Venue: Conference Room A, Tokyo Women’s Medical University

1. Participants
Those present were:

President: Toshimasa Yoshioka. Professor, Department of Medical Education, Tokyo Women's Medical University, Tokyo, Japan

Vice-President: Duck-Sun Ahn. Professor, Korea University Medical College, Korea

Members:
Michael J. Field. Associate Dean and Head Sydney Medical School, Northern, Australia

Ian Rouse. Dean, College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Fiji National University, Fiji Islands

Phi Van Tham. Professor, Department of Science and Training, Ministry of Health Head of Department of Public Health, Thang Long University, Hanoi, Vietnam

Professor Xian Wang. Office of President, Peking University Health Science Center, China

Sunbaunat Ka. Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Health Sciences, Cambodia

Tserenkhuu Lkhagvasuren. President of the Health Sciences University of Mongolia

Alfaretta Luisa T. Reyes. Dean, College of Medicine University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center.

Mathias Sapuri. President of Medical Council, Society of Papua New Guinea, Chairman of Papua New Guinea Medical Board, Papua New Guinea

Sing Menorath. Associate Professor, University of Health Sciences, Laos

Nabishah Mohammed. Professor, Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

Secretary General:
Hirotaka Onishi. Lecturer, International Research Center for Medical Education, University of Tokyo, Japan

Advisor:
Ezekiel Nukuro. Regional Advisor. Human Resources Development, World Health Organization, Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO)

Observers:
Graciela M. Gonzaga. Past President of the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges Foundation, Inc.

Yan Xu. Associate Director, Department of Medical Education, Peking University Health Science
2. Opening of the meeting
Prof. Yoshioka made the opening remarks and welcomed all participants.
A brief introduction of the AMEWPR and the 2 main topics for discussion at this meeting were given.
1) The WFME has started to construct the Global Standards on the doctors’ role (Global Role of Doctors) which will be completed in 2013. The AMEWPR needs to submit its input by then.
2) Harmonizing the regional guidelines and the WHO guidelines. This has been an issue for some time and needs to be finalized at this conference.

Prof. Yoshioka introduced the supporting organizations for the AMEWPR. All members and observers were asked to give a short introduction as Drs. Wang, Rouse and Reyes are new to the association. The guest speaker, Dr. Skilling, was also introduced.

It was explained that after this meeting, Prof. Yoshioka’s term as president would end. Dr. Ahn was introduced as the current vice president.

3. Acceptance of agenda
The agenda for both days (Aug 1, 2) were approved by all Board members.

4. Minutes of the 2008 AMEWPR meeting
Review of the previous meeting in 2008.
The issue of harmonization of the WHO and regional guidelines was brought up. Prof. Yoshioka asked members to look at the draft of the document prepared by Ms. Theanne Walters, for discussions tomorrow.

A copy of the revised constitution was distributed to members and current activities of the association were introduced by Prof. Yoshioka.

5. Agenda of the 2010 WFME meeting/ Minutes of the 2009 WFME meeting
Since the minutes of the 2010 WFME meeting had not yet been received, the agenda for the recent Executive Council meeting was included in the AMEWPR agenda. Prof. Yoshioka briefly spoke about the WFME and its activities.
1) Promotion of Accreditation: WFME is not an accrediting body but provides the Global Standards as a ‘tool’ (e.g. the external evaluation in Fiji was conducted based on a request transferred from the WHO Regional Office).

2) The Avicenna Directories: A list of ‘good’ medical schools. The WFME is currently working to update its information.

3) The Global Role of Doctors: Global Standards on the role or competency of doctors.

Michael Field raised a question on ‘the future of the WFME’: will it continue to be based in Copenhagen, its budget and available resources, its effect on the AMEWPR. Prof. Yoshioka stated that the WFME receives funding from the University of Copenhagen, the Lund University and ECFMG (USA) which is interested in the WFME and the Global Standards, and the headquarters will remain in Copenhagen.

Ian Rouse stated that Fiji has recognized unaccredited medical schools. Questions are continuously raised on accreditation and its quality, and acceptable standards of medical schools.

Prof. Field pointed out that accreditation is a service arranged by the AMEWPR on an advisory basis, which raises the question: Is the AMEWPR an accrediting body?

Prof. Yoshioka commented that accreditation and external evaluation are separate processes and that the AMEWPR is able to conduct external evaluations. He also stated that conducting external evaluations, especially on an international level, would be consistent with the AMEWPR policy.

Prof. Field asked if there had been any developments since the 2008 meeting when collaboration with the WHO was suggested.

