

28th April, 2008

RE: IFMSA ACTION Project - Call for Applications

Dear Colleagues,

The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) is proud to open applications for the Australian delegation to the 5th annual meeting of the Asian Collaborative Training on Infectious Disease, Outbreak, Natural Disaster and Refugee Management (ACTION) Project of the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA). This year's meeting will be held in **Manila, The Philippines** from the **17th to the 23rd of August, 2008**.

The Asia-Pacific region has undoubtedly been subjected to many natural disasters during the past decade. This year's theme is Typhoon. In the 2006 season there were 23 typhoons to strike the Philippines. The two deadliest and most devastating of which were Typhoon Reming and Typhoon Milenyo, leaving 380,000 families homeless and at least 1200 people dead or missing. Like other natural disasters around the globe, these catastrophes in the Asia-Pacific have brought, and continue to bring, tremendous damage and grief to the lives of those unfortunate enough to experience their impact.

The ACTION project is an initiative of the Asia-Pacific region of the IFMSA that was first established in 2004. The aims of the project are to:

1. To raise students' awareness of infection diseases, outbreaks and natural disasters.
2. To develop human resources – trained and motivated doctors, who can assist in relieving the health consequences of natural disasters.
3. To motivate medical students to share their knowledge in Australia.

The Project brings together like-minded medical students from across the Asia-Pacific region to share their ideas, skills and experience in disaster management. During the ACTION project students will acquire, develop and practice skills in disaster relief through small working groups, lectures, training workshops and fieldwork.

Important Details

AMSA is allowed to send **a total of 5 delegates** to the ACTION Project. We aim to select the delegation as early as possible to help minimise the costs of airfares and conference registration, and to allow delegates to organise their finances accordingly.

Applications for ACTION08

Application forms and further information may be found at the ACTION website – www.action-project.org

Applications should highlight your enthusiasm for disaster management and your commitment to ongoing participation in this area of global health, both within Australia and in future transnational collaborations, such as the ACTION project.

Completed applications must be sent to the ACTION Organising Committee at action.project@gmail.com AND the AMSA Global Health Officer global@amsa.org.au before **31st May 2008**. Applications will not be accepted after this date. The final selection of delegates will be made over the following days and **successful applicants will be notified by email**.

Cost

AMSA is aware that participation in the ACTION Project comes with a significant financial burden. Although AMSA will provide assistance in the form of advice and official letters of support, it is unable to directly subsidise the cost of attendance. Previous delegates have reduced such costs through means of sponsorship and grants with varied success. If the delegate position is accepted, however, the delegate must accept full responsibility of the cost associated with attending the ACTION Project.

Registration: The cost of registration has been set by the Organising Committee of the ACTION Project and will be approximately AUD\$440.

Flights: The cost of flights to Manila start from \$1000 departing from the East coast of Australia.

Reimbursement Policy

After students have registered and paid for the event reimbursements will only be permitted until the 30th of June and will be for 70% of the registration cost (minus transaction fees). Reimbursements will not be permitted after the 30th June.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the selection process or funding queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Global Health Officer or refer to the website.

I would strongly encourage any student interested in global health, and particularly disaster management, to take this unique opportunity to attend the ACTION project. With students from across the Asia-Pacific region in attendance, this is an excellent opportunity to experience and be a part of a multinational, regional project.

Kind regards,

Jake Parker
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Australian Medical Students' Association

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