The 3rd West Pacific Regional Conference on Public Health  
in Denpasar, Bali/Indonesia 16-18 November 2011

After conferences in Beijing (2009) and Tokyo (2010) the 3rd Regional Conference on Public Health in the Pacific region was organised by the WFPHA Liaison office in Beijing together with the Indonesian Public Health Association, the World Health Organisation and the National Institute of Health and Research Development of Indonesia. The general theme was “Health Research and Development to Address Health Inequality”. Close to 900 public health professionals attended the event which was honoured by the presence of the Minister of Health personally. 22 invited speakers, 38 oral sessions and 110 poster sessions covered topics like “Health Resources to Achieve Universal Coverage”, “Communicable & Non-communicable Diseases”, “Maternal and Child Health”, “Environmental Health” etc. Foreign participants came from China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and in addition from Germany, Iran, Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria, the United States and the United Kingdom. On the first day 3 workshops with together more than 50 participants took place on WHO Health Mapper, Public Health in Emergencies and Urban Health (organised by the WHO Kobe Centre, Japan). The very successful workshop on Urban Health will probably be repeated at the occasion of the 13th World Congress on Public Health in Addis Ababa. The business meeting prepared by the WFPHA Office in Beijing agreed on changing the name of the office to Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and the collaborative network to “Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Public Health”. The 4th Conference will take place in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2013. The president of WFPHA Prof. Ulrich Laaser encouraged the member associations to strengthen their links for the implementation of common projects and their standing in the global arena. He also noted that a condition for success is a fair and effective cooperation between the government (i.e. the Ministries of Health and of Education), the academic institutions for training and research as well as the professional Public Health Associations. Furthermore he recommended to link with the ASEAN cooperation pointing to the example of the recently established African Federation of Public Health Associations with their reference to the African Union. In conclusion the conference is considered a great success inducing even bigger expectations for the future as regards the coming closer to each other of the Pacific nations.