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# Kuching to host regional meet on public health

By Samuel Aubrey  
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**KUCHING:** A total of 650 participants from Malaysia and 20 foreign countries have registered for the 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Public Health, to be hosted in the state capital next month.

The conference, to run from Sept 10 to 13, is organised by College of Public Health Medicine, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia.

Themed 'Realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Aspirations on Health', the event is aimed at evaluating the efforts and future planning towards the realisation of SDG by 2030.

College of Public Health Medicine, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia president Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman said the selection of this city as the host would provide the opportunity for the state to showcase its success in delivering health services to the people, especially under 'Rural Health Services'.

"With the support from the Sarawak government and Sarawak Convention Bureau (SCB), we believe that this conference would be a success."

"On behalf of the organisers, we would wish to record our highest appreciation and gratitude to the Sarawak government, especially to Chief

Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg who has agreed to contribute RM135,000 (for the organisation of the conference) and also to officiate at the event," said Dr Lokman, who also acknowledged SCB's contributions to the preparations for the conference.

The other collaborators for this event are the Ministry of Health and the state Health Department,

as well as Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).  
Meanwhile, conference organising chairman Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman recently headed the main committee meeting in the state to finalise preparations for the conference.

He also held a closed door meeting with the state Health Department director Dr Jamilah Hasim, before they paid a courtesy

call on Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Dr Sim Kui Hian.

Last Wednesday, the delegation held a meeting with Abang Johari at the Chief Minister's Office in Wisma Bapa Malaysia here.

Dr Sha'ari said the chief minister was very appreciative of this conference being held in Sarawak, and he (Abang Johari) was hopeful that public health issues could be addressed by the experts during the sessions.

"Through this conference, it is hoped that the Malaysian participants would learn (from) experiences of their counterparts from developed countries and

apply this knowledge to improve public health services in the country," he said.

More than half of the 65 speakers for the conference are from overseas. There will also be presentations from young local researchers.

In addition, experts from international bodies such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), Asean Secretariat, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Unicef, as well as International Labour Organisation-Joint UN Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in Asia (ILO-JUNIMA) will also present papers at this conference.



Abang Johari (fourth right), flanked by Dr Sim and Dr Jamilah, receives the delegation led by Dr Sha'ari (third left) at the Chief Minister's Office.

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Representatives of the conference's organising committee, led by Dr Sha'ari (fourth left) in a group photo with Dr Sim (fourth right).