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# Newsletter

## The Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology

**The 3rd Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology was held in Singapore from the 7th - 10th October 1993. It was attended by 27 countries and was a great success. This three-day Congress provided great occasion for the attendees to promote mutual scientific communication and understanding**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE 3RD CONGRESS OF APSR

An Asian-Pacific Society devoted to pulmonary medicine was first conceived when a steering committee of distinguished pulmonary physicians from the region met, with participation of the American Thoracic Society, in Tokyo in August 1985. First, the society was named "Asian-Pacific Society of Pulmonology". The official name was later changed to the "Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology." The first congress of the APSR was held in October 1988 in Tokyo, the second in Bali in July 1990 and the third in Singapore in October 1993. In October 1993 in Singapore, Dr. Harasawa, the founder and president announced his retirement; and Dr. Wan C. Tan was elected president to serve until the next congress of the APSR which will be in October 1996, with Beijing, China as the venue.

The aims of the Society are the advancement and promotion of knowledge of the respiratory system in health and in disease, of good clinical practice and of awareness of respiratory health in the Asian Pacific region. To realize these objectives the specific aims are the fostering of research activities in the field of respiriology; the organization of regular congresses and smaller meetings; the establishment of a newsletter and



eventually a journal. As many of you may know, achieving such aims is a difficult task given the diversities of the Asian-Pacific nations involved, because of differences in economic and technical development, in specific regional pulmonary problems, and also in the vast geographic distribution of these nations.

Despite these difficulties, much has been achieved by the founding committee under the organising guidance of the first president, Dr. Michiyoshi Harasawa. The challenge now is to continue with the pursuit of further development of learning activities, the sharing of experience and research collaboration.

Changes are taking place in the APSR. These include (i) the revamping of the method of membership subscription to facilitate payment by members from different nations; (ii) the regulation of the finances of the society by a more equitable division of the profits of future meetings held by the APSR; (iii) more active and in-depth participation of the APSR in future congresses by the formation of an International Advisory Board and International Scientific Committee whose duties will be to advise the local organising committee in the structure of the scientific program, to recommend topics and speakers, in promoting congresses, in finding sources for funds and in helping to handle the international registration; (iv) improvement in

communication with members through more frequent newsletters; (v) plans for annual workshops for upgrading skills; and (vi) the cultivation of a journal.

Central to this will be the formation of a journal for the APSR. A publication feasibility committee will soon examine the mechanisms and various proposals made for the journal. As a modest beginning, a financial contribution was made by the Organising Committee of the 3rd Congress of the APSR from the proceeds of the meeting in Singapore towards the setting up of the proposed journal. Further examination of sources for funds continues. With hope and enthusiasm the Society is looking forward to more learning and sharing in the years ahead.

Dr. Wan-Cheng Tan., M. D.  
President of the APSR  
Professor, Department of Medicine  
National University Hospital  
Singapore

## TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC SOCIETY OF RESPIROLOGY



Dr. Michiyoshi Harasawa

In October of 1993, at the 3rd APSR Congress in Singapore Dr. Michiyoshi Harasawa, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo and President of Teishin Hospital, retired from his position as Founding President of the APSR and assumed the position of Honorary President. Upon the recognition of the Board of Directors, the position of President was passed to Dr. Wan-Cheng Tan who organized the 3rd Congress. Due to Dr. Harasawa's leading role in the Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest, which was organized in 1961, the Society became firmly established. Dr. Harasawa became deeply

