



ASIAN AND PACIFIC FEDERATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

2009 ANNUAL REPORT of the APFCB

Joseph Lopez, President, APFCB

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Membership: The APFCB membership comprises ordinary and 14 corporate members with one affiliate member.

2009-2010 Travelling Lectureship: Dr Samuel Vasikaran of Perth, Australia the Travelling Lecturer has offered the following topics for this Lectureship:

- i. bone markers and osteoporosis
- ii. eGFR and markers of renal disease
- iii. interpretative commentary of laboratory results.

Dr Vasikaran delivered the Travelling Lecture in November 2009 at the ACBI annual conference in Kochi, India. For 2010, lectures have been planned for delivery in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Indonesia, Singapore and Korea (at the 12th APCCB).

2011-2012 Travelling Lectureship: Dr Angela Wang, a nephrologist from Hong Kong has accepted an invitation to be the APFCB Travelling Lecturer on the topic, “New Inflammatory makers in CKD”.

IFCC Visiting Lectureship: The 2008-2009 Visiting Lecturer to the APFCB region, Professor Mauro Panteghini, brought his Lectureship to a close with lectures in Chengdu and Beijing in Mainland China, in November.

APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium: Professor Gunther Weiss of Innsbruck, Austria, visited Beijing, Hong Kong, Manila and Ho Chi Minh City to speak on the topic, “Diagnostic Challenges in Chronic Anaemia’s”, between 22-27 June.

Interpretative Comments Educational Program Report, 2009: Five case reports were circulated. The responses were assessed by 3-person review panel. The programme had 46 registrants and a response rate was about 50%. These analyses of results will be undertaken in 2010.

The IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on Laboratory Quality was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in April. A one-day workshop on the interpretative commentary of laboratory results was conducted in conjunction with the QA workshop.

The 3rd Asian Project on Reference Intervals Project organised by Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara, the APFCB Scientific Committee Chair and involving Japan, the APFCB and the IFCC which was initiated in 2008 continued into 2009. A total of more than 3400 individuals from Japan and 9 cities in Asia-Pacific region took part in the study. The analyses of the samples were completed at the end of July. A meeting of project participants to present preliminary results was held in Osaka on 25th September. Publications from the project are expected in 2010.

Membership: PAMET (Philippines) was admitted as a member of the IFCC in November 2009.

APFCB-AACB Scholarship: One scholarship was awarded from the APFCB’s Philanthropic Fund to Dr H V Singh from India for the attendance of the AACB’s ASM.

APFCB Publications: The 2008 issue of the APFCB News was published and distributed within and outside the APFCB region.

There following scientific publications in 2009 emerged from the APFCB’s projects:

1. Shiesh S-C, Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer, Kao Jau-Tsuen, Vasikaran SD, Lopez JB and the Laboratory Management Committee for the Asian-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Proficiency Testing of HbA1c: A 4-year experience in Asian and Pacific Region. Clin Chem 2009; 55: 1876-80.
2. Vasikaran SD, Lai LC, Sethi S, Lopez JB, Sikaris KA. Quality of interpretative commenting on common clinical chemistry results in the Asia-Pacific region. Clin Chem Lab Med 2009; 47: 963-70.

Laboratory Automation Meeting: The AACC-APFCB-Malaysian ACB Workshop on Laboratory Automation was held in Kuala Lumpur on 22nd and 23rd October. The meeting had 6 corporate sponsors and about more than 150 participants.

12th Asian-Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (12th APCCB), Seoul, Korea, 3-8 Oct 2010: Preparations for the congress are well in progress. Corporate sponsorship is within expectation and the scientific programme was almost completed by the end of the year. The APFCB will host the following scientific sessions which will be organised by Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara:

- i. A 120-minute symposium on the “The Asian Project for Joint Derivation of Reference Intervals and Exploration of Diagnostic Evidence for Laboratory Medicine”.
- ii. Co-host a 4 hour workshop entitled, “Educational Course: Multivariate analyses for laboratory scientists”.

