continue.

### **Thailand**

- A meeting with the Mental Health Department, Ministry of Public Health is planned in April to explore more formal collaborative programs.

### **Asia Pacific Mental Health Network for Emergencies**

- Website will be launched.
- New project based in China will commence.

### **Asia-Pacific Community Mental Health Development project**

- Meeting of the international advisory group will be held in WPA Regional Meeting in Seoul in April, to prepare for the formal presentation and consensus meeting in Melbourne at the WPA International Congress.
- The second publication from the project will be launched.

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## **CONTACT ASIA-AUSTRALIA MENTAL HEALTH**

TEL: +61 3 9288 3685

FAX: +61 3 9288 4147

EMAIL: [bronwen.merner@svhm.org.au](mailto:bronwen.merner@svhm.org.au)

WEB: <http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/myer/index.html>