interested in the activities of young Japanese doctors in overseas chest disease societies such as The American Thoracic Society, the International Union Against Tuberculosis, the European Congress of Pneumology, the American College of Chest Physicians etc. which were made possible by the substantial commitment of the Japanese Society for Chest Disease. From 1980, he began to consider unifying the chest disease societies of the world, and in 1984, on the occasion of the 24th Congress of the Japanese Society for Diseases of the Chest (President: Dr. Yoshihiro Hayata, Tokyo Medical College) he proposed the foundation of an international committee within the Japan Society for Diseases of the Chest. Society committee members went abroad to take part in international meetings and discuss the possibility of establishing an international chest disease society with Professor Moser, Professor Murray, and Professor Simmons of the American Thoracic Society and also Professor Pannier, the director of the European Congress of Pneumology. As a result it was decided, under the leadership of Dr. Harasawa, at the 25th General Meeting of the Japan Chest Disease Society (President, Dr. Tatsuo Satake, Nagoya University) that in order to create a society with the same characteristics as the American Thoracic Society and the European Respiriology Society, the first step necessary was to organize a regional Chest Disease Society. Based on this, in August of the same year an International Symposium on Dyspnea was held in Tokyo. On the occasion of that symposium a preparatory committee to establish the Asian Pacific Society was chaired by Dr. Harasawa with the participation of Dr. Bovornkitti of Thailand, Dr. de Guia of the Philippines, Dr. Hadiarto of Indonesia, Dr. Kim of Korea, Dr. Moser of the United States and Dr. Woolcock of Australia. The committee decided to establish our Society. The by-laws of the organization were discussed and it was decided to hold the first APSR Congress in October of 1988 in Tokyo, Japan. The 2nd Congress was successfully held in 1991 in Bali, Indonesia under the chairmanship of Dr. H. Alsagaff and the 3rd Congress in Singapore was also a great success. It goes without saying that this successful development of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology was not only due to the efforts of each of the Asian Pacific countries but was also a result of the strong leadership of Dr. Harasawa in founding this organization. With the guidance of Dr. Harasawa our dream is to proceed with discussions between representatives of the current American Thoracic Society, the European Respiriology Society and the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology in the year 2000. This is our dream for the next twenty years.



We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Asian Pacific Society to express our gratitude for Dr. Harasawa's indefatigable contribution to the Society although we also look forward to receiving the benefits of his advice as Honorable Chairman.

Shiro Kira, M. D.  
Secretary General, APSR

**THE 4TH CONGRESS OF THE APSR WILL BE HOSTED BY PROFESSOR WEI-CI LUO OF PEKING UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE. DR. LUO IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY DISEASES**

Dear Friends,

It is good news to doctors and researchers that the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriography (APSR) will be held in Beijing in October, 1996.

An international panel of eminent speakers will be invited to grace the occasion. Investigators of all ages from different countries will have ample opportunity to present and discuss their work on various fields of respirology such as lung cancer, asthma, pulmonary infections, COPD, pulmonary interstitial fibrosis, acute respiratory distress syndrome and intensive care medicine.

Beijing is the perfect city for such an Asian Pacific meeting. It will be an excellent opportunity to visit the Great Wall and other places of ancient Chinese civilization during the golden season of the year in this ancient yet modern capital.

Colorful social and cultural events will be arranged for the participants and their accompanying persons. Optional tour routes will be available after the meeting. You will enjoy the most attractive and beautiful resorts of China.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I extend to you a cordial invitation to attend this exciting scientific meeting.

**The following are various articles from APSR member countries.**

**HONG KONG**

This article was submitted by Dr. W. K. Lam, Hong Kong Thoracic Society

The subspecialty of Respiratory Medicine in Hong Kong prior to the 1950's, was dominated by TB & chest units in public hospitals and clinics. Since the 1960's, an increasing number of respiratory units have been established in academic units as well as other major public hospitals. The formation of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society (HKTS), however, was formed only in 1986, and is much younger than the Hong Kong and Macau chapter of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP HKM). Despite its young age, the HKTS has grown from strength to strength with a membership of over 160 and is now the major force in respiratory medicine in Hong Kong. Its main activities include the following: (often in collaboration with the ACCP (HKM)).

