

# APA NEWSLETTER

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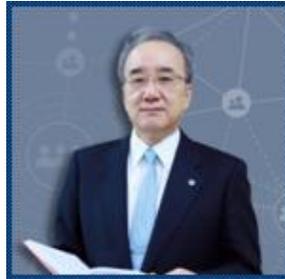
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## Message from the President



Season's Greetings.

Tempus fugit, time flies, the year of 2017 is coming to an end and we celebrate the arrival of the new year. In the past year, APA has been working to promote the scientific activities and prepare for the 4th APA Conference in Shanghai. I am much pleased to report that the three scientific groups are making notable progress in promoting their research topics. Further, the recent activities in Belt and Road have attracted much attention from within and outside China. Thus, it is important to give full consideration to how this policy is affecting the demographic changes in each country in terms of the formulation of social and public policies

We are also delighted to receive enthusiastic response to the 4th APA Conference. The Scientific Committee is working diligently on the 1830 abstracts from more than 45 countries. Review process is under way and we shall inform the presenters on their submissions in early January. However, unfortunately, limited financial support will be provided to the outstanding participants with financial needs. Nonetheless, we look forward to meeting all of you in July.

In this newsletter, Prof Dr. Md. Aminul Haque wishes to share with us the tragedy of a million Rohingya refugees who have recently

escaped to Bangladesh. Indeed it is a challenge to any country to suddenly have to face the predicament of such a magnitude. Hopefully every stakeholder in the region can identify ways to provide effective mitigating measures to avoid and lessen further hardships.

This year also marks a great loss to our academic community in the sudden passing away of Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). I cannot emphasize enough the grave sadness felt by all who have known his leadership in championing human rights and promoting population research. On behalf of the Asian Population Association and our members, I am especially grateful for his support to our organization since its early years of development. Our prayers go to his family and friends, and we mourn with them for the loss of a great leader and humanitarian.

I am also glad to report that collaboration with other population organizations has been successful this year. APA was well represented at the PAA 2017 in Chicago and the IUSSP Conference in Cape Town. APA invited sessions will also be included in the scientific programmes at the EPC 2018 in Brussels and the PAA 2018 in Denver.

Finally, I would like to underscore our need to receive financial support from each of you through payment of your APA membership fees. We need both your academic and financial support to make APA move forward effectively. Our joint efforts will better the lives of not only our people in Asia but also those around the globe.

December, 2017

Doo-Sub Kim  
President, Asian Population Association

# The Rohingyas

Professor Dr. Md. Aminul Haque, the University of Dhaka

The Rohingyas living in the Rakhine state of Myanmar are considered to be the “world’s most persecuted minority” [1]. For decades, they have been stripped of citizenship, facing institutionalized discrimination, state-backed oppression and systematic alienation. A recent military crackdown in the Rakhine State in August 2017 has forced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya men, women and children to flee to the neighboring Bangladesh [1, 2].



With the recent influx of nearly about a million Rohingya refugees, Bangladesh is currently experiencing the worst refugee crisis in its 46 years of independence [2].

The Rohingya people arriving in Bangladesh are exhausted, starving, and sick after the perilous journeys they took for days from their villages in Myanmar to the coasts of Bangladesh. They crossed jungles, hills and rivers carrying what little they could from home, sometimes they even carried their feeble old parents. They needed immediate access to food, drinking water, health care and sanitation facilities. Additionally, issues like immunization for preventable diseases, reproductive health services, prevention from waterborne, vector borne and foodborne diseases, referrals to health facilities, protection from human trafficking, sexual and gender based

violence have called for critical humanitarian attention [3, 4].

