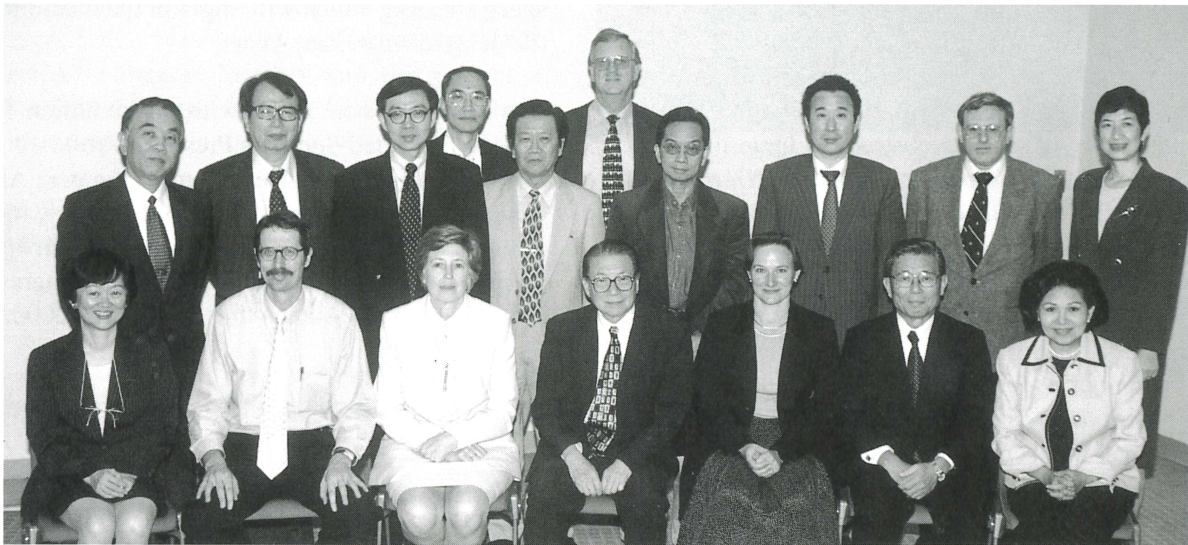




Newsletter

Editor : Shiro Kira

Associate Editors : Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, J.Patrick Barron



Members of the Executive Committee

APSR 5TH CONGRESS IN SYDNEY

The 5th Congress of the APSR was held in Sydney from the 9th - 12th October 1998. There were 564 delegates and 48 exhibitors, making a total of over 640 attendees. The scientific program featured an ambitious array of 10 major symposia, 17 concurrent oral communication sessions of original work and extensive poster presentations. The Congress was held at the Convention and Exhibition Centre which overlooked Sydney harbour with spectacular views of the city centre. It was generously supported by premier sponsors Astra Pharmaceuticals, Glaxo Wellcome, Rhone Poulenc Rorer and Zeneca, and the major sponsors Boehringer Ingelheim and Merck Sharp & Dohme. The Organising Committee and the Executive of APSR are most grateful for the generous support of these sponsors.

Amongst the registrants at the Congress there were 336 delegates who were not members of the Society. As the registration fee for non-members included a levy representing the annual membership fee, these delegates are now members of the Society for the next 12 months. They are entitled to receive copies of the APSR Newsletter and issues of the APSR Journal, *Respirology*.

The Congress was officially opened by the Governor General of Australia, Sir William Deane on the Friday evening. In an inspiring address, he spoke of the importance of health care workers in the Region sharing their knowledge and experience, to address the major issues which confront them in their endeavours to improve the treatment of respiratory illness and to improve respiratory health.

The next day the scientific program began with a major symposium on smoking and lung disease. Dr Fukuchi gave an informative presentation on the low prevalence of lung cancer in Japan, despite currently high rates of cigarette smoking. He hypothesised that the low prevalence may reflect of the low smoking rates in the immediate post war period. If this is the case, the prevalence of lung cancer can be expected to rise in parallel with the increased rate of cigarette smoking, but with a lag phase of some 20 to 30 years. Professor Lam from Hong Kong presented data which he and his colleagues have been collecting for many years on the rate of lung cancer in Chinese women. It appears that the regions of mainland China with high rates of lung cancer are the regions

where women spend a great deal of time indoors with open fires, either for cooking or for warmth. It is notable that the lung cancer in these women is not related to cigarette smoking. This was a very significant symposium for the APSR as it illustrated the value of data collection from the Region and the lessons it has for how we may learn from the experience of our colleagues.

