

## Note from the Editor

We are delighted to bring the news and activities of the newly established Asian Population Association (APA) to you. This is the first issue of the APA Newsletter which presents a brief history as well as scientific meetings and future activities of the association. The Newsletter shall be published periodically to update all members and readers about the activities and news of the association. APA Newsletter is also available online at the APA website. Your views on the Newsletter as well as your support for the APA are greatly appreciated.

## THE ASIAN POPULATION ASSOCIATION

**History:** Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent. With almost four billion people, it is home to more than 60% of the world's current population, including the two largest national populations; China and India. Asia is also the center of some of the fastest sustained economic growth rates in the world as well as some of the most intractable problems of poverty. It is home to several language families and many language isolates. Indeed, Asia is both diverse and dynamic in terms of population growth trends. There are many emerging population issues having significant impacts on the future of the world's population as they pose major challenges to communities and local governments across the region. Thus, there is a great need for scientific studies of population which can be translated into policy actions in countries with diverse socio-demographic settings.

After nearly three years in the making, the APA finally took root in the form of an online forum in 2007. Many distinguished scholars contributed to the online discussion resulting in the formation of the Establishment Committee (EC) of the APA. In December 2007, the first meeting of the EC was held at the Department of Demography of the University of Tehran in Tehran, Iran, where the interim constitution was drafted and the activities of the APA were planned.

**Aims:** The aim of APA is to create greater awareness of the diversity in the region among scholars from different Asian countries, and to facilitate the building of collaborations among these scholars. The association will be responsible for promoting research, sharing knowledge, developing the capacity of population institutions in the region, and engaging in advocacy and policy dialogue to advance the development agenda in the region.



*First meeting of the EC, University of Tehran, December 2007. Left to right : Baochang Gu, Moneer Alam, Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi (EC Chair), Mehtab Karim, Bhassorn Limanonda, Terence H. Hull, Mohammad Abdel-Ahad (UNFPA Representative)*



*Inauguration of the Establishment Committee of the APA, University of Tehran, December 2007*

The association was later registered in Bangkok and the Secretariat set up at the College of Population Studies of Chulalongkorn University. A nominations committee was also constituted to identify distinguished scholars from the region to contest the first election of APA for various council positions. During September-October 2008, APA successfully conducted an online election in which nearly 66 percent of the 578 eligible registered members participated. Both the process and outcome of the election have resulted in having scholars with creditable academic records on APA's council. The new council met in Bangkok in February 2009 and planned the future activities of the APA. More information can be found from the APA website: <http://www.apa.cps.chula.ac.th>.

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## **APA SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES**

The first APA workshop on the **Emerging Population Issues in Asia** was held at the Department of Demography, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tehran on 3 December 2007. Members of the Establishment Committee presented papers on various population issues in the region.



*Participants of the second APA workshop, June 2008, Bangkok*

The second APA workshop on **Hopes for the 2010 Census Round in Asia: The National Challenges and Regional Collaboration** was held in Bangkok on 3 June 3rd 2008 with the funding support of Ford and UNFPA. Professor Terence Hull was the organizer and raised funds for the meeting. The Workshop was attended by around 30 experts from Asian countries who discussed the problems and potentials of census data collection. The Workshop was timely and appropriate and the Association began its contribution to scientific knowledge with a consideration of census procedures and products.

### ***Collaboration with other population associations:***

The council of the APA discussed collaborations with other national, regional and international population associations. Following are few examples of APA collaborations with other associations:

### ***APA Session at the IUSSP Conference:***

The APA session on: **Changing Demographic Landscape in Asia** will be held on Thursday October 1, 2009 at the 26th IUSSP International Population Conference 2009 in Marrakech, Morocco. Professors Baochang Gu and Terence Hull are the Chair and Discussant of the session. The following papers will be presented at the session: Below-Replacement Fertility in East Asia: Patterns, Factors and Policy Implication (Noriko Tsuya, Minja K. Choe and Feng Wang); Demographic Changes, Aging and Consumption

Poverty: An Exploration of South Asian Nations with Special Reference to India (Moneer Alam); Demographic Changes in West and Central Asia: Contradictory Transitions (Youssef Courbage), and Changing Marriage Patterns in Asia (Gavin W. Jones).

