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The main objectives of IASP are:
1. To provide a common platform for all representatives of the many professions who are engaged in the field of suicide prevention and crisis intervention.
2. To bring together the available knowledge and expertise for effective action.
3. To encourage the interchange of acquired experience in various countries and regions.
4. To promote the establishment of national organizations for suicide prevention.
5. To facilitate the dissemination of the fundamentals of effective suicide prevention to professional groups and to the general public.
6. To arrange for specialized training of selected persons in the area of suicide prevention in selected training centers.
7. To carry out programs of research, especially those which can be pursued through international joint cooperation.

Experts in suicidology, psychiatry, and public health as well as government officials from all over the world will be invited to the Congress. Their presentations will provide an overview of suicide related research in the world. The Congress will serve as a platform for those who are interested and working in the field of suicide prevention to share their research and acquired experiences.

The 26th World Congress of IASP will be held in Beijing, the capital of China, from September 13th to 17th, 2011. It is the second time for the congress to be held in Asia. With the considerable progress in research on suicide, there has been great success in suicide prevention in Asia, especially in China. More and more people in China are engaging in suicide research locally and internationally. Although China is facing many common challenges in suicide research and suicide prevention as other countries, it also has to address many other issues which are closely related to its unique culture and recent, fast paced economic and political reformation. China is a country with the largest population and relatively high suicide rate. With no doubt, the success of suicide research and prevention in China will contribute greatly to the global understanding of this important issue, which makes the Congress held in China especially significant.

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