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### **INTERNATIONAL CYBER UNIVERSITY FOR HEALTH (ICUH)**

The Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH), a voluntary non-profit international organization is currently made up of fifty member institutions/universities in the Asia Pacific Region. It includes the leading schools of Public Health, Medicine as well as National Institutes of Health from 17 countries. APACPH's goals are to improve the quality of life and to achieve the highest level of health for citizens of the Asia-Pacific nations through teaching, research and services, especially to the vulnerable populations in these countries. Recognizing the need for making problem solving education accessible and cost effective, the Governing Board of APACPH resolved to pool their resources of academic expertise and technical skills in the internet Communication to develop a Global University for Health. At the 2003 APACPH meeting in Shanghai, a Memorandum of agreement was signed among APACPH, Yonsei University and LGCNS to pursue the establishment of The INTERNATIONAL CYBER UNIVERSITY FOR HEALTH (ICUH) within APACPH.

The ICUH will offer courses at different levels (Free courses, MPH Degree Programs, Short Training programs) for different needs. Some subjects will be available free for self study, but for credit towards a formal qualification, formal enrolment will be required, either through Yonsei University or another APACPH University. Courses will include a certificate program and an MPH. The proposed certificate program would be aimed at the less affluent countries throughout the region, and would be set at the upper undergraduate/beginning postgraduate level. The courses would be suitable for health workers of equivalent level to nurses, medical assistants, allied health workers and medical practitioners. Workers at this level find it difficult to afford the time and cost of continuing education, yet many acknowledge the need to upgrade their knowledge and skills. All materials will be initially prepared in English. In the initial project it is

proposed that the presentations are translated into Chinese and Korean as examples of what can be done. In the future it is envisaged that materials will be translated into other regional languages.

Currently, three online classes for the Cyber University are being offered at a trial basis: International Child Health (Dr. T. Hokama), Health Promotion Planning (Dr. C. Binns), and Introduction to Health Informatics (Dr. YM Chae). There will be no charge for these courses. Anyone interested in taking these courses should send an email to Dr. Byung Wha Lee ([bwlee@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr](mailto:bwlee@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr)). For further information, please visit ICUH website (<http://icuh.yonsei.ac.kr>).

The ICUH program has several advantages compared to other web-based programs. First, students can take a variety of courses offered by 50 member universities. Second, students have ample choices of MPH degree programs offered by the member universities.