

Western Pacific Region (WPR1) 2025 Annual Report

Introduction

The Western Pacific Region leadership consists of one Regional Coordinator and one Regional Assistant based in Hong Kong, and representatives based in China, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, and Taiwan. Specifically, the team members include:

- Prof. Paul S. F. Yip (Regional Coordinator), Director of the HKJC Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Ms. Ingrid D. Lui (Regional Assistant), PhD Candidate of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Prof. Dr. Lai Fong Chan, Professor of the Department of Psychiatry, National University of Malaysia, Malaysia
- Prof. Shu-Sen Chang, Professor of the Institute of Health Behaviors and Community Sciences, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
- Prof. Ying-yeh Chen, Professor of the Institute of Public Health, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan
- Prof. Tae-Yeon Hwang, President of the Korea Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Republic of Korea
- Ms. Yuka Nishina, Head of the Office for International Cooperation, Japan Suicide Countermeasures Promotion Center, Japan
- Mr. Yasuyuki Shimizu, Representative Director of the Japan Suicide Countermeasures Promotion Center, Japan
- Prof. Liang Zhou, Director of the Guangzhou Psychological Crisis Research and Intervention Center, Guangzhou Medical University, China

Connections have been established with other countries and regions in WPR1 including Indonesia (which recently transitioned to the WHO WPR in May 2025), the Philippines, and Singapore, though they have not yet been formally engaged in the leadership team. In addition, existing contacts have recommended colleagues from Macau, Mongolia, and Vietnam for the purposes of completing the Situation Analysis, though additional collaboration (e.g., through participation in the leadership team) has not been discussed. Therefore, links have yet to be established in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, or Laos, though efforts to do so are ongoing.

Achievements

Dissemination Activities

Conferences and Workshops — In Person (Symposia, Panels, Workshops)

At the IASP 33rd World Congress in June 2025, WPR1 leadership team members were involved in the following Pfl-branded activities:

1. Pre Congress Workshop “Partnerships for Life: connecting for learning, mutual inspiration and effective collaboration” facilitated by the Steering Group with participation from WPR1 leadership team members and their colleagues / collaborators
2. Panel “Partnerships for Life” including Ingrid Lui
3. Poster “Suicide research priorities for the Western Pacific Region” by Ingrid D. Lui and Luke Bayliss (WPR2).

Furthermore, WPR1 leadership team members were involved in numerous non-PfL-branded presentations across the congress programme, including 8 oral presentations and 11 poster presentations (see Appendix), as well as the following:

- Plenary Presentation “Strengths & Suicide-protective factors in low-and-middle-income countries: implications on global suicide prevention” by Lai Fong Chan and Nur Ajrina binti Abdul Rahman
- Special Lecture “Online Suicide Prevention Program: Challenges and Opportunities” by Paul Yip
- Special Lecture “Women at Work, Men in Care: A Path to Suicide Prevention” by Ying-yeh Chen
- Panel “Social media: Hopes and Fears about the Suicide Prevention Field’s Scalable Future” including Paul Yip
- Symposium “Mental Health and Suicidality in China: A Three Decades’ Review”
 - “Building bridges and pushing boundaries: suicide prevention in Hong Kong” by Paul Yip
 - “Suicide prevention among older adults in rural China” by Liang Zhou
- Symposium “IASP’S SIG Media & Suicide Symposium part I: Practical and policy-related developments in media monitoring and media guidelines”
 - “Leveraging Media and Policy: The Role of the Content Forum as Self-Regulation Organisation in Suicide Prevention Efforts in a Low-and Middle-Income Country (LMIC)” co-authored by Lai Fong Chan

Online Workshops and Webinars

WPR1 co-hosted one PfL Webinar in December with SEAR, with Paul Yip serving as one of the co-chairs. Ying-yeh Chen delivered a talk titled “Impact of Taiwan’s Suicide Prevention Act: An Interrupted Time-Series Analysis of Suicide Rates from 2015 to 2023.”

