

## Cancer Control in the Asian Pacific -A UICC-ARO Overview

Malcolm A Moore

*UICC Asian Regional Office, Asian Pacific Journal of  
Cancer Prevention / Asian Pacific Organization for  
Cancer Prevention*



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The Asian Pacific, encompassing North- and South-west, Central, South, South-east, Pacific and North-east regions, is a gigantic area including almost two thirds of the worlds population. Its burden of cancer, of both infectious and metabolic etiology, is immense. Through the cancer registries operating in the Asian-Pacific we know at least approximately what cancers are most prevalent and where. We have a very good knowledge of the risk factors. However, we face huge gaps regarding clinical epidemiology and actual practical measures to most efficiently reduce the human and economic suffering. For effective control, the scientists and clinicians of the region have a particular responsibility to coordinate their efforts in a fashion that is commensurate with the size of the problem. That is the rationale for the existence of the UICC-ARO and the APOCP/APJCP and the reason for my involvement in the present conference. It is also the background to the totally novel idea of using the 20th APCC to establish working groups for epidemiology/registration, clinical trials of anti-cancer agents and the major types of neoplasms, to build on the long history of the Asian Pacific Federation of Organizations for Cancer Control and hopefully set it on a new course. The goals set forth by the President, Hideyuki Akaza, are of paramount importance. The fact that financial and geographical constraints means that we have less than optimal distributions of working group chairs and vice-chairs should not distract us from using this unique opportunity to forge relationships and set up an infrastructure capable of making real contributions to cancer control across this giant segment of the globe. The onus is on ourselves to make the 20th APCC a resounding success.