

Welcome! We are delighted to have you all here gathered in this beautiful, suggestive and inspiring location to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> GPEC Summit, hosted, once again, by the American Board of Pediatrics Foundation.

Therefore, before I start, I would like to acknowledge and thank The American Board of Pediatrics Foundation through its representatives Dr. Jim Stockman, who unfortunately could not be with us today because of important institutional commitments, and Dr. Hazen Ham and the secretarial and organizational backup, represented, on this occasion by Mss. Valerie Estrela and Sheryl Thompson for the priceless and immeasurable help they have provided in organizing all of the material that has gone towards the successful completion of our last two meetings as well as, I am sure, this one. They have literally been the solid backbone that is allowing this newly born consortium to have slowly crawled, crept, and is now finally starting to pull itself into a standing position and hopefully in the very near future be able to stand alone.

I would also, at this point, like to personally thank those of you who were able to be here today:

Dr. Harish <b>AMIN</b>	Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
Dr. Bipin <b>BATRA</b>	Executive Director, National Board of Examinations (India)
Prof. David <b>BRANSKI</b>	Israeli Medical Association
Prof. Yong-Hao <b>GUI</b>	President, Chinese Pediatric Society
Prof. Peter F. <b>HOYER</b>	German Society of Pediatrics - German Academy of Pediatrics
Dr. William <b>KEENAN</b>	Executive Director, International Pediatric Association
Dr. Mary <b>MCGRAW</b>	Vice President, Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health (UK)
Dr. Akbar M. <b>MOHAMMAD</b>	President, Pediatric Council, Arab Board of Health Specializations
Prof. Haroon <b>SALOOJEE</b>	President, College of Paediatricians of South Africa
Prof. Takao <b>TAKAHASHI</b>	Vice President, Japan Pediatric Society
Prof. Alfred <b>TENORE</b>	European Academy of Pediatrics

Those who send their apologies for not being able to attend, include:

Prof. Nadia <b>BADRAWI</b>	Egyptian Pediatric Association
Prof. Zulfiqar A. <b>BHUTTA</b>	Faculty of Paediatricss, The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan
Prof. Sergio <b>CABRAL</b>	President, International Pediatric Association Latin American Association of Pediatrics
Prof. Andreas <b>KONSTANTOPOULOS</b>	President, European Pediatric Association/UNEPSA President-Elect, International Pediatric Association
Prof. Adebisi <b>OLOWU</b>	Vice President, Paediatric Association of Nigeria
Dr. James A. <b>STOCKMAN III</b>	President and CEO, American Board of Pediatrics
Dr. Jonathan <b>KLEIN</b>	Associate Executive Director, American Academy of Pediatrics
Dr. Arvind <b>SAILI</b>	National Neonatology Forum (India)

It is a wonderful feeling to be here before you and discuss an event that is not grim and dark like what we commonly find today when we open a newspaper or turn on the news on the radio or TV, such as war, politics and Berlusconi. It is a wonderful feeling to be here and discuss with you something that is hopeful and bright and that can make a difference in children's lives in every corner of the world through the efforts of a handful of dedicated people such as yourselves. I am very pleased and proud to be part of this group who is actively working to make sure that this happens.

I am also very pleased with the progress that has taken place thus far and want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the willingness, commitment, time and effort that you have demonstrated and dedicated to work towards the attainment of what the vision and mission of this group is: to improve the quality of medical care provided to infants, children, adolescents and young adults in every part of the world by making available material resources and educational expertise for pediatric training to all countries.

At the end of this meeting we will be very close, if not ready, to begin pilot testing the results of all of our efforts in the last two years. Considering the scope of the proposed

program, we have made giant strides in a relatively short period of time. We now must keep on moving with the same momentum, if not greater, to make sure that GPEC can self-sustain, be productive in influencing the appropriate people, organizations or governments, and truly change the quality of pediatric care.

This third meeting will primarily focus on completing the "Global Curriculum in General Pediatrics" so that it can be "field tested". However, it will also consider possible manoeuvres that will help GPEC to self-sustain and carryout its mission. We will discuss:

- a) Governance and funding;
- b) Review our vision and mission statements not only to reinforce our commitment but to make them more appealing to "third parties" as well.
- c) Start defining and delineating recommendations for training structures and their accreditation,
- d) Look at the possibility and/or feasibility of International certification and,
- e) Begin to possibly explore some training issues of some exemplary subspecialties.

I can assure you that the next two and half days will be far from boring and hopefully we will all be enthusiastic with what we are producing, especially if we work with the premise in mind that we are not doing this for ourselves but for the good of our children worldwide. As Albert Pine, an obscure 19<sup>th</sup> century English author, so elegantly said:

*"What we do for ourselves dies with us.*

*What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."*

I am convinced that all of us are idealistic enough, some might say naïve, to think that we can lead by example and inspire more people to get involved. I am firmly convinced that we can, and in fact, I try to live my daily and professional life by one of the many quotable contributions Albert Einstein has left us, when he said:

*"Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another. . . It is the only means"*

We must recognize that we have the potential to make a difference! This is an important driving force of what we stand for, here at GPEC. In the final analysis, I think most of us would agree that the most effective road to follow to ultimately reach our vision is to influence and get more people involved in this effort.

I choose to believe that there are people, organizations and governments out there who will see that what we are doing here today, and what we are committed to do in the future, to improve children's health worldwide, with the reduction of morbidity and mortality, through appropriate teaching and training of those physicians who will be taking care of the future citizens of the world, will ultimately benefit families, societies and nations. Governments will come to realize that although health care is becoming increasingly expensive, good teaching still remains priceless!

My deepest thanks and gratitude to all of you for believing and working together to make this possible. Over the next few days, prepare yourselves to be challenged, excited, but above all...inspired.

Thank you

Prof. Alfred Tenore

Chair, GPEC