

NDAP Hosts the 4th ICD in Manila, Philippines

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It is with great pride that the Nutritionist-Dietitians' Association of the Philippines (NDAP) hosted the 4th Asian Congress of Dietetics (ACD) from April 23 to 26, 2006. The Philippine International

Convention Center (PICC) in Manila became the convergence zone of 853 nutrition professionals from different cultures in the Asia Pacific region.



Country Representatives to the 4th ACD in Manila, 2006.

L-R: Dr. Demetria Bongga (Congress Chair), Dr. Chwang Leh-chii (Taiwan), Susan Lui (Hong Kong), Murni Prakoso (Indonesia), Dr. Teiji Nakamura (Japan), Kwak Dong-Kyung (Korea), Velona Corpus (Asian Dietetic awardee), Nilofer Safdar (Pakistan), Sunard Taechangam (Thailand) and Dr. Corazon Barba (Philippines)

The theme of the 4th ACD is “Nutrition and Dietetics in a Borderless Society” which opened the limitless possibilities of the profession to a society without borders. The Congress aimed to provide the participants from Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, Pakistan, Malaysia, Korea, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Australia and the Philippines with: 1) an advanced awareness of the scientific advances and issues in nutrition and dietetics; 2) an experience of camaraderie among fellow dietitians and strengthen bonds with old and new friends; and 3) the chance to chart new directions for Asian dietitians in an increasingly borderless region.

Leading the Congress was Dr. Demetria C. Bongga (Congress Chair) and Dr. Corazon VC. Barba (NDAP President), who believed that the Congress

would be a catalyzer for the Asian ND professionals to respond to nutritional challenges and issues through a regional, strengthened collaboration using technological advancements in the knowledge management area.

The 4th ICD focused on nutrition and dietetic issues towards a realistic convergence in the practice of the profession in the Asian region. Topics such as harmonization of growth and nutrition standards; the dietetics curriculum; healthy lifestyles and food choices in the light of the increasing borderlessness of food production and consumption, and the integration of cultures; food and national security in Asia; updates on the dietary management of non-communicable diseases; developments on Nutrigenomics and health; and other recent trends in the profession.

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4th ACD Overall Chair Dr. Demetria Bongga (seated extreme left) with country representatives of the AFDA

A host of international speakers, including respected dietitians and researchers shared their recent work and best practices in the advancement of dietetics during the plenary sessions, concurrent symposia and workshops, free communication sessions and exhibits. Aside from the technical sessions, participants, particularly the first-timers in Manila were offered tours at cost which they can enjoy such as city tour, shopping and food tour, spa experience, hospital tour, and out of Manila destinations.

The successful hosting of the ACD in Manila has shown that the ND profession has attained higher professional relevance both in Asia and in the international arena. Filipino dietitians including physicians and other food and nutrition professionals presented 38 papers and 28 posters in the technical program. In the closing ceremony, the ACD flag was handed to next ACD host country Thailand by NDAP President Dr. Barba. After chairing the Congress in 2006 Dr. Bongga will assume the Presidency of AFDA until the conclusion of the 5th ACD in 2010.