### ***APA and PAA Collaborations:***

Professor John Casterline, Chair of the International Outreach Committee of the Population Association of America has offered to provide support in organizing joint meetings at the APA and PAA meetings. An APA session will be organized at the 2010 PAA Annual Meeting. The PAA has offered to provide support to APA members whose papers are selected for presentation. PAA has also offered to provide financial and technical support for a training workshop which will be held preceding the 2010 APA Conference in New Delhi, India. The details of these activities will be announced in due course.

### ***The first APA Conference***

The Council has decided to hold the first APA Conference in New Delhi during 14-19 November 2010. The APA Conference's Scientific Committee comprises of Professors Leela Visaria, Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, Terence Hull, Abbas Bhuiya. Dr. Shireen Jejeebhoy acts as the convenor.

The Conference announcement will be made in September 2009. The deadline for submission of abstract and papers will be during November-December 2009, and the results will be announced in March 2010. Full papers will be uploaded on the APA Conference Website in July 2010.

### ***Tentative Themes for 2010 Conference:***

- Fertility-level, trends, determinants
- Mortality, longevity, morbidity, health
- Infant and Child Health
- Reproductive Health
- International Migration
- Internal Migration and urbanization
- Population aging and intergenerational Relations
- Labour Force, Employment and Education
- Adolescent life course in Asian countries
- Environment and population
- Poverty and development
- Household, marriage and family
- Gender Issues
- Social norms and son preference
- Demographic data and methods

(continued)

Deadlines for the conference:

Announcement of the conference: October 2009

Deadline for abstracts: 31 December 2009

Announcement of accepted abstracts: 28 February 2010

Uploading the full papers: 15 August 2010

### ***Formation of the APA Scientific Committees***

The main purpose of the APA is to promote an understanding of the characteristics, trends and impacts of human population in Asia. The Association is dedicated to fostering collaborative work among members across the region, in order to both develop skills, methods and theories, and to produce comparative and authoritative studies that will be of use to policy makers and planners. The task of supporting the members in this endeavor will fall to Scientific Committees, each focused on a priority area of research. The Committees will seek out funding for meetings and publications, and will work to ensure the involvement of a broad cross-section of the membership.

### ***APA General meeting at the IUSSP Conference***

The first general meeting of the APA will be held at 2009 IUSSP Conference in Marrakech. The meeting will take place in Room “Fes2A” of the Congress center between 19:00-21:00 on 1 October 2009. The APA President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Council members shall report on various activities of the APA. All members of APA and the conference participants are invited to attend the meeting and discuss their views on the future activities of the APA.

### ***Meeting with the UNFPA Regional Office***

On 9 July 2009, Professor/s Mohammad Jalal Abbasi Shavazi, Aphichat Chamratrithirong, Terence Hull and Bhassorn Limanonda met Ms. Nobuko Horibe, the Regional Director, and staff of the UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok. At the meeting the APA current and future activities as well as the possibilities of future collaborations between the APA and the UNFPA Regional Office were discussed. The APA proposal for funding support for the activities planned for 2009-2010 including the 1st APA Conference was submitted for consideration.

On 14 July 09, Professor/s Leela Visaria, Moneer Alam and Shireen Jejeebhoy had a meeting with the UNFPA Representative in India and discussed possible collaborations. The UNFPA-India has already made commitment for partial support in organizing the 2010 conference. The Organizing Committee of the conference is seeking fund from various organizations.

### **THE FIRST APA COUNCIL MEMBERS (2009-2010):**

**President:** Leela Visaria (India)

**Vice President:** Mohammad JalalAbbasi-Shavazi (Iran)

**Secretary General:** Anthony TPL Abeykoon (Sri Lanka)

**Treasurer:** Aphichat Chamratrithirong (Thailand)

**Council Members:**

Moneer Alam (India)

Abbas Bhuiya (Bangladesh)

Terence H. Hull (Australia)

Shireen Jejeebhoy (India)

Naohiro Ogawa (Japan)

