The Indonesian Young Health Professionals Society (IYHPS), in collaboration with the Sebelas Maret University (UNS), held the 1st Asia-Pacific Interprofessional Education and Collaboration (APIPEC) conference in Surakarta, Indonesia on 13-15 October 2017. Attendees travelled from many Asia-Pacific countries, including Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong, UK and Qatar.

The APIPEC conference was held at the Best Western Premier Hotel Solo Baru, Sukoharjo, and the opening event was inaugurated by the Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MoRTHE) and Ministry of Health (MoH) Professor Akmal Taher and the Vice Rector of UNS Professor Sutarno.

According to IYHPS Chairman Dr. Daniel Kambey, the APIPEC conference provided a collaboration platform for practitioners, academics, and stakeholders in the health sector from various Asia-Pacific countries to share their ideas and experiences of interprofessional education and health practices. The first APIPEC was a stepping stone to improve health education and practices in Indonesia. Dr Kambey said that the forum would help to improve health professional education in the Asia Pacific region through the development of an APIPEC Network.

Kambey expressed hope that interprofessional education would drive collaboration in health practices across all the health professions, to offer better services to the people, with patient needs as the main priority.

Speakers at this first-ever APIPEC were experts from various countries such as Australia, Japan, Australia, UK and USA, and also from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education, and Indonesian Teaching Hospitals Association. Australian keynote speakers included A/Prof Monica Moran (president of ANZAHPE and founding member of AIPPEN) and Prof Gary Rogers (immediate past president of ANZAHPE).

According to Professor Hartono, the Dean of UNS Faculty of Medicine, health services are not solely supported by infrastructure and amenities but also depend on the quality and quantity of human resources.

An important element of the conference was a series of concurrent oral presentations and workshops that showcased innovative, interprofessional practices across the Asia Pacific region and generated a great deal of networking and sharing of ideas. The enthusiasm, and commitment of participants was clear, and recurring foci were around transformation of the health workforce and innovation in service delivery models. The attendance of many students and early career health professionals committed to the values and principles of IPEC is encouraging for Indonesia and the Asia Pacific.