An estimate shows that among 91,556 adolescent Rohingya girls and women, 54,633 are pregnant or lactating mothers. Many adolescent girls and women are suffering from sexually transmitted diseases (STD) due to the sexual violence committed on them. They are traumatized by the sudden disruption in their normal life and loss of their homeland. Most alarming is the vulnerable condition of the Rohingya children fleeing to Bangladesh and living in the makeshift camps there. They are facing dangers of trafficking, child marriage and child labor [8]. A UNICEF estimate shows that 60 percent of the Rohingya refugees are children, and 14,000 of those children are at risk of dying from malnutrition. The overcrowded situation in the makeshift camps in Bangladesh has further triggered an outbreak of various contagious diseases: measles, dengue, chikungunya and malaria. In addition, there is a high risk of acute respiratory diseases among Rohingya children under the age of five. Tuberculosis, dysentery, cholera, HIV, HEV, leptospirosis and skin diseases are also feared to be widespread among the vulnerable Rohingya people[5]. Disease is their new enemy, and many of them are malnourished and have poor immune systems [3, 6, 7].



Photos: Mohammad Ponir Hossian/Reuters

## The Rohingyas - Continued

The mass influx of the Rohingyas has exhausted both the health services and the cramped living conditions, causing serious public health risks [3]. Bangladesh finds it challenging to efficiently handle such a human disaster owing to the country's dense population, inadequate infrastructure and scarcity of resources. Religious leaders in countries like Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Canada and other international organizations have extended their support in different capacities to help the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Nevertheless, these are inadequate. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has

already flagged a five-point proposal on the ongoing Rohingya crisis in the 2017 UN General Assembly session: Myanmar must stop the violence unconditionally, fact-finding mission should be sent to Myanmar, all civilians must be protected in Myanmar irrespective of their religion, ensuring sustainable return of all displaced Rohingyas, and recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission Report be implemented immediately [9]. Additionally, what is needed most, is the global community to come forward to help the humanitarian crisis effectively and save humanity.

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## The 4th APA Conference 2018

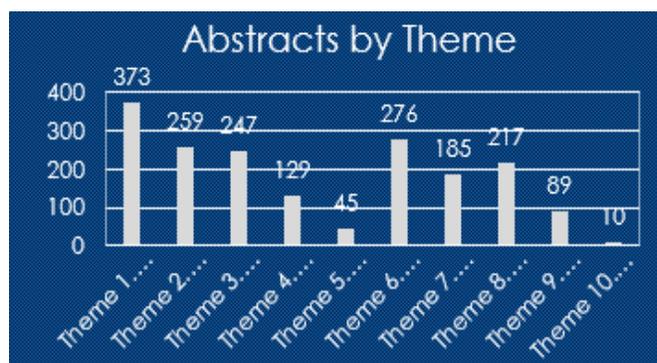
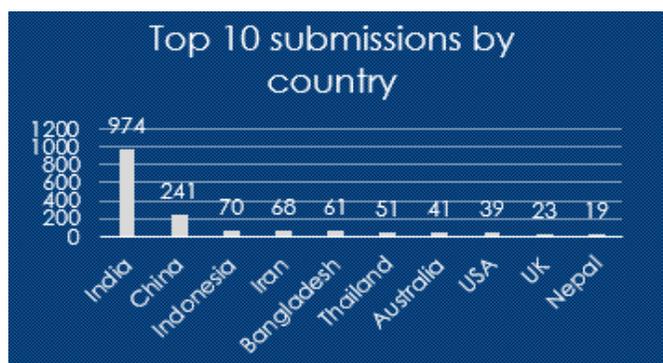
The 4th APA Conference will be held from 11-14 July 2018 in Shanghai, China. APA conference welcomes all participants from all over the globe, be they students or professionals.

After an enormous response, this year we have received 1,830 abstracts. All abstracts are currently under review and the results will be announced on APA website on 10th January 2018.

APA will also provide limited scholarships for outstanding participants from low income

countries who cannot attend the meeting due to financial hardship. If you need financial support, more details will be available in early February. Registration for the APA conference will be opened in February, for an early bird registration fee, please ensure that you register before 15th May 2018.

