



President's Message

- Welcome to 2026, Year of the Red Fire Horse
- Support for Conflict Zone CDPs: Assist with ideas, connections, and sponsorship pathways to secure a strong centerpiece and recognition for conflict zone practitioners through the Resilience Awards in Malaysia.
- Conference and Retreat Alignment: Offer input on key messages for speeches and the retreat agenda to ensure clarity, cohesion, and strategic outcomes.

Treasurer's Report (see Financial Statements) (Nila)

- Conference Income is good. This report looks comfortable.
- We have completed 1/3 of the year.
- Hopefully this positive trend will continue

Report on Area Council (Baktiar)

- Please see summary article on website
- Moving forward – want to leverage our strengths
- Build the strength of our Area Council

Report on Committee Council (Natalie)

- Discussed member engagement
- Discussed what the Board had discussed at the Committee Council meeting

Report on Mentorship Project (Elisabeth)

- The Local Engagement Discussion group will hold its first meeting in March
- One-to-one leadership mentoring has begun and several Area Representatives are participating, plus several other leaders who are serving as mentors
- SDGs – This group wants world-wide cohesion, but actually, it is very fragmented

Discussion: Proposed Annual Performance Report from Council Members

- Could ask for reports from committees
- Could review the leadership to assure that their membership is active
- Could list really specific expectations for each position
- Could survey the Area Council members to ask them if they are meeting expectations
- Need to review the kinds of efforts that work
- Keeping a record for accountability purposes
- We always report at the Members Meeting about accomplishments, but this would provide more specific information

Discussion: Proposal to add a new awards category – Advocacy Award

- Could be used to celebrate people working in conflict zones
- We could recognize those in conflict zones who support career development
- Advocacy is a simple practice that makes a difference – should recognize this
- Perhaps should not use self-nomination. Better if they are nominated by someone else. Or perhaps we could accept self-nomination, but dig deeply to determine their impact

- Could have 2 new awards, one for specific to conflict zones and another related to other kinds of advocacy. There are many types of advocacy.

Discussion: Format of Member Verification

- In Member365, we can have either a Member Card or Member Certificate (not both)
- We now have 505 members – we crossed the 500 barrier
- It would be nice to have a choice of options
- We need to Increase awareness of how to use the Member Logo – for some people, that is more important than a member card or certificate
- We need instructions on how to establish a group of practitioners
- We should focus on the obstacles of the profession
- Perhaps we could provide business cards or bookmarks that members can print themselves
- We could provide printable marketing materials

Life Skills Announcement (Program Committee)

- APCDA Program Committee announces an information discussion group where adult professionals share how they move through work and life using their life skills.
- Bring your tips, tools, insights, stories, and strategies to share with colleagues.
- Life Skills Modules (10 Core Skills)
 - Communication
 - Decision-Making
 - Feedback & Criticism
 - Leadership & Initiative
 - Adaptability & Risk-Taking
 - Collaboration & Teamwork
 - Ethical Decision-Making
 - Reflective Practice / Self-Awareness
 - Lifelong Learning / Career Self-Management
 - Leadership Through Service

2026 Conference – Malaysia

- Registration (as of Feb 22)

	Count	Virtual	In-person
Members	108	28	47
Non-Members	128	100	61
Total	236	128	108

- Key Points
 - Whova – Conference Software opens for delegates March 15, 2026
 - Program Book has been published
 - Sponsorship of \$6,500
 - CIMB - \$5000 (Gold Sponsor)
 - Kinobi - \$ 1500 (Bronze Sponsor)
- Fundraising
 - Funds raised
 - \$5763 USD
 - 3 endowment contributions of Rs. 1001
 - ~14% higher than last year [\$5072]
 - Donors
 - 37 individuals
 - ~60% more donors over last year [23]

- Scholarships so far
 - Countries: Vietnam, India, Philippines, Malaysia, Pakistan, Australia, Indonesia, China, Sri Lanka, Yemen, United States, Japan, Maldives, Myanmar, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, UK

Type	Number
Leaders	51
Student Presenters	19
Students	45
Resilience	4
Total	119

- Awards
 - Deadline Approaching – March 15, 2026
 - Advocacy Award – Ideas for 2027

Leadership Retreat 2026 (Elisabeth)

- May 1, 2026, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Urban Living Hotel
- How to bring new attendees up to speed
- 4-hour meeting on April 26 for those who are new to the retreat
- Develop a strategy for change/growth
- Set aside time for 20-minute update on this meeting

2027 Conference - Singapore

Theme: **Enabling a Future-Ready Workforce**

	Topic	Name	Type	Status
PDI 1	Employer Engagement in Career Development for Young People	Dr Anthony Mann	International	Confirmed
Keynote 1	Teenage career development: What 160+ longitudinal analyses tell us about what works in supporting better employment outcomes (and why)	Dr Anthony Mann, Senior Policy Analyst at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	International	Confirmed
Keynote 2	Human Capital in the Age of Transition	Ms Dilys Boey, CEO, WSG	Local	Connected.
Keynote 3	Career Counselling in the Age of AI: When to Lend a Human Hand when Supporting Clients	Sonny Wong, a career counselor and psychotherapist	International	Confirmed
PDI 2	Career Counseling the Whole Person – Empathy, Strength, Creativity and Co-Construction of Career-Focused Solutions.	Sonny Wong, a career counselor and psychotherapist	International	Confirmed

Next Steps

- [Marilyn: Send the letter \(including visa invitation and scholarship details\) to scholars who need it for Malaysia, reminding them what is covered and what is not, and include the formal letter from Arun as executive director.](#)

- Marilyn: Compile all scholarship applicant lists, check for duplicates, ensure all registered scholars are in the database, and verify no duplicates exist.
- Elisabeth: Send the conference history PPT to Polly for review and further input.
- Marilyn: Send the script (or video) from the 10th anniversary to Elisabeth for use in updating the conference history presentation.
- Sini: Connect individually with Brian and Roberta to discuss further the points raised about challenges in China and to coordinate on leadership retreat participation.
- Sini: Schedule and conduct a 20-minute virtual briefing for new board members about the leadership retreat/pre-retreat process, targeting March 17th, with individual follow-ups as needed for those unable to attend.
- Arun: Confirm with Gaini whether she will attend the leadership retreat in Kuala Lumpur.
- Arun: Cross-check with all board members to confirm in-person or hybrid attendance for the leadership retreat and pre-retreat, and coordinate logistics accordingly.
- All board members: Spread the word and submit nominations for the new advocacy award by March 15th.
- Marilyn: Monitor financial markets and be prepared to adjust investment strategy for APCDA funds if there are signs of significant currency shifts or economic changes.
- Arun: Send details of the three keynote speakers for 2027 conference to Alan.
- Marilyn: Complete and distribute minutes from the last officers' meeting.

Sini Parampota

Mrs. Effrosyni (Sini) Parampota

Secretary

Asia Pacific Career Development Association