

A Decade of Progress at the APFCB

Joseph Lopez, President (Oct 2004- Oct 2010)

A measure of progress is the comparison of the present with some point in the past. From its founding in the early 80s to the 1999, the APFCB saw its membership grow from 5 to 12. The major activity of that period was its triennial congresses (the APCCBs). The surpluses from the congresses contributed to the healthy financial state with which we started the last decade. The table below shows what has been achieved between 2000 and 2010:

Item	2000	2010
Ordinary and affiliate membership	12 ordinary, no affiliates	16 ordinary and 2 affiliates
Corporate members	None	14; first meeting of EB and Corporate members held in Seoul, Oct 2010
Standing committees	Only 3 committees viz., Education (C-Edu), Science (C-Sci) and Congresses and Conferences (C-CC)	Currently 5; the additional committees are Laboratory Management (C-LM) and Communications (C-Comm)
Executive Board	Called Executive Committee; 5 members	Now the Executive Board with 6 members, with inclusion of Corporate Representative in 2007
IFCC	No agreement or joint activities	2 agreements; collaborative activities such as Visiting lectureships, workshops. IFCC-APFCB agreement signed in August 2010
Travelling lectures	Rare	3 regular lectureships, (i) APFCB Travelling lectureships, (ii) IFCC Visiting lectureships and (iii) APFCB-Beckman Coulter lectureship.
Distance-learning	None	Webinars (courtesy of Siemens), introduced in 2010
Scientific	None before 2000	(i) Asian reference intervals study, since

projects		2006. Third study has been completed. Fourth study being planned. (ii) Scope of C-Sci has been expanded to include studies on harmonization of non-standardizable analytes. (iii) A new WG of mass spectrometry assays has been formed.
Laboratory management	Represented by a working group for QA	WG upgraded to a Committee (C-LM) which undertakes educational activities and regional QA projects
Scientific publications	None	3 based on results of APFCB projects
Philanthropic Fund for scholarships	None	Scholarships awarded from Fund
Specialty meetings in between triennial congresses	None	(i) QA workshops in conjunction with IFCC; (ii) lab automation meetings in conjunction with AACC
APFCB newsletter	Not regular; distributed only to members	Regular, on annual basis; distribution to members, corporate members and individuals outside region
Income streams	Mainly from surpluses of APFCB congresses	More diversified; income currently is from: (i) surpluses from APCCBs (ii) we receive annual grants from IFCC (iii) corporate subscriptions, donations (iv) miscellaneous sources
APFCB administration	No office	Management office in Singapore for financial and regulatory matters. Accounts maintained by professional accountants
Linkages (formal and informal)	None	(i) with IFCC (formal, by way of 2 agreements) (ii) with AACC for organisation of lab automation conferences (iii) with WASPALM (to be shortly signed)

In addition, the APFCB's financial reserves have *increased by about 80% during this period.*

The Strategic Plan approved by the Council in Seoul at its meeting on 4th October 2010 will serve as a road-map for the next six to ten years. Going into the future, it will provide a clear direction of where and how we should head. What we need to achieve the aims of the Plan are able and dedicated volunteers with a sincere desire to see the APFCB progress.

(J Lopez is currently APFCB Immediately Past President; he was Secretary from 1998 to 2004)