To arrange for special sessions and booths or any enquiries related to the 4th APA conference, kindly contact us at [secretariat@asianpa.org](mailto:secretariat@asianpa.org)



Activities	Dates
Announcement of the selected abstracts	10 January 2018
Registration	5 February 2018
APA Scholarship application opens	10 February 2018
APA Scholarship application closes	25 February 2018
Announcement of the selected scholarship	30 March 2018
End of Early Bird rate registration fee	15 May 2018
Conference	11 – 14 July 2017

## APA Scientific Activities

Three Scientific Groups were approved in July 2016. They included (1) SG on Demographic, Economic and Social Implications on the Changing Age Structure in Asian Countries, chaired by Professor Leela Visaria and co-chaired by Professor Baochang Gu; (2) SG on One-Belt One-Road strategy: Implications on population dynamics and socio-ecological impact, chaired by Professor Leiwen Jiang; and (3) SG on Population Aging and the Family in the Asian Context, chaired by Professor Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan.

SG on Demographic, Economic and Social Implications on the Changing Age Structure in

Asian Countries has announced the call for papers in July 2016 and received 53 abstracts. SG on One-Belt One-Road strategy: Implications on population dynamics and socio-ecological impact, has announced the call for papers in October 2016. After an enormous response, the first workshop on the One-Belt-One-Road strategy and its implications on international migration and socio-ecological changes was successfully held on October 11-12, 2017 in Shanghai.

Our third SG on Population Aging and the Family in the Asian Context, a call for papers will be announced shortly.

## APA Council Meeting in China

On 20th of February 2017, an APA Council Member Meeting was held at Shanghai University, China. The president and council members exceedingly appreciated the support and warm welcome by Professor Leiwan Jiang, the director of ADRI and member of the NOC of the 4th APA Conference 2018. The discussions included in the meeting were reports on the collaborations with other associations, financial reporting, update on the scientific group activities and the most current information in regard to membership.

The president and council members also went on a final site visit for the 4th APA Conference in 2018. The council members visited a few locations/buildings for the sites of the APA conference. The council members also had a chance to visit a few accommodation sites around the university for budgeted participants, and also in the city where travelling to the conference location is most convenience.



## Transforming APA Website – Becoming More Members-Oriented



We are shifting APA website to be more member-focused, increasing the activities on the website, proactively searching and providing for information in and around Asia.

We are proactively searching for job opportunities, not only for the experts and specialists, but also for our student members as well. News is being updated frequently for our members to never fall behind on the current issues and trends. Many of the future conferences, seminars and workshops in Asia are also listed on our website so that our members are aware of what is happening in Asia.

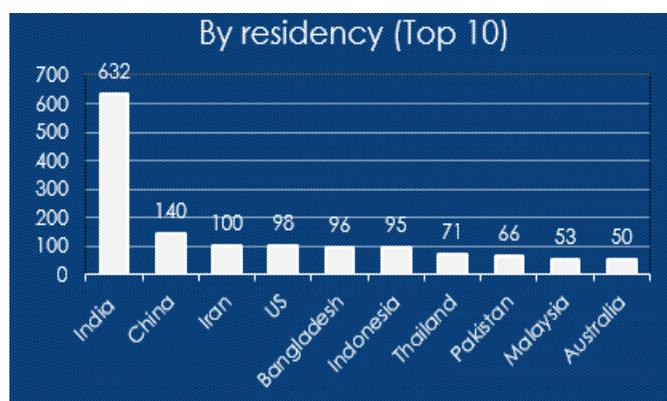
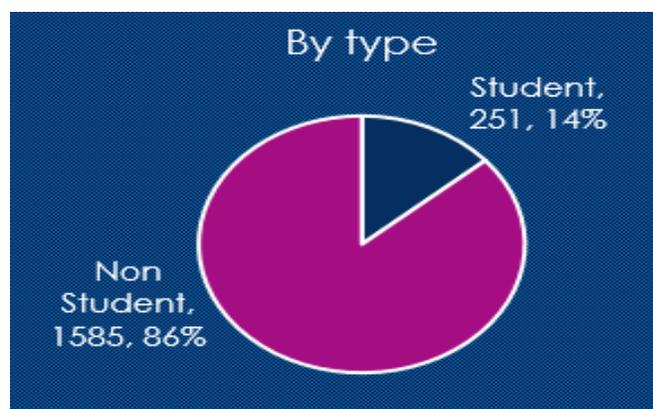
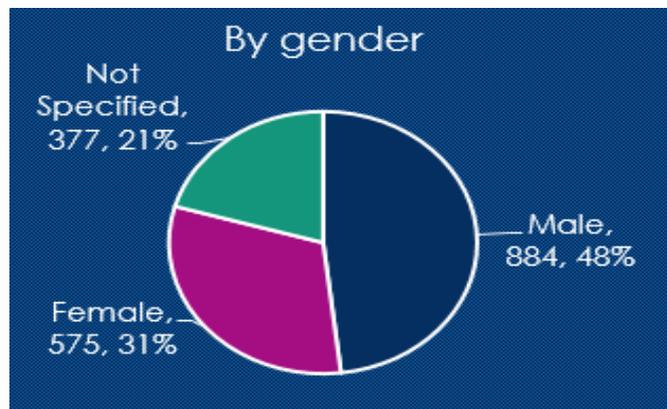
A new section of Population Live, showing a video clip on APA interested themes is being updated monthly to promote issues, ideas and new inspiration for our members.