1. Organisation of monthly clinical meetings which are presented on a rotational basis by different respiratory units.
2. Organisation of scientific meetings with participation by overseas speakers; e.g.:
  - a. scientific meetings at our annual general meeting in April 1993, (Pneumoconiosis, Dr. S.Y. Chan, local speaker; Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Dr. T. L. Petty, USA; Asthma, Dr. R. Dahl, Denmark).
  - b. other scientific meetings; e.g.: Antibiotics & RTI, Dr. M.C. Neu, USA; ARDS, Dr. T. L. Petty, USA; TB & AIDS, Dr. L. Reichman, USA; Sleep Apnoea, Dr. P. J. Rees, U.K.; Asthma, Dr. M. R. Sears, Canada; Dr. R. Beasley, New Zealand; and Dr. G. K. Crompton, U.K.
3. Educational "Update" sessions for respiratory physician trainees.
4. Formulation of guidelines and position papers on various issues, e.g. in 1993:
  - a. oxygen use in hospitals
  - b. management of asthma
  - c. control of the spread of TB in health care premises.
5. Newsletter: an elegantly printed, 18-page quarterly newsletter with academic editorials, summaries of clinical meetings, meeting notices, society and professional news, lists of member's publications etc.
6. Sponsorship for international conference attendance and presentation of papers: e.g., in 1993, we sponsored members to attend the APSR Congress (5 members), the ATS Congress, the ERS Congress, ICC, ICAAC, ACCP Annual Scientific Assembly, TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting and Eastern Regional IUATLD Congress.
7. Expert advice on training of respiratory physicians in Hong Kong:

For historical reasons, postgraduate subspecialty medical training in Hong Kong (including respiratory medicine) is largely linked to the U.K. With the inauguration of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in 1993, we have decided to take on structured postgraduate medical training and accreditation ourselves while, of course, continuing close professional linkage with the U.K. and other countries. The HKTS has an important input to the Respiratory Medicine Advisory Committee of the HK Academy of Physicians and the following framework for the training and accreditation of respiratory physicians has been formulated:

- a. 3-year post internship accredited basic general internal medicine training,
- b. a pass in the Intermediate Examination of the HK College of Physicians or equivalent (e.g. MRCP (UK)),
- c. 3 more years of supervised, accredited training in respiratory medicine, including periods in acute care units, extended care units and in basic research relevant to respiratory medicine. There is no exit examination. Evaluation will be by continuous assessment by the supervisor and programme director. After this total period of 6 years of post-internship training, the successful trainee will be recommended "Fellowship" of the HK Academy of Medicine and entry to the specialist register in Respiratory Medicine.

We now have twelve accredited training centers for respiratory medicine in Hong Kong and we are most interested in developing a closer relationship with all thoracic societies in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond and to exchange ideas in promoting respiratory medicine.

Last, we wish to announce that the Hong Kong Thoracic Society and the American College of Chest Physicians (HK & Macau Chapter) will be co-organising the forthcoming 13th Asia-Pacific Congress on Diseases of the Chest which is scheduled to take place in the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong from December 5 - 8, 1994. We cordially invite all of you to attend this Congress and to visit Hong Kong in December 1994.

For further information, please fax Dr. W. K. Lam, University Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong. Fax No: (852) 855-1143.

## KOREA

This article is through the courtesy of Dr. Young-Soo Shim of the Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul National University Hospital

The APSR membership in Korea is still small in number but continually growing. The Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease has over 400 members and the current president is Professor Sung Kyu Kim.

The members meet twice annually for symposium and research presentations. The APSR is introduced during these meetings and the members are encouraged to participate actively to get the international experience.

## SINGAPORE

This article was taken from The Straits Times, a newspaper in Singapore regarding the 3rd Congress of the APSR



H. E. Yeo Cheow Tong, Minister of Health and Dr. Tan at the Official Banquet of the APSR held at the Mandarin Hotel

The Government is setting up a National Medical Research Council by the end of the year to review and evaluate medical research proposals.

The aim is ensure that medical research is focused on areas which are relevant to the majority of patients in Singapore.