Publications

One peer-reviewed publication explicitly related to PfL was produced in 2025:

- Bayliss, L. T., Lui, I. D., Chan, L. F., Chang, S.-S., Hwang, T.-Y., Scott, V., Shimizu, Y., & Yip, P. S. F. (2025). Uplifting ethnic minority voices in the Western Pacific region: a priority for regional suicide research. *The Lancet Regional Health - Western Pacific*, 57, 101540. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanwpc.2025.101540>

WPR1 leadership team members continue to publish their own collaborative research in the field of suicide prevention which are aligned with the goals of the PfL initiative.

Advocacy, Policy and Research

No major advocacy or policy activities were undertaken by the WPR1 leadership team in 2025. Research activities and collaborations within the region are ongoing, though were not necessarily created through Pfl as many of these partnerships already existed prior to this initiative. New opportunities for collaboration, particularly with connections that were only established through this initiative, continue to be explored.

Conclusion

Research continues to remain the focus of Pfl efforts in WPR1. The existing leadership team remains well-connected and committed to advancing suicide prevention in the region. Efforts to further engage regional contacts and connections are ongoing.

Appendix

- Oral Presentations at the 33rd World Congress
 - “Association of two Netflix drama series and one suicide prevention media story with gas poisoning suicide in South Korea: A time trend analysis” co-authored by Shu-Sen Chang
 - “Caregiver-adolescent concordance in reporting self-harm, depressive symptoms, and psychological well-being among adolescents in Taiwan” co-authored by Shu-Sen Chang
 - “Current status and challenges of support for suicide attempters in emergency medical centers: based on data from the Japan registry of self-harm and suicide attempts” co-authored by Yasuyuki Shimizu
 - “How to Engage the Head of Government in Suicide Countermeasures: The Case of Japan” by Yasuyuki Shimizu
 - “Interpersonal factors differentiating current states of suicidal ideation among young Internet gamers with past suicidal ideation” co-authored by Paul Yip
 - “Longitudinal association between psychotic-like experiences and suicidal behaviors” co-authored by Liang Zhou
 - “Profiles of suicide reasons and their associations with suicide-related behaviour in South Korea” co-authored by Shu-Sen Chang
 - “The effect of a psychiatric assessment of self-harm at the emergency department on subsequent risk of self-harm repetition and suicide” co-authored by Ying-yeh Chen and Shu-Sen Chang
 - “The Impact of Suicide Beliefs on Support for Suicide Prevention and Physician-Assisted Suicide” co-authored by Ying-yeh Chen and Shu-Sen Chang
- Poster Presentations at the 33rd World Congress
 - “A Study on Predictors of Complicated Grief Risk Among Suicide Survivors” co-authored by Tae-Yeon Hwang
 - “A study on relationship between Attitudes toward suicide and help-seeking behavior in Korea” co-authored by Tae-Yeon Hwang

- “Bridging the gap with hard-to-reach elderly: Transforming invisibility into community” co-authored by Paul Yip
- “Change in psychological distress and associated factors among Hong Kong young adults in post-COVID-19 era: a latent transition analysis” co-authored by Paul Yip
- “Developing a brief intervention to reduce repeated self-harm: A qualitative study of co-design team member research experience” co-authored by Shu-sen Chang
- “Enhancing Help-seeking Intentions and Perceived Effectiveness of Online Text-Based Emotion and Crisis Support Among Adolescents and Early Adults: A Network Psychometric Analysis in Hong Kong” co-authored by Paul Yip
- “Exploratory analysis of suicidal thoughts in Japanese children: a text mining approach to messages posted on an online bulletin board “Facing Suicide”” co-authored by Yasuyuki Shimizu
- “Heterogeneity of internet gaming disorder and psychosocial profiles among young gamers and associations with suicidality - a latent profile analysis” co-authored by Paul S. F. Yip
- “Modeling temporal dynamics of suicidal ideation and risk factors on social media via network analysis” co-authored by Paul Yip
- “Possible causes of lower-than-expected suicide rates in Taiwan and South Korea during the COVID-19 pandemic” co-authored by Shu-Sen Chang
- “Sexual orientation disparity in suicidal ideation among adolescents in Hong Kong: a decomposition analysis” co-authored by Paul Yip
- “Situational impact, psychosocial factors, and suicidality among young adults during and after the COVID-19 pandemic: A repeated cross-sectional network analysis” co-authored by Paul S. F. Yip