Live Chat is being used to ease communication and understanding of our needs.

## Forthcoming Conferences

- 1 - 3 February 2018 | Global Conference on Integrated Care 2018 (GCIC 2018), Singapore
- 22 - 23 February 2018 | The 2nd International Conference on Non Communicable Diseases 2018, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 21 - 23 March 2018 | Workshop Hosted by IUSSP Scientific Panel on New and Emerging family Forms around the Globe, Barcelona, Spain
- 22 - 26 March 2018 | The 7th International Conference on Social Science and Humanity 2018, Fukuoka, Japan
- 27 - 28 April 2018 | UC Berkeley Migration Conference, California, USA
- 18 - 19 June 2018 | The 2nd International Conference on Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies 2018, Rome, Italy
- 11 - 14 July 2018 | The 4th APA Conference, Shanghai, China
- 24 - 27 July 2018 | The 25th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Paris, France

## APA Membership Update



Contributions by APA members enhance our activities and provide support to continue to foster researches, intensify collaborations, and safeguard and upgrade key data collection efforts. We encourage all members to pay their dues for 2018. Online payment is possible for members through three easy and convenient channels: 1) Paypal; 2) credit card payment; and 3) money transfer.

If you hold a student membership but have graduated, please update your profile and join us as a regular member to support other student members, the same way you have been previously supported.

## Contact us

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## Obituary: Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin by Doo-Sub Kim

The sudden passing away of Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is met with grave sadness by all who have known his leadership in championing human rights and promoting population research. I share with many friends and colleagues around the world great respect for his integrity and passion in improving the lives of the poorest women and adolescent girls. His tireless commitment to human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment through his work in ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights has helped countless women in many countries.

On behalf of the Asian Population Association and our members, I am especially grateful for his support to our organization since its early years of development. Not only was Dr. Osotimehin a physician and public health officer, but also a scholar who understood the importance of promoting population research and sharing learned knowledge to improve human lives through organizations like the APA. Over the years, he has supported us with financial contributions from the UNFPA and by actually participating as a keynote speaker at the Second Asian Population Association Conference held in Bangkok in 2012. My special gratitude is also extended to his leadership and support from the UNFPA in the process of organizing the Third Asian Population Association Conference in Kuala Lumpur in 2015.

We remember Dr. Osotimehin for his dedication, leadership and accomplishments in improving the lives of millions of women and the poorest around the globe. We also thank him for the inspiration he has given us to carry on his vision for a better world.

Our prayers go to his family and friends, and we mourn with them for the loss of a great leader and humanitarian.