The IFCC will host the following symposia as part of the main scientific programme:

1. IFCC CPD: Electronic Communication and Distance Learning
2. IFCC SD: Standardization Activities in Endocrinology
3. IFCC EMD: Predictive Medicine: A New Goal For Laboratory Medicine

IFCC-APFCB Draft Agreement: The draft of an agreement between the APFCB and IFCC was actively discussed before being forwarded to the IFCC for its consideration.

APFCB Strategic Plan: Following a suggestion made at the Council Meeting held in Beijing in October 2007, a Task Force was formed to draw up a Strategic Plan for the APFCB with the President as the Chair. The Task Force will hold its first meeting in Perth, Australia, on 30th January, 2010.

APFCB Corporate Members provided the following sponsorships during the year 2009:

No.	Company	Activity
1.	BD Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on QA , Sri Lanka • Reference Intervals project
2.	Bio-Rad	IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on QA , Sri Lanka
3.	Beckman-Coulter	APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium

IFCC Grant: As in previous years, the APFCB received a grant of CHF10,000 from the IFCC for its activities.

Management: The AFPCB is domiciled in Singapore and the management of its financial and regulatory affairs is handled by its office in Singapore. Despite the increasing level of activity, the APFCB’s finances remain healthy. The start of financial year was changed from 1st August to 1st January to coincide the financial year with the start of the annual activity cycle.



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by

Joseph Lopez

President, APFCB

APFCB MEMBERS

The following Area or National Societies are members of the APFCB.

1. Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB)
2. Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM)
3. Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry (HKSCC)
4. Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (ACBI)
5. Indonesian Association for Clinical Chemistry (IACC)
6. Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)
7. Korean Society of Clinical Chemistry (KSCC)
8. Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemistry (MACB)
9. Nepal Association for Medical Laboratory Sciences (NAMLS)
10. Pakistan Society of Chemical Pathologists (PSCP)
11. Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)
12. Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemistry (SACB)
13. Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka (ACBSL)
14. Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Taipei, China (CACB)
15. Thailand Association of Clinical Biochemists (TACB)
16. Vietnamese Association of Clinical Biochemistry (VACB)

Of these, all but the NAMLS (Nepal) are IFCC members.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

1. Abbott Diagnostics
2. BD Diagnostics
3. Beckman Coulter
4. Beijing Wantai, (China)
5. Bio-Rad
6. Olympus
7. Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics
8. Piramal Healthcare (India)
9. PM Separations (Australia)
10. Randox Laboratories
11. Roche Diagnostics
12. Sekisui Chemical Co (Japan)
13. Siemens
14. Sysmex

APFCB OFFICERS

APFCB Executive Board:

President:	Joseph Lopez (MACB, Malaysia)
Vice-President:	Leslie Lai (MACB, Malaysia)
Immediate Past President:	Chris Lam (HKSCC, Hong Kong)
Treasurer:	Sunil Sethi (SACB, Singapore)
Secretary:	Elizabeth Frank (ACBI, India)
Corporate Representative:	Brian Smith (BD Diagnostics)

Chairs of APFCB Committees:

Communications:	Shen Ziyu (CSLM, Mainland China)
Education:	Endang Hoyaranda (IACC, Indonesia)
Laboratory Management:	Samuel Vasikaran (AACB, Australia)
Scientific:	Kiyoshi Ichihara (JSCC, Japan)

Hon. Auditors:

Leslie Burnett (AACB, Australia)
Jap Tjin-Shing (CACB, Taiwan)

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The following educational activities were undertaken by the Education Committee (C-Edu) in 2009:

Chair: Mrs Endang Hoyaranda (Indonesia)
Secretary: Dr Sun Fei (Mainland China)

APFCB Travelling Lectureship

2009-2010 Travelling Lectureship: The Travelling Lecturer for the period 2009-2010 is Dr Samuel Vasikaran of Perth, Australia. Dr Vasikaran is Chemical Pathologist at the PathWest-Royal Perth Hospital and Visiting Consultant at the Osteoporosis Clinic of the same hospital. Prior to this, he was the Head of Core Clinical Pathology & Biochemistry at the Royal Perth Hospital. He is concomitantly Clinical Associate Professor School of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of Western Australia.

