Recent Activity Report from Regional Counsellor for the Western Pacific Region (6 April 2017, Tony LaMontagne)

- Sponsored an IEA plenary session at the September 2016 Australasian Epidemiology Association conference entitled “Epidemiology in the Western Pacific Region.” The goal was to showcase and promote inter-country collaboration in the region. It included presentations from the RC, other speakers from Australia (Dr. Christine Linhart, and early career researcher who did her PhD on NCD surveillance in a number Pacific Island countries) and New Zealand (Prof Tony Blakely, who has been engaged in epidemiologic capacity building the region for many years), and a featured presentation from Dr. Paula Vivilli, the Director of the Public Health Division of the SPC: a Pacific Community international development organisation owned and governed by 26 Pacific Island country and territory members. The session concluded with promotion of the 2017 WCE in Saitama and the 2020 WCE in Melbourne;

- Applications recently closed for the second annual round of the IEA-AEA Exchange Award program (http://ieaweb.org/iea-aea-western-pacific-regional-collaboration-award-2017/). Looking forward to making two awards this year (each co-funded with up to $1000 from AEA and $100 from IEA);

- Attended the World Congress of Public Health in Melbourne in April, and promoted 2017 WCE and 2020 WCE (will be held in same Melbourne conference venue) including new banners for 2020 Congress posted at OUP and AEA (Australasian Epi Assn) Exhibition Booths;

- Planning for W-P Regional session at WCE in Saitama: will include a presentation and Q&A with the new IJE Editor, Stephen Leeder, and a brief presentation by the outgoing RC on the Exchange Awards and other activities. I have organised to split with the new incoming RC from Japan: Professor Manami Inoue from the University of Tokyo (running unopposed in current election); she will be organising the second half of our 90 minute session.