Comprising representatives from the Health Ministry, university and private sector, the council will also decide on the allocation of funds for research projects.



Health Minister Yeo Cheow Tong gave details on the council at the opening of the 3rd Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology last night.

The four-day congress, organised by the Singapore Thoracic Society, will discuss respiratory illnesses like asthma and lung cancer.

Speaking to the more than 300 doctors from over 20 countries, he said that it was necessary for doctors to keep up with rapidly changing medical technology.

It was crucial that doctors differentiate between cost-effective developments and those which only improve the outcome of treatment marginally, but at a significant increase in cost.

Mr. Yeo said that one way to achieve this was by conducting clinical research on medical conditions which were relevant to the country.

"Doctors can then establish which are the more effective and appropriate new diagnostic procedures and treatment methods," he said.

Such a strategy was necessary as there were limited talent and funds available for medical research and development in Singapore. Yearly, \$30 million to \$40 million are set aside for research.

"It is important to ensure that the limited research resources are utilised effectively. The council will direct and co-ordinate all public sector medical research."

The minister later told The Straits Times that with the council, there would be less duplication of work between institutions.

"The council will encourage inter-institutional research projects. The research will be on conditions which are more prevalent in Singapore."

Clinical trials on hepatitis were an example of a relevant study. The study showed that a half dosage of a vaccine was sufficient for treatment.

Said the minister: "That is a significant savings, especially since all our children are given the vaccination."

He noted that research could also be directed at diseases which were on the rise here, like lung cancer.

In his speech, he said that this disease is now responsible for 6 per cent of all deaths in

Singapore. Also, the number of new cases had increased from less than 2,000 between 1968 and 1972 to nearly 4,000 between 1983 and 1987.

"The only way to reduce the incidence of lung cancer is by reducing the rate of smoking among the people. This will take time, even with strong and sustained anti-smoking efforts.

"In the meantime, we need to find better and more cost-effective methods for managing lung cancer patients."

Doctors interviewed yesterday agreed that the setting up of the council would also be useful to the medical profession.

A surgeon in a restructured hospital said: "Pooling together experts from various hospitals and the university can result in better studies.

"It will also be a chance for doctors to tap each other's expertise."

## TAIWAN

This article was submitted by Dr. Guang Ming Shiao, M. D., Secretary General of the Thoracic Society ROC. (Taiwan)

The annual scientific meeting of the Thoracic Society ROC was held on December 11-12, 1993 at the Convention Center of the Veterans General Hospital in Taipei. The main issues of discussion this year were focused on pulmonary infection, tuberculosis control in Taiwan, epidemiology of snoring and obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, lung transplantation and management of COPD. Invited foreign speakers included Professor Yong Chol Han (Korea), Professor Li-Xing Zhang (Mainland China), Professor Guan-Qing Kan (Mainland China), Professor Stuart F. Quan (U.S.A.) and Professor Paul Zimmerman (Australia). In all about 250 local physicians attended the meeting and presented 71 free papers.

According to our bylaws, the Committee Board should be renewed every 3 years. On December 18, 1993, Dr. Reury-Perng Perng was elected as the President of the Thoracic Society again. Dr. Perng is currently the Director of the Chest Department, Veterans General Hospital in Taipei and Professor of Medicine, Yang Medical College and Taipei Medical College. Members of the Committee Board also include Doctors Kwen-Tay Luh, Sow-Hsong Kuo, Pan-Chyr Yang, Chien-Yeh Shen, Wen-Bin Shieh, Sui-Liong Wang, Ying-Huang Tsai, Hsu-Tah Kuo, Tau-Ping Lin, Chi-Der Chiang, Chih-Yi Chen,

Jau-Yeong Lu, Min-Hsiung Huang, Pui-Yuen Lee, Jia-Horng Wang, Jen-Jyh Lee, Chun-Ming Lee, Tsu-Chin Wu and Wen-Hu Hsu. Dr. Guang-Ming Shiao was nominated as the Secretary General.