The topics offered by Dr Vasikaran are

- (i) bone markers and osteoporosis,
- (ii) eGFR and markers of renal disease, and,
- (iii) interpretative commentary of laboratory results.

Funding for this Travelling Lectureship will come from the APFCB's internal funds.

Dr Vasikaran presented his Travelling Lecture at the ACBI annual conference in Kochi, India in November, 2009. He is expected to visit the following countries in 2010: Hong Kong, Mainland China, Singapore and possibly Indonesia; in addition, Dr Vasikaran is a plenary speaker for the 12th APCCB, Korea, in 2010.

2011-2012 Travelling Lectureship: Following a survey of the membership, the APFCB EB has decided that the 2011-2012 APFCB Travelling Lectureship will have the theme "New Inflammatory makers in CKD" and the Travelling Lecturer will be Dr Angela Wang, a nephrologist from Hong Kong.

IFCC Visiting Lectureship

2008-2009 IFCC Visiting Lectureship to the APFCB region:

The IFCC Visiting Lecturer to the APFCB region Professor Mauro Panteghini delivered his 2009 lectures in Chengdu and at the scientific meeting commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Chinese Society of Laboratory Medicine (CSLM) which was held from 5-7, Nov 2009, in Beijing.

Next IFCC VLP: Following a survey undertaken by the APFCB C-Edu, it was decided that an application will be made for an IFCC VL to speak in the APFCB Region on the topic of “New biomarkers for CHD”, starting 2010.

APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium

The lecturer for the 2009 APFCB-Beckman Educational Symposium, Professor Gunther Weiss of Innsbruck, Austria undertook a tour of 4 Asian cities in June to speak on the topic, “Diagnostic Challenges in Chronic Anaemias”. The itinerary of the tour and participants at each venue were as follows:

June 22: Beijing, China, symposium; about 100 participants
June 23: Travel to Hong Kong
June 24: Hong Kong symposium; about 170 participants
June 25: Hong Kong to Manila; Manila symposium; about 250 participants
June 26: Manila to HoChiMin City, Vietnam
June 27: Ho Chi Minh City symposium; about 80 participants

This was the first time that an APFCB event was organised in the Philippines by PAMET, a recent member of the Federation. Accompanying Professor Weiss throughout this seminar tour was Dr. Peter Heseltine, BC Corporate Medical Director. BC local offices worked closely with these 4 member societies for the local arrangement.

The itineraries for all three lectureships have been arranged by the C-Edu. Beckman Coulter will not organise this Symposium in 2010 but will instead concentrate on its participation in the 12th APCCB.

LABORATORY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The APFCB’s activities in laboratory management are undertaken by the APFCB Laboratory Management Committee (C-LM) whose Chair is Dr Samuel Vasikaran (Australia)

Interpretative Comments Educational Program Report 2009

(contributed by Dr Sam Vasikaran)

The APFCB Interpretative Comment Educational Program was initiated in 2008 and continued with some changes in 2009. The invitation to participate in the 2009 programme was sent out in April. There were 46 registrants, including 8 from outside the APFCB region (2 from Kenya, 2 from South Africa, 1 from Trinidad and Tobago, 1 from Slovenia, 1 from Spain and 1 from East Timor). Participants were not charged a fee and all communication was through e-mail.

Five case reports were circulated between June and November. Each case report had a space for an interpretative comment to be attached by the participant. In addition, there were a series of statements (MCQs) which the participant was asked to mark as correct or incorrect. The responses were assessed by the review panel which comprised the following persons:

Dr Samuel Vasikaran (Chair, Australia)
Dr Ken Sikaris (Australia)
Dr Leslie Lai (Malaysia)

Each member of the panel gave a score out of 4 for each comment (a score of 0 indicating an incorrect and dangerous comment and a score of 4 indicating a perfect comment). The scores from the 3 panel members were added up and the participant received a total score out of 12. In addition, the responses to the MCQ statements were also marked and a score given (the total MCQ score varied depending on the number of statements).

