A Brief Summary of the 5th APSAAR-TSA Conference
31st May - 3rd June 2017, Taipei, Taiwan

This was a joint meeting between the Taiwan Society of Addiction (TSA) and the Asia Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR). Both societies chose Taipei City, Taiwan for its World Congress from May 31st to June 3rd, 2017.

The conference was held under the theme of “The Challenges of Addiction: from basic research to clinical treatment.” This conference provided a dedicated platform to share cutting-edge scientific findings, medical practices and caregiver initiatives related to addiction research and therapy. It engaged a global audience focused on the exchange of ideas and perspectives for the better understanding of basic, preclinical, clinical, and translation science knowledge on addiction-related biomedical phenomena. High level scientific sessions were successfully organized: plenary lectures, symposia, interactive and educational workshops, and debates.

The conference attracted 306 delegates comprising addiction scientists and basic researchers, clinicians, experts, and scholars interested in alcohol and addiction research from 12 countries: 8 in the Asia-Pacific region (Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand, Japan, Australia, India, China, and Hong Kong), France, Norway, Lithuania, and the United States of America (as seen in figure above). Over 250 abstracts for oral and poster presentations were received, and 232 abstracts were accepted for discussion and debates. The Conference had a total of 43 different sessions, including six Keynote sessions, 24 Symposium sessions, nine Oral sessions (45 free oral presentation), three Special lecture sessions, and one Poster presentation session (92 Poster presentations).

Photos of the Welcome Banquet
About the 5th APSAAR

The conference was opened by Prof. Ru-Band Lu (President of Congress), Peter Dodd (President of APSAAR), San-Yuan Huang (President of TSA). Substance abuse and dependence have been a universal challenge to all countries. The size and impact of this silent battle against substance abuse are no less than any other major combats in the world. This is a fight without boundaries and a fight that we cannot fail. Losing the war on drugs can bring harm and complications to the individuals and result in psychological and mental decline within the society.

Cutting-edge technology and research have been developed to minimize the problems that arise from drug abuse. Despite these developments, we have encountered many new challenges in the war on drugs. For the challenges outlined above, we invited academic scholars and experts from the Asia-Pacific and other regions share the latest biomedical, epidemiological, judicial, and educational research and experience on substance abuse. The 6th APSAAR conference will likely be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.