The 9th combined meeting of the World Congress for Bronchology (WCB) and the World Congress for Bronchoesophagology (WCBE) will be held on April 14-17, 1996 in Taipei. As the host of this international meeting, we have already set up an Organizing Committee and the Secretariat. We welcome all physicians, scholars and related personnel of respirology, laryngology and gastro-esophagology to attend this international meeting. We also welcome submission of abstracts for this meeting. For further information please contact the Secretariat, 9th WCB & WCBE, c/o Chest Department, Veterans General Hospital-Taipei, Shih Pai, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC 11217. Telephone: (886) 2-8741431, Fax: (886) 2-8752380.

## THAILAND

This article was submitted by Dr. Suchai Charoenratanakul, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, The Thoracic Society of Thailand

The Thoracic Society of Thailand was founded in 1957. Now in its 37th year of existence, the Society has gathered over 200 members throughout the country.

The general aims of the Society are to promote the high standard of medical practices in respiratory diseases and related health problems.

To achieve these objectives the Thoracic Society of Thailand conducts the following academic activities directed at chest physicians, general practitioners, health care professionals and the public at large.

1. Annual scientific meetings are held each year where chest physicians throughout the country will have ample opportunities to attend lectures, symposia and present their works at oral presentation sessions thus helping to increase knowledge and promote research.
2. A five-day post-graduate course on respiratory diseases and tuberculosis is conducted every year. Approximately 30-50 physicians attend these courses.
3. A journal, the Thai Journal of Tuberculosis and Chest Disease, is published in collaboration with the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Thailand. This journal has

been published quarterly since 1980. The current circulation is about 2000 copies.

4. A consensus Conference was held last month to produce simple, but agreed upon guidelines on the management of acute severe asthma and chronic persistent asthma in adults and children. Thai guidelines on the management of asthma will be published by the end of March 1994.
5. In early November (1-4) 1993, in collaboration with the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Thailand, the 17th Eastern Regional Conference on Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (IUATLD) was held. It gathered about 700 active participants all over the Asia-Pacific region. Not only did the number of participants increase, but so did the overall scientific quality making this conference a major respiratory event. This success was due to the commitment of each and every one of those who attended and participated.
6. The Thoracic Society of Thailand is promoting research activities related to the fields of its specialization. These research activities are conducted by the Society in conjunction with several different bodies or in co-operation with outside research units or institutions.

## SECRETARIAL REPORT

### APSR MEMBERSHIP

As of April 1994, the state of the APSR membership is as follows:

COUNTRY	NUMBER
AUSTRALIA	9
CANADA	1
HONG KONG	5
INDIA	1
INDONESIA	22
ITALY	1
JAPAN	308
KOREA	19
MALAYSIA	4
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of CHINA	20
PHILIPPINES	22
SINGAPORE	7
TAIWAN	12
THAILAND	10
UNITED KINGDOM	1
UNITED STATES of AMERICA	3
TOTAL	445