The response rate was around 50% and remained steady throughout the year. The panel feels that further and more detailed analysis of the patterns of participant scores is warranted. The relationship between the scores for the comment and the MCQs should be analysed, and also the cases should be circulated to different groups of doctors to assess their response to the MCQs and compare that with the response to the MCQs from the laboratory personnel. These analyses will be undertaken in due course. It is not proposed to continue the program this year as it is felt that further thought should be given after the above analyses are performed, in order to consider ways of improving the program. It is proposed that the program re-commences in 2011 with the suggested improvements if the EB agrees. APFCB funding for an administrative person is gratefully acknowledged since this helped greatly in reducing the workload of the panel with regard to communicating with participants.

Workshop on Laboratory Quality, Sri Lanka (IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL)

A workshop on Laboratory Quality was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 4th and 5th April 2009. It was jointly organised by the IFCC-EMD, the APFCB and Association of Clinical Biochemists of Sri Lanka. The organisation of the event was headed by Mr Heemachandra Weerawarna (ACBSL).

The QA workshop covered principles and practice of analytical quality together with the fundamentals of accreditation, quality systems and ISO 15189. There were 73 participants for the workshop for the QA workshop and 114 for the Interpretative Skill Educational Seminar. These figures excluded the 9 members of the organising committee and exceeded expectations. Some of the participants for the seminar on interpretative skills were physicians and professors. The panel of lecturers and the IFCC-APFCB involvement were thought to be the main attraction for their participation. Time was a major constraint, as this was a busy programme for the speakers.

The APFCB facilitated the sponsorship of the events by BioRad and BD Diagnostics, both of which are its corporate members.

Planned Activities for 2010

Workshop on Accreditation (IFCC-IACC): A workshop on ISO15189 laboratory accreditation will be held in Jakarta in February 2010. APFCB auspices have been given for this meeting.

Application for Workshop on QA, Philippines (IFCC-APFCB-PAMET): An application to hold a workshop on QA in the Philippines, co-sponsored by the IFCC, the APFCB and PAMET, has been made to IFCC-EMD for March 2011. This will be similar to the Sri Lanka workshop held in 2009.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

APFCB Scientific Committee (C-Sci)
Chair: Professor Kiyoshi Ichihara

Reference Intervals Project (involving Japan, APFCB and IFCC)

The 3rd Asian Project on Reference Intervals which was initiated in 2008 continued into 2009. The sampling from healthy individuals started from the end of January, 2009. The countries that participated in this project were:

- Japan
- Mainland China
- Hong Kong and Macau
- Indonesia
- South Korea
- Malaysia
- Taiwan
- Vietnam

A total of more than 3400 healthy individuals took part in the study: approximately 1500 subjects from 9 cities outside Japan (Seoul, Beijing, Taipei, Tainan, Hong Kong, Macau, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta) and about 1900 subjects from 12 areas in Japan. The collection of the last samples of the study was completed early July.

The analyses of the collected samples started in early May at Beckman-Coulter (BC) Laboratory in Tokyo and were completed at the end of July. Professor Ichihara visited four reference laboratories belonging to the JCTLM network in Europe, in March 2009, i.e. those of Professor M Panteghini, Dr F Ceriotti, Professor Siekman, Professor Linda Thienpont, and obtained collaboration to standardise the assay results from Beckman Coulter. It is expected that universal reference intervals for the standardised analytes with or without partitioning will be available. For the non-standardized analytes the investigators will adjust the Reference Intervals derived for BC reagents, based on cross-check test results between Beckman Coulter laboratory and each participating lab.

