



## Join us in Bringing Together Experiences, Knowledge, Challenges and Success from around Asia

The Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) is delighted to announce the organisation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan-Asian Conference on Haemoglobinopathies, due to take place on **3-5 November 2011**, at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel and Towers in Bangkok, Thailand.

The conference is organised by the Thalassaemia International Federation in collaboration with the Thalassaemia Foundation of Thailand, the Mahidol University-Thailand, and the Thai Ministry of Health. WHO-SEARO and WPRO regional Offices have also been invited to participate in the proceedings of this grand regional educational event.

With the opportunity of this communication we therefore wish to invite you, on behalf of the organising committee, to attend this 1<sup>st</sup> Pan-Asian Conference. Please find registration forms attached.

Haemoglobin disorders constitute the commonest monogenic diseases in the Asian region generally, with significant anticipated '*affected*' births annually ( *$\beta$ -thalassaemia*, HbE and HbH disease). Specific epidemiological data shows that in South East Asia the carrier rate for  *$\beta$ -thalassaemia* ranges between 2.2%-16% of the total population, out of which up to 30% are HbE-thalassaemia intermedia carriers, with the estimation of 41,366 annual affected births. For the Western Pacific region epidemiological data shows that the carrier rate for  *$\beta$ -thalassaemia* ranges between 0.4%-6.8% of the total population, out of which up to 30% are HbE-thalassaemia intermedia carriers, with the estimation of 5,945 annual affected births.

The aim of the conference, which falls within TIF's strategic plan for addressing health inequalities across the world, is to bring together patients/parents, medical professionals, policy-makers and other interested parties from across Asia, especially the South-East Asia and Western-Pacific regions, for the purpose of exchanging methods of best practice in patient care, prevention and patient empowerment. The ultimate goal being to revisit the current status of control strategies in Asia and to empower and support the prioritization of haemoglobin disorders on the national health agendas.

The theme of the conference 'Patients and Health Professionals together for Optimal Care' is reflected in the programme of the conference (please see attached the preliminary programme) which will seek to make reference to all the aspects of the current standards and latest developments in clinical management and prevention as well as issues relating to patient empowerment.

TIF's vision is reflected within the organisation of this regional conference, which is to establish 'equal access to quality health care' for every patient with thalassaemia across the world. TIF actively works towards this goal, collaborating with medical experts and policy-makers to implement national programmes for the prevention and management of thalassaemia and other haemoglobinopathies across 'affected' countries.

If you are interested in attending the above-mentioned conference, please complete and return the registration forms to the TIF office by **20 August 2011**, at the latest.

Please note that there are only a limited number of places available and therefore early registration is encouraged.

Once we have received your completed registration form, we will then provide you with details on how to proceed with travel and accommodation arrangements with the assigned organising company.