

**Welcome message from Assoc Prof Godfrey Isouard, Immediate Past President,
The Society for Health Administration Programs in Education (SHAPE)**

On behalf of the Society for Health Administration Programs in Education (SHAPE), it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 1st International Health Management Delivery Conference. I am delighted to have been involved as a co-organiser. The Conference has an impressive range of symposia, papers and posters, and with the presence of outstanding speakers provides an overall stimulating academic program.

The conference is timely and important. The need for improvement in the management and organisation of health services is evident. Rising health costs, issue of access and equity, the growing impact of chronic disease, an ageing population, and the global economic crisis, are just a few of the many challenges ahead.

SHAPE is ideally positioned to provide advice and work collaboratively with health professionals to support the effective organisation and management of health and community services. SHAPE is an organisation comprising health management academics, with the mission to promote excellence in aged care and health service management education and research in the Asia Pacific region. It provides an academic forum to debate educational issues, encourage innovation and enhance collaborative research that leads to improvement in service delivery. Our members have the necessary expertise and professional knowledge to collaborate with other health professionals to support improved performance within the health care system.

The conference provides a unique opportunity to showcase that high quality health management is central to improved health care services in the Asia Pacific region. In this regard I feel that we should explore the possible establishment of an Asia Pacific health management network of interested delegates to raise the profile through collaboration in health management research and education. I will briefly refer to this recommendation during my presentation at the Conference.

On a final note, I would like to thank Dr Prawit Taytiwat and his team at Naresuan University for working tirelessly in organizing this important International Conference. Thanks also to the collaborating partners and sponsors. In particular, I would like to thank Dr David Briggs, University of New England who has also contributed magnificently to the planning of this event.

I look forward to meeting you all in Phitsanulok Thailand

With best wishes,



Assoc Professor Godfrey Isouard
Immediate Past President SHAPE