A meeting to discuss the results was held in Osaka on Friday 25th September 2009. This international symposium was on "Collaborative Derivation of Reference Interval and Data Analysis for Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine." The meeting was attended by the participants from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam and representatives from the companies that participated in this study, namely, Beckman Coulter Japan and BD. Besides presentation by colleagues from Japan, Dr K Kuwa, Professor Y Itoh, Professor H Ihara, Professor T Kano, Professor K Kataoka, Dr K Ikeda, Dr Y Mimura, N Shimizu and, Professor Ichihara, there were also presentations from the APFCB President Joseph Lopez, Dr Xuejing Wang (China), Professor Shu-Chu Shiesh (Taiwan) and Priscilla Poon (Hong Kong).

The analyses of the results have been completed and publications from this study are expected to emerge in 2010. An expanded version of this study to cover a wider geographical area and more subjects is being planned for 2010, if funding is received.

OTHER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Membership

PAMET (Philippines): PAMET was admitted as an ordinary member of the IFCC in November.

APFCB Philanthropic Fund/APFB Scholarships

APFCB-AACB Scholarship: One **APFCB-AACB Scholarship** for the attendance of the AACB ASM was won by an applicant from India H V Singh from Delhi, India, who presented the poster "Emerging Biochemical Risk Markers For Coronary Artery Disease: A Case-Control Study".

MEETINGS

Laboratory Automation Meeting

The AACC-APFCB-MACB (Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists) Workshop on Laboratory Automation was held in Kuala Lumpur on October 22-23, 2009. IFCC auspices for this meeting were given by the Chair of the C-CC.

The workshop had 6 sessions. Among the speakers were the following persons:

- Leslie Burnett (Australia): Pre-analytical aspects of automation
- James Nichols (USA): Operational aspects of implementation – pitfalls to avoid and lessons learned
- Charles Hawker (USA): Eliminating mislabelled specimens through new technology
- Sunil Sethi (Singapore): Optimisation: increased efficiency and optimising utilization

There was also a panel discussion on the theme “Where are we going? - Industry’s and lab’s perspective”. Industry supporters of the meeting were Abbott, Beckman Coulter, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Siemens, Sysmex and Techno Medica. The meeting was held under the auspices of the IFCC and the Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists.

Asian Pacific Conference on Chromatography & Mass Spectrometry, Hong Kong, 14-16 Jan 2010

The Hong Kong Society of Clinical Chemistry, in collaboration with the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists and the Hong Kong Society of Mass Spectrometry held the “Asian Pacific Conference on Mass Spectrometry and Chromatography” from January 14th to 16th, 2010. This meeting had the theme “*New Horizons in Clinical Chemistry*” and was held in Hong Kong. The meeting was supported by the Department of Chemical Pathology of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and had been given APFCB and IFCC auspices. Dr CS Ho of the HKSCC and Dr Danny Sampson, Australia of the AACB were Co-Chairs of this meeting.

12th Asian-Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (12th APCCB), Seoul, Korea, 3-8 Oct 2010

The APFB Executive Board is in contact with Professor Won-Ki Min, the Chairman of Organising Committee of the 12th APCCB. Based on recommendations from the APFCB the International Advisory Committee has been named. Chris Lam and Joseph Lopez visited Korea to hold discussions on the congress after the Beijing meeting in November 2009.

Scientific Programme: The Organising Committee of APCCB 2010 has organised the overall scientific program of the congress. It will consist of the following sessions:

- 5 Plenary Lectures (60 minutes each).
- 28 Symposia, the duration of 12 symposia will be 120 minutes each, and other 16 symposia will be 90 minutes each.
- 8 mini Symposia, each for 60-minutes, maximum 10 Industry Symposiums, and 8 Oral Sessions
- 8 workshops will be on October 3rd from 9 AM to 3 PM

APFCB Scientific Participation at 12th APCCB

The APFCB will host a 120 minute symposium on the “The Asian Project for Joint Derivation of Reference Intervals and Exploration of Diagnostic Evidence for Laboratory Medicine”. In addition, it will co-host a 4 hour workshop entitled: Educational Course: Multivariate analyses for laboratory scientists

IFCC Participation: Besides being the APFCB triennial congress this is also an IFCC regional congress. All of the IFCC's participation is coordinated by Professor Tomris Ozben. The scientific participation will involve the following, each lasting 120 minutes:

4. IFCC CPD: Electronic Communication and Distance Learning
5. IFCC SD: Standardisation Activities in Endocrinology
6. IFCC EMD: Predictive Medicine: A New Goal For Laboratory Medicine

Sponsorship: With the assistance of the Korean directors of global companies, the organisers visited China and Singapore in June for meeting the representatives of Asia-Pacific. For Japan, they will attend the 41st Congress of Japan Society for Clinical Laboratory Automation (JSCLA) to meet the representative of Japanese companies, to seek sponsorship.

