



## WELCOME



As the Asia Pacific Rim Confederation of Counsellors approaches its 12th birthday, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the 6th international conference is being jointly sponsored by the Australian Counselling Association and the American Counselling Association, to take place in Brisbane in September 2019.

The Asia Pacific Rim, as elsewhere in the world, is experiencing an ever-increasing need for psychological counselling. The continuing urbanization, globalization and modernization have generally made human existence more complicated and more distress-prone. Life in the 21st Century poses unavoidable changes and challenges that perpetually threaten our subjective well-being, and we need to ensure that the counselling profession grows proportionately to help people weather these threats.

The sponsors of this conference, the two ACAs, are giants in the counselling profession. Compared with them, counselling associations in many countries and regions in the Asia Pacific Rim are mere infants. There are many reasons for such stunted growth, and a main one is our lack of efficacy in making counselling culturally relevant for our own countries and regions.

This is exactly why international conferences such as the 6th APRCCC are so important. In the past five APRCC conferences held in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and China, we have been most successful to bring together researchers, scholars, teachers and practitioners of counselling from around the world. We shared our views on indigenisation, government policies, cultural relevance of specific counselling practices, traditional versus innovative approaches, and many other enticing topics. In short, over the past 12 years, counselling professionals in the Asia Pacific Rim have come together to form a network for the dissemination of knowledge, experience, and above all, support.

We look forward to old friends joining us in the lovely city of Brisbane, and meeting many more like-minded souls in September, 2019. Together let's consolidate the stronghold we have built and continue to elevate the professionalism of counselling not only in the Asia Pacific Rim but around the world.

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