

4th ICCE Commission Meeting Report: New Line-Up of the ICCE Commission for 2015–2017 Term

By the International Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE)

ABU DHABI: The National Rehabilitation Centre, Abu Dhabi hosted the 4th ICCE Commission Meeting in Beach Rotana Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE, on February 2–3, 2015. The two-day meeting was attended by the five existing Commissioners: HE Dr Hamad Al-Ghaferi, UAE; Dr. Shanthi Ranganathan, India; Dr Cho Hyun Seob, Republic of Korea; Ms Aishath Bisham, Maldives, and Under Secretary Edgar C. Galvante, Philippines, and were joined by nine new faces: Ms Kathy Benson, USA; Dr Diah Setia Utami, Indonesia; Mr Yuji Yazawa, Japan; Dr. Richard M. Gakunju, Kenya; Mr Izhar bin Abu Talib, Prof Dato Dr. Mahmood Nazar Mohamed, Malaysia, Mr Muhamad Hafeez, Pakistan, Dr Viroj Verachai, Thailand, and Dr Prapapun Chucharoen, Thailand.

In his welcome remarks, HE Dr Hamad Al-Ghaferi, Director-General, NRC, thanked the delegates for taking time off their busy work schedule to participate in this year's Commission Meeting. On a similar note, Mr Thomas Browne expressed his appreciation to all for their willingness and commitment to travel long distances from their home country to accomplish the work given to them. This sentiment was further reiterated by Mr Kinley Dorji, Secretary-General, Colombo Plan, who also expressed his thanks to HE Dr Hamad and his team for their time and commitment in organizing the Commission Meeting for the second consecutive year.

For the incumbent two-year term, the following Commissioners have been elected to the posts below:

Chairman: HE Dr Hamad Abdulla Hashim, UAE

Vice Chairman: Dr Shanthi Ranganathan, India

Secretary: Ms Aishath Bisham, Maldives

Treasurer: Dr Richard Gakunju, Kenya

Following the election of the new office-bearers of the ICCE Commission for the 2015–2017 term, Mr Tay Bian How, Director ICCE, presented an overview of ICCE initiatives in 2014, as well as upcoming initiatives for 2015 encompassing three areas, that is, curriculum development of the Universal Prevention Curriculum for Substance Use (UPC) and Universal Treatment Curriculum for Substance Use Disorders (UTC), Training of Trainers and Training of National Trainers on the UPC and UTC, and credentialing of addiction professionals.

The next agenda focused on the presentation of the credentialing of addiction professionals in three countries, namely, United States of America by Ms. Kathy Benson, Middle East by Dr Shamil Wanigaratne, and Kenya by Dr Richard Gakunju. Besides this, there was also a presentation by the Deputy President of Cyberjaya University of Medical Sciences, Malaysia, regarding the Postgraduate Diploma on Addiction Science. Another highlight of the meeting was a preview of the first International Society for Prevention and Treatment Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) Conference by Mr Tay Bian How, Director ICCE. This event is scheduled to be launched in Bangkok, Thailand on July 6–10, 2015 where a crowd of 1,500 local and 500 international professionals in the

prevention and treatment field are expected to attend.

The Commission Meeting also discussed and passed two proposed amendments made by the ICCE Director in his capacity as the Executive Director of the Commission. Firstly, the motion was moved to amend the existing International Certified Addiction Counsellor (ICAC) credential to International Certified Addiction Professional to make it more all-encompassing of all individuals in the addiction and other helping professions, and not only limited to counselors. Secondly, the motion was moved to change the eligibility criterion for the Recovery Coach credential to nine years of High School education for Japan. Additionally, a motion was also moved for ICCE to offer and appoint interested individuals or organizations as ICCE Approved Education Providers to help disseminate both the Universal Prevention Curriculum and the Universal Treatment Curriculum to the drug demand reduction workforce world-wide.

The second meeting of the ICCE Commission for 2015 is scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on July 6–8, 2015 in conjunction with the ISSUP Conference. This second ICCE Commission Meeting will include a four-hour training relating to the process or steps involved in managing violation of the professional Code of Ethics by credentialed addiction professionals.

 **ICCE** The International Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE) was established in

February 2009 as a training and credentialing arm of The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific's Drug Advisory Program. It is a part of the global initiative funded by the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the U.S. Department of State, with special collaboration with NAADAC, which aims to train, certify, and professionalize the addiction treatment workforce. To ensure the high quality and standard of ICCE initiative, a policy making body called the ICCE Commission was established in June 2012. This Commission is composed of 10 members representing nine member countries of the Colombo Plan and is responsible for effective implementation of training, administration of examinations, and the provision of credentials.