**Executive Secretary:** Bhassorn Limanonda (Thailand)



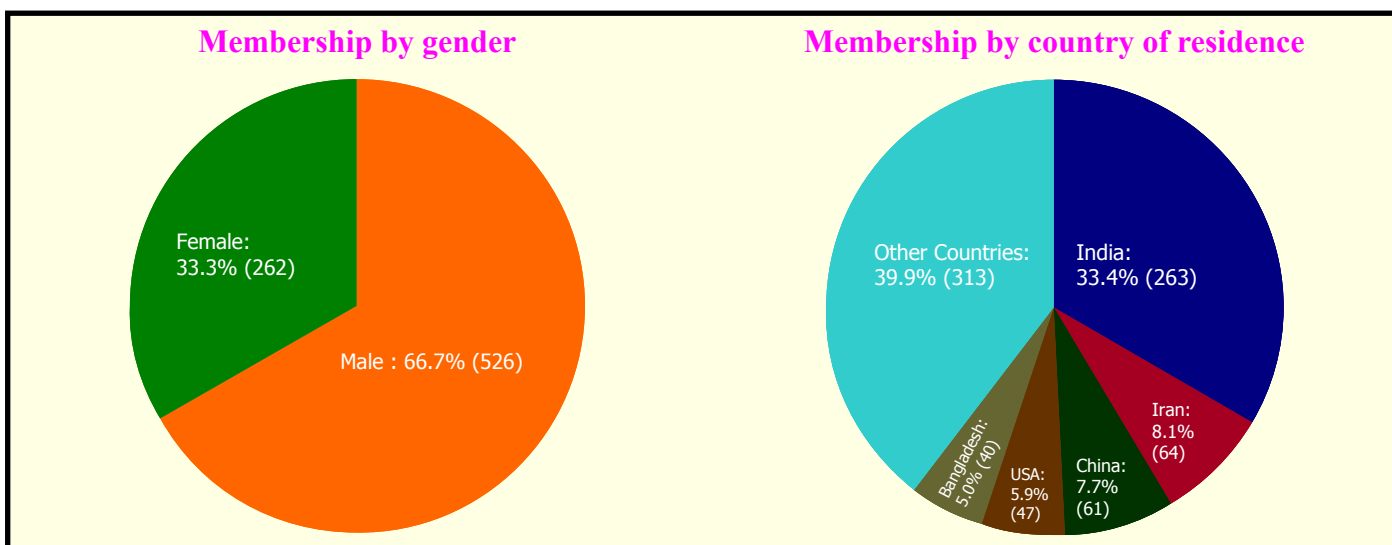
*First meeting of the APA Council, 7-8 February 2009, Bangkok  
Left to right:*

*Sit front row: Anthony TPL Abeykoon, Leela Visaria, Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi*

*Stand: Abbas Bhuiya, Shireen Jejeebhoy, Aphichat Chamratrithirong, Naohiro Ogawa, Moneer Alam, Bhassorn Limanonda, Terence H. Hull*

**APA Membership**

Membership Drive Committee of the APA encourages applications from population professionals and graduate students in all Asian countries and from professionals living outside Asia who research the population of Asia or individuals Asian countries. As of July 31, the APA has a total of 788 members (632 regular members and 156 students). The breakdown of members by sex, type of members and country of residence is shown below.



**Membership Fee:**

The new Council has decided to continue with the FREE membership throughout 2009. Interested scholars are invited to visit the APA website (<http://www.apa.cps.chula.ac.th>) and join the APA. An annual membership fee of \$US 25 will start from the first of January 2010.

**Extract from the APA Constitution**

*The Asian Population Association is a non-profit association of population specialists with the aim of drawing the attention of governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the general public to population issues in Asia and to promote demography as a science.*

*The Association organizes regional and specialized conferences, coordinates the work of Scientific Committees and Working Groups and documents research output through a wide variety of publication formats.*

**Membership:**

*Membership in the Association is open to all persons who have made contributions to the scientific study of population issues through their research, teaching, writing, or other activities; who support the goals of the Association; and who pay dues.*

**Officers and Council**

- *The Officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-General and a Treasurer; and shall be elected by the membership.*
- *The Council of the Association shall consist of the four Officers and five other members, all to be elected in the manner laid down in Article 9.*
- *The Council will be elected by the membership as a whole every two years.*



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 Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok Thailand  
 The Secretariat of the Asian Population Association (APA)

All suggestions and comments should be sent to Prof. Bhasorn Limanonda, Executive Secretary or to Mr. Anuwat Watcharaprapa, the APA Webmaster ([krungrat@chula.ac.th](mailto:krungrat@chula.ac.th)).