

Malaysia's healthcare among best — CM

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By Neil Brian Joseph

KOTA KINABALU: Chief Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal said Malaysia has one of the best healthcare systems in the region.

He pointed out that Malaysia had made impressive achievements in its effort to improve the health of its citizens and that they enjoyed a relatively high standard of health.

“We have an equitable and highly accessible public healthcare delivery system that has made tremendous health gains as well as comprehensive service coverage,” Shafie said in his speech, read by Assistant Minister of Health and People’s Wellbeing Norazlinah Arif at

the 50th Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) opening ceremony on Wednesday.

He said key health status indicators such as life expectancy at birth had increased over the years.

“Good indicators of overall health system performance such as infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate have significantly reduced to levels that are comparable to those of developed nations,” he added.

Although many countries are still being haunted communicable diseases, Malaysia, on the other hand, has managed to overcome many of these diseases in the past.

On a separate note, Shafie

expressed his hope that the said conference would be able to gather and disseminate the highest possible level of public health information, which can benefit not only the Asian-Pacific countries but the rest of the world as well.

The conference, themed ‘Milestone Event – Moving Forward to address Challenges in Regional Health’ was attended by over 600 delegates from countries such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan as well as countries from as far as the United States and Germany.

Meanwhile Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin had expressed his gratitude towards APACPH for giving his university the opportunity to host



Norazlinah and D Kamarudin with other invited guests and delegates of the 50th Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health.

the event.

“Healthcare discipline today needs to be innovative in tackling new and current issues. If current methods are used but produce no results, novel methods should instead be envisioned.

“Public Health leaders must take the lead and not be complacent. They should be able to think outside the box when

necessary. We must move with the times or else we will be left out,” Kamarudin said in his speech.

He explained that APACPH is an international non-profit organisation comprising many of the largest and most influential schools of public health in the Asia-Pacific region.

“Launched in 1984, with just five members, APACPH now has

over 81 member institutions in 23 countries throughout Asia-Pacific with regional offices in Bangkok, Beijing, Brisbane, Hawaii, Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo,” he added.

Among those present in the event were the Federal Ministry of Health’ Director-General Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah and APACPH president Dr Masamine Jimba.