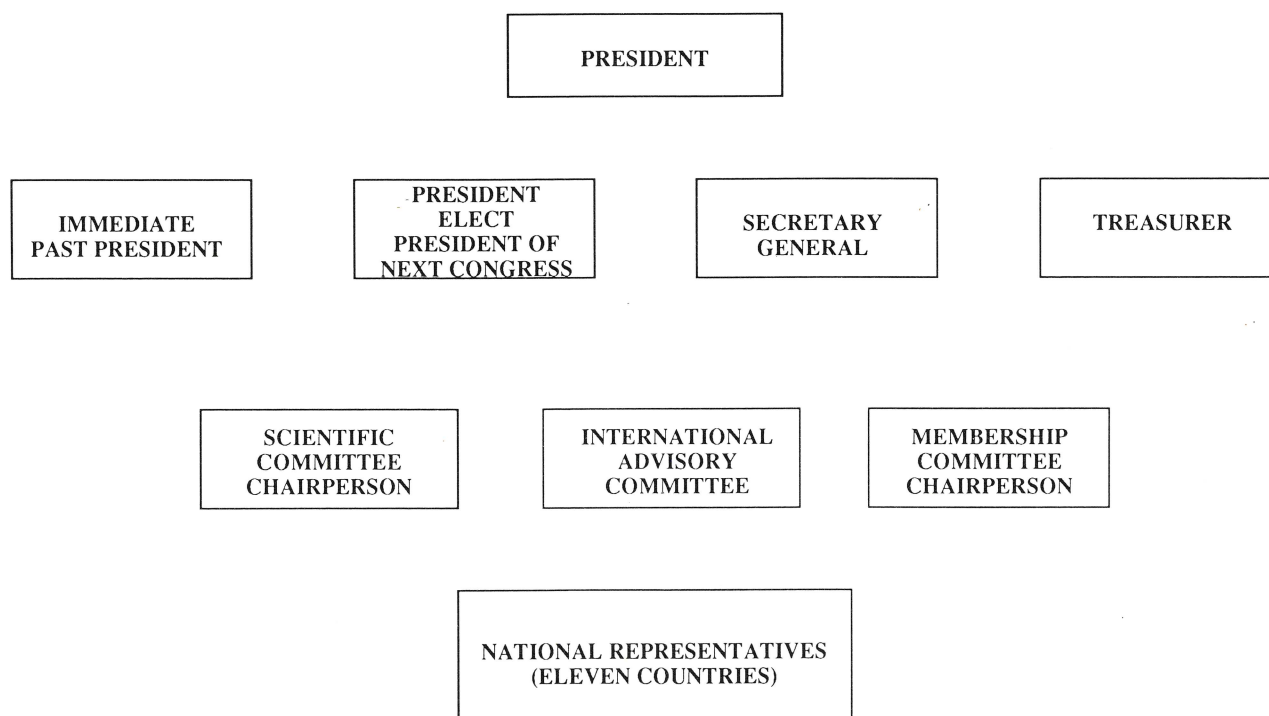
## FORTHCOMING SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS OF THE APSR

- 1994 ASTRA Conference  
Symposium on Airways in Asthma  
August 27-28, 1994  
Penang, Malaysia  
Co-sponsored by APSR
- 1996 4th APSR Congress  
October , 1996  
Beijing, People's Republic of China
- 1998 5th APSR Congress  
October 9-14, 1998  
Sydney, Australia

## ANNUAL DUES

Please note that for the convenience of our members and to significantly reduce bank handling fees and simplification of record keeping, we have made it possible for you to pay your annual dues with four major credit cards. The annual dues for the year April 1994 through March 1995 will be ¥3,000. Please pay promptly.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE APSR



## OFFICERS OF THE APSR

President: Wan-Cheng Tan

President elect: Wei-Ci Luo

Past President: Michiyoshi Harasawa

Secretary General: Shiro Kira

Treasurer: Takao Takizawa

National Representatives:

Australia: Norbert Berend

Beijing, China: John Ngao-Sun Wu

Hong Kong: W. K. Lam

Indonesia: P. M. Benjamin

Japan: T. Takishima

Korea: Young-Soo Shim

Malaysia: K. Ampikaipakan

Philippine: Teresita S. de Guia

Singapore: Wan-Cheng Tan

Taipei, China: Sze-Piao Yang

Thailand: Chaivej Nuchprayoon

International Advisory Committee:

Michiyoshi Harasawa

Ann J. Woolcock

Takao Takizawa

Yoshinosuke Fukuchi

J. Patrick Barron

President of the 1st APSR Congress in Tokyo, 1988 - Michiyoshi Harasawa

President of the 2nd APSR Congress in Bali, 1990 - Hood Alsagaff

President of the 3rd APSR Congress in Singapore, 1993 - Wan-Cheng Tan

President of the 4th APSR Congress in Beijing, 1996 - Wei-Ci Luo

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