

PBC Chairman's Newsletter

This newsletter will be my last as Chairman of the PBC board. It has been a pleasure being an active member of the PBC Board of Directors, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity. It has been incredibly rewarding to work with a team of people dedicated to promotion of Environmental Health. I am proud of the accomplishments of the PBC during my time as Chairman; I have no doubt this will continue in the future.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, expertise, experience and knowledge to PBC activities, I will continue to contribute to PBC as an Emeritus member

Kyoto Conference:

Fujio Kayama and his team did a brilliant in putting together a wonderful program. The number of attendees was smaller than anticipated, partly due to difficulties some had in obtaining a visa in time. Those who were able to attend were rewarded by high quality presentations. The special contributions from the leadership and investigators of the Japan Environment and Child Study (JECS) and from the National Institute for Minamata Disease (NIMD) were enjoyable and informative. The program, abstracts and, hopefully, the presentations will appear on the PBC website shortly.

Students and junior faculty were well represented at the conference. The prize winners were as follows:

Prize	Name	Institution	Presentation title
Student Oral presentations			
1st prize	Randy Novirsa, Indonesia	Graduate School of Environmental and Symbiotic Sciences, Prefectural University of Kumamoto	<i>Long-term Exposure of Mercury in Rice (Oryza sativa) and Typical Symptoms among Residents in Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining Area, Lebaksitu, Indonesia.</i>
2nd prize	Chisato Kataoka, Japan	National Institute for Minamata Disease	<i>Dose disruption of gut microbiota by silver nanocolloid cause bacterial infection: a case study using Medaka model.</i>
POSTER SESSIONS			
1st prize	MM Aeorangajeb Al Hossain, Bangladesh	Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine	<i>Chromium-mediated hyperpigmentation of skin in male tannery workers in Bangladesh.</i>
2nd prize	Reni Suhelmi, Indonesia	Husanuddin University	<i>The Relationship of Mercury Exposure with Neurology Problems in Artisanal Gold in Makassar City.</i>
3rd prize	Kaori Komori, Japan	Kochi Medical School	<i>Verbal abuse during pregnancy increases frequency of newborn hearing screening referral: The Japan Environment and Children's Study.</i>

Prize winners will receive a certificate from the PBC and a scholarship to support their attendance at the next PBC meeting.



Chairman's awards were presented to three long serving board members, all of who moved to Emeritus status in 2018, Mariano Cebrian, Mahmood Khwaja, and Rajendra Prasad. These three members have given many years of true service to the PBC. Mahmood and Rajendra have organised sessions together on aspects on hazardous waste at PBC conference. I have always been able to rely on them. Sadly Mariano has been unable to travel to the last couple of conferences due to poor health. His wife, Lizbeth Lopez-Carillo, received the award on his behalf, proudly represented him in Kyoto.



Conference bids: We will soon be calling for bids to host the next conference. Universities, public health faculties/institutions and centres of research are able to host PBC conferences. To facilitate members making an informed choice please address the following questions in your application:

- Proposed venue for the meeting
- Proposed dates for the meeting
- Are there any logistic challenges for participants getting to the venue?
- What is the range and approximate cost of accommodation at the venue?
- Proposed meeting Theme
- What Organizational support will you be able to provide for the planning and conduct of the meeting?
- What plans do you have to interact with your local University and to engage students in the meeting? How many students do you think you can attract to the meeting?
- How do you plan to include in conference planning and attendance female participants, LGBTI participants, indigenous participants, participants with children, and participants with disabilities?
- What engagement with your national and local governments can you bring to the meeting?
- What funding will your Organisation be able to provide to hold the meeting?
- What are the advantages to the PBC of your Organization hosting the meeting?

While some of these questions may seem a bit strange, this information must be included in R13 funding applications.

PBC Support: As we recently announced, the East-West Center (EWC) is no longer able to support the PBC. Our bank accounts have been moved to Louisiana State University under the stewardship of board member Professor Stephania Cormier. We have recently asked board members to provide up to date bios and these can be seen on the website. We encourage members to submit material for posting on the website. Mahmood Khwaja is the undoubted champion in this regard!

PBC elections are on again and a reminder of the rules is in order.

1. You may nominate yourself or be nominated by others for election to the PBC board of directors.
2. There is a limit of two directors from any single country.
3. Board terms are for four years and board members are eligible to stand for re-election at the end of their term.
4. You must be a financial member of the PBC to vote or to be elected to the board. We have both individual and corporate membership categories. Corporate membership is ideal for departments or institutions and allows 10 individual the privileges of membership. Corporate membership also gives 3 votes in PBC elections.

We are also seeking nominations for junior board advisors, a category that was introduced in 2017. This category is to encourage participation by junior researchers in PBC activities and to groom them for board membership in the future.

The following board members terms have expired and are eligible for re-election: Tahir Rafique, Aimin Chen, Shahriar Hossain, Noor Jehan, Fujio Kayama, KW Kim, Peter Sly and Inoka Surawerra. However, others can be nominated to replace them. This is a democratic society! The table shows where vacancies exist. Members from other countries in the broader Pacific Basin region are able to nominate.

Country	Continuing members	Expiring members	Vacancies
Australia	Anna Callan	Peter Sly	1
USA	Stephania Cormier	Aimin Chen	1
Canada	Nil		2
Japan	Kazuko Ohno	Fujio Kayama	1
Korea		KW Kim	2
India	Velayuthan Murugesan		1
Pakistan		Tahir Rafique Noor Jehan	2
Bangladesh		Shahriar Hossain	2
Sri Lanka		Inoka Suraweera	2
China	Shu Tao Kan Haidong		0
Cambodia	Vong Sathiarany		1
The Philippines	Irma Makalinao		1
Mexico	Lizbeth Lopez-Carillo Fernando Diaz-Barriga		0
Indonesia	Budi Haryanto Indah Salami		0
Brazil	Renato Stein		1
Uruguay	Antonio Pascale		1
Bhutan	Chador Wangdi		1
Oman	Rengaraj Selvaraj		1

At this election, the terms of the Executive are also up for election and nominations are called for Chairman, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

This is indeed an era of change for the PBC. As some of the more senior members move on to become Emeritus board members to be replaced by younger members, it is appropriate to review what is expected of board members.

Perhaps it is time to contemplate a Code of Conduct, or some other term to provide guidelines for board members.

Suggested PBC Board of Directors duties and responsibilities:

1. Participate in International Conferences and organizing committees as appropriate.
2. Encourage students, early career researchers and junior faculty to engage with PBC activities.
3. Promote the PBC to local institutions and organisations.
4. Encourage membership from local individuals and institutions.

5. Share activities, publications and research projects on the PBC website..

I encourage dialogues on this concept. As always, members will be given a say in any changes to be introduced.

Thank you again for your contributions and dedication to the PBC goal of improving Environmental Health, I look forward to contributing as an Emeritus member.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter D Sly', written in a cursive style.

Professor Peter D Sly