Ezikiel Nukuro stated that there had been no developments. He explained that the WHO does not have the mandate to accredit any institutions or standards. It no longer publishes directories (this shifted to the WFME Avicenna Directories) Mr. Nukuro suggested that when external evaluations are conducted, the institution should provide some sort of funds to the AMEWPR.

Prof. Yoshioka added that the evaluators for the external evaluation should be evaluated as well.

Prof. Rouse raised the question of funds/resources available to the AMEWPR to disseminate and promote the Global Standards, to which Prof. Yoshioka replied that there are no ongoing funds.

Hirotaka Onishi stated that having no funding brings to question, the value of this association. Further discussions on how to raise funds and hold meetings are necessary.

Ducksun Ahn suggested founding an accrediting body in the region.
6. **Global Role of Doctors**

A report on the WFME task meeting on the Global Role of the Doctor in Health Care was given by guest speaker, Professor Osamu Fukushima, Office of Educational Development, Center for Medical Education, Jikei University School of Medicine, who attended the meeting in Copenhagen from March 19-20, 2010.

Prof. Field raised the following questions:

- What was the motivation/reason to establish these Standards?
- Were the risks of creating such standards discussed? (easier migration of doctors leading to loss of medical manpower in some countries)

According to Prof. Fukushima, some reasons given were to promote the exchange of doctors between developed and undeveloped countries, and to possibly raise the level of competency of doctors.

Prof. Yoshioka added that the WFME already recognizes the problem of migration of doctors, but have gone ahead to create these standards despite the risks. The risks, however, should be mentioned by the AMEWPR president at the next WFME meeting. Although the definition of a doctor may differ between countries, there is probably a need for a set standard.

Dr. Onishi pointed out that this issue of the role of the doctor is complicated since it is associated with outcome based education. It is uncertain what kind of influence outcome based education should give to developing countries.

Dr. Fukushima mentioned that the issue of competence was raised not only for doctors but for healthcare systems and the role of advocators.

Dr. Nukuro stated that in the future, the Standards may not apply just to doctors but also to other healthcare workers, and how they can work together.

Prof. Yoshioka stated that since there is an overlap of roles among healthcare workers, perhaps this focuses on the doctor’s role in relation to other health professionals in addition to defining the core ‘competency’ of a doctor.

The situation concerning traditional medicine in Cambodia, Malaysia, China, Taiwan Korea, Philippines, Mongolia and Australia was described by members, clearly suggesting the huge variability in each country as traditional medicine is not regulated in some.

Dr. Ahn commented that having a global standard is the way to achieve professionalism despite the risks.

Dr. Onishi commented that since there are differences in the ideas for healthcare (e.g. between oriental and western medicine), maybe we need to think about the role of doctors which can be applied to oriental medicine.

7. **Special Lecture**

A lecture on the overview of health systems and medical education in the Federated States of Micronesia was delivered by Hon. Dr. Vita Akapito Skilling, Secretary, Department of Health and Social Affairs, Federated States of Micronesia.

Although some issues were specific to Micronesia, there were issues related with other countries.
Some questions and points raised were:

- All doctors and nurses are dependent on the government because no one can afford to study medicine with their own income. Health assistants provide a lot of help. Lack of resources is a big problem.
- Although Micronesia is divided into 3 groups speaking 9 different languages, there is some collaboration with islands closer in location, in areas such as training of nurses.
- The isolation of the pacific is a problem (shipping costs to remote areas is high)
- The WHO offers support by providing fellowships.

8. Discussions on the “Role of the Doctor” by member countries

Discussion on the 6 topics (demography of population and doctors, management of health care, personal and professional development, education and research, the social and economic role and social accountability of doctors, and membership and leadership of the health care team; inter-professionalism) discussed at the WFME task force meeting took place. Each member talked about the situation in their own country.

*(For details please refer to copies distributed at the meeting)*

Some questions/concerns raised were:

- Problems with aging workforce (some countries are trying to raise the retirement age)
- Prof. Field raised a question concerning education and research: Do all countries agree that doctors have a role in research? Is it a need or opportunity?
- Prof. Yoshioka commented that a doctor’s role includes education but research is not a primary objective. This is an issue which needs further discussion.
- Creating a curriculum which integrates and trains both doctors and nursing professions is challenging, although it will help to work together.
  
  Dr. Fukushima talked about the situation at Jikei University which initiated inter-professional education in Japan. Though it is not possible to combine the curriculum, internships and workshops make it possible to create an environment for inter-professional education.

Dr. Onishi commented that it may be beneficial for the AMEWPR to give some proposals and comments to the WFME such as:

- Each of the 6 items should be combined with some assessment tool
- A more detailed objective should be added for each item.
- Each country should have detailed objectives for each item.

This concluded the meeting on the first day.