Key dates, 2010:

Abstract submission: 31st May

Early bird registration: 15th July

Pre-registration: 31 August

Scholarships: A total of 18 scholarships will be offered for scientists to attend the 12th APCCB. Of these, 5 will be offered by the APFCB to young scientists from the region; of the 5, a maximum of 2 scholarships will be open to scientists from countries in the APFCB geographical region which are not APFCB members. These scholarships will be sponsored by the APFCB Philanthropic Fund

APFCB PUBLICATIONS

APFCB News: The 2008 issue of the APFCB News was published and distributed within and outside the region.

Scientific Publications:

1. Shiesh S-C, Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer, Kao Jau-Tsuen, Vasikaran SD, Lopez JB and the Laboratory Management Committee for the Asian-Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. Proficiency Testing of HbA1c: A 4-year experience in Asian and Pacific Region. Clin Chem 2009; 55: 1876-80.
2. Vasikaran SD, Lai LC, Sethi S, Lopez JB, Sikaris KA. Quality of interpretative commenting on common clinical chemistry results in the Asia-Pacific region. Clin Chem Lab Med 2009; 47: 963-70.

IFCC-REGIONAL FEDERATIONS DRAFT AGREEMENT

The draft of a common agreement between the IFCC and the regional federations was received by the APFCB. The matter was actively debated by the Executive Board and Chairs before it was circularised to the APFCB members.

Fifteen out of the 16 APFCB members responded to the vote on the draft agreement. All were in favour of the agreement, in principle. However there was much discussion on the clause in the draft relating to the remittance from the regional congresses (APCCB) to the IFCC. The APFCB members have voted to offer the IFCC 10% of the surplus income from the APCCBs, an increase from 5% as stipulated in the current agreement. The APFCB Council members rejected by a large majority the suggestion that the APFCB should offer a percentage of the gross income from the registrations and exhibition.

APFCB STRATEGIC PLAN

The APFCB EB has appointed a Task Force consisting of the following to draw up a strategic plan for the Federation to carry us for the next 6 to 10 years. The following have been appointed to the Task Force:

- Joseph LOPEZ (Malaysia; Chair)
- Leslie BURNETT (Australia)
- Endang HOYARANDA (Indonesia)
- Leslie LAI (Malaysia)
- Samuel VASIKARAN (Australia)

The Task Force will hold its first meeting in Perth, Australia at the end of January 2010

APFCB CORPORATE MEMBERS

The APFCB currently has 14 Corporate Members, with the application of one more currently under consideration. The Corporate Members provided the following sponsorships during the year 2009:

No	Company	Activity
1.	BD Diagnostics	I. IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on QA , Sri Lanka II. Reference Intervals project III. Committed for 2010: APFCB Distinguished Service Award
2.	Bio-Rad	IFCC-APFCB-ACBSL Workshop on QA , Sri Lanka
3.	Beckman-Coulter	APFCB-Beckman Coulter Educational Symposium (Professor Gunther Weiss)

APFCB MANAGEMENT

- As in previous years, the APFCB received a grant of CHF 10,000 from the IFCC for its activities.
- The AFPCB is domiciled in Singapore and the management of its financial and regulatory matters is handled by its office in Singapore. The finances of the APFCB remain healthy.
- One of the important changes made in 2009 was to change the start of financial year from 1st August to 1st January. This was done so that the financial year and the annual activity cycle will start at the same time.
- A simple budget for the year was developed for the first time. The projected income exceeded the expenses by a small margin.

3 Feb 2010

