

## Welcome Address

### **APRU Global Health Workshop** UNSW, Sydney 29 September 2016

Vice-Chancellor Ian Jacobs, Dr Jon Samet, distinguished speakers and guests, fellow participants:

It is a particular pleasure to welcome you all to this APRU Global Health Workshop hosted in this spectacular city by one of this country's leading research universities, UNSW Australia.

The issues that you are dealing with in this workshop connect human health with the health of the planet in so many ways. They speak to the systemic nature of the challenges the Asia-Pacific region faces.

From environmental policy to political participation, from economic policy and technological development to the issue of sharing the benefits of discoveries and inventions beyond merely those who can afford to pay for them.

All these factors are part of examining the global health landscape. A global health agenda that brings together the learning and insights from many disciplines and many aspects of the human experience stands as an example for the way the educational process works best and works for the benefit of all. I am so glad to see the UN Sustainable Development Goals, security, trade, migration, governance explicitly addressed in the programme as an integral part of the health agenda.

I am also very pleased to say that APRU's Global Health Program, so ably led by Jon Samet and creatively coordinated by Mellissa Withers, has risen to the challenge over the past several years of encompassing these multi-faceted areas in a highly successful initiative. It has become one of our flagship programs. I am privileged therefore to stand with them and your hosts in welcoming you to this workshop and to the task of building on such stunning work.

This success fulfills the aspirations of the presidents of USC, UCLA, Berkeley and Caltech when they established APRU back in 1997: to focus on a high-level advisory role for the research universities of the Pacific Rim. A role which would aggregate the research and educational capabilities of the Association's members to address the most pressing issues facing our societies.

I want to draw your attention to a report that has been given to you in your conference papers: the APRU Impact Report. It begins to provide the evidence base for the many ways that research universities contribute to our societies and to the solution of cross-border issues. It contains contextual data, research metrics and case studies. Some of these case studies are in the area of global health.

This is the first report of a three-year pilot series. We hope that the next report will contain much more on the global health agenda just as this one had a focus on multi-hazards and disaster risk reduction around the Pacific ring of fire. Please use this report widely to advocate for your work and to demonstrate its impact.

I wish to thank Vice-Chancellor Ian Jacobs for hosting this workshop. He has a very strong commitment to issues of social justice and human development, reflected in UNSW's strategic plan. So we are in a place which confirms the value of this work and which regards it as a social responsibility to further advance social justice both nationally and internationally.

I thank also Professor Richard Taylor and the other members of the Global Health Advisory Group from many of our member universities. The depth, quality and the success of this programme comes from their commitment as a group over the years. Thank you.

I wish to thank the UNSW International team, Meherlyn Jussawalla and her colleagues, for their hard work and support in organizing for this event.

Chris Tremewan