



## International Journal of Gerontology

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### Preface

## Words from the President of IAGG Asia Oceania Region

The highest percentage of people aged 65 years old or more is in Asia, i.e., 22.8%, according to the United Nations statistics published in 2017. The megatrend of aging has already been addressed in nearly every discipline of medicine, not just in other industries. In line with the World Health Organization campaign of “Towards a Decade of Healthy Aging 2020–2030”, a sustainable and appropriately trained multidisciplinary workforce is one of the key essentials to help align health systems to serve the needs of older people. This places the highest priority for Asia/Oceania International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics to support the capacity building of all members of the workforce related to the care of older people.

The 10<sup>th</sup> IAGG Asia Oceania Congress, held in Thailand in 2015, had brought together 1,113 delegates from 47 countries to share, learn, create networking as well as experience the warm friendship within our academic communities. The continuing success of the 11<sup>th</sup> IAGG Asia Oceania Congress held in Taipei, Taiwan, would re-iterate the great demands of sustained research, innovation, education and policy commitment. We definitely wish to see you all as well as our younger generation to fully participate the 12<sup>th</sup> IAGG Asia Oceania Congress in the next 4 years.

The initiatives of IAGG Asia Oceania Region, with the supports from IAGG, have been achieved over the last 4 years. The Master Class on Aging (MCA) in Bangkok 2018 and in Manila 2019 had been

a great success. The upcoming MCA are scheduled to be held in Malaysia and Singapore next year. Furthermore, the IAGG successfully recruited three new country members this year, i.e., Indonesian Geriatrics Society, Sri Lanka Association of Geriatric Medicine and Nepalese Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics. The supporting activities for student and early career researchers are also actively provided by the organizing committee of the 11<sup>th</sup> IAGG Asia Oceania Congress.

Since gerontology and geriatrics are relatively new compared to other academic disciplines, our relentless effort to organize the international venues is one of the key strategies to ensure harmony and unity between us to achieve our goal of “Active Aging”. I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the organizing committee in Taipei. With the great effort of all members of the team, I am sure that this congress is going to create another success in gerontology and geriatrics within our region and the world.

We are stronger if we work together. Cheer !!

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