Delegates heard informative presentations from invited speakers, including Professor Chris Haslett from Edinburgh, who spoke about the burden of smoking related lung disease in Scotland. Dr Olof Selroos from Sweden presented a lecture on the predictive value of short term corticosteroids in the natural history of chronic obstructive lung disease. Dr Gerhard Sybrecht from Hamburg, Germany described the experience of himself and his colleagues in lung volume reduction surgery. It was clear from his presentation that it is a highly specialised procedure that requires a multi-disciplinary approach. As such it should only be carried out in a few centres of expertise in any one country, rather than having many centres, each of which care for only a small number of patients.

Charis Roussos from Athens, Greece, who is the immediate Past President of the European Respiratory Society, addressed the audience on the topic of problems with intensive care management of patients with adult respiratory distress syndrome. He also gave a lively presentation in a special Debate on whether respiratory muscles develop fatigue. These Debates were a novel aspect of the program which were both informative for the audience and enjoyable entertainment. Dr Jeff Glassroth, who is President of the American Thoracic Society, gave valuable advice to the Executive of APSR on administrative aspects of Societies and associated matters related to producing Society journals. He participated in a symposium on tuberculosis, which covered important aspects of TB such as drug resistance. Dr John Murray, who was an invited guest representing the International Union Against Tuberculosis & Lung Disease (IUATLD), gave a presentation on the problems with HIV and tuberculosis.

At a Workshop, sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim, the Society introduced the concept of developing guidelines for the management of COPD in the region. This was similar to the Asthma Guidelines, which were published in the June 1998 issue of Respiriology.

The Trade exhibition was extremely well organised and was fully supported by the exhibitors. It was disappointing to both the exhibitors and the

Organising Committee that delegates did not spend more time in the exhibition area. The Organising Committee will assess the evaluation sheets returned from the exhibitors and endeavour to improve interaction between exhibitors and delegates in future congresses.

The official dinner on Saturday evening was held in the Ballroom at the Star City Casino, which was adjacent to the Convention Centre. The most popular feature of the evening's entertainment was the sheep shearing which will linger in the memories of the delegates for many years.

The Congress concluded with an invitation from the newly elected Society's President Professor Ann Woolcock to the delegates to attend the next APSR Congress which will be held in association with the American Thoracic Society and the European Respiratory Society at the World Lung Congress in Florence from 30 August to 1 September, 2000.

J. Paul Seale
Congress President

Message from the Past-President

On behalf of the executive committee of The Asian-Pacific Society of Respiriology, I am most delighted to welcome you all to attend the last assembly of the APSR in this century. Thank you for your contribution to the 5th Congress of the APSR. We would like to thank Professor Seale, the president of this congress and members of the organizing committee too, for the enormous effort and excellent preparation for the conference. It is their contribution which makes the great success of this meeting possible.

APSR is still young, yet healthy and strong. It has been nourished by many many enthusiastic people, and Professor Michiyoshi Harasawa is one whom we should not forget. Professor Harasawa initiated the start of this Society and contributed much to its development.

Since the beginning, the APSR has set the objectives of the Society, that is: for the advancement and promotion of knowledge of the respiratory system in terms of health and disease, encouraging research, and improving clinical practice through education. To date, five scientific congresses have been held, as well as international joint activities such as workshops. Different forms of communication have taken place and have been a great success.

A remarkable event in this area is the publication,

since March 1996, of the official journal of the Society, RESPIROLOGY. Many academically valuable papers from this region, as well as from those countries beyond this area, have been published. It has been recognized as an important journal and selected to be indexed and included in Index Medicus and Medline. This is indeed a significant tribute to our contributors and editorial board.

There will be a World Lung Health Conference from August 30th to September 3rd, 2000, in Florence, Italy. It is a joint conference for APSR, American Thoracic Society and the European Respiriology Society. We are looking forward to this historical event in respirology.

Thank you all for your support. Thank you for your attention.

Wei-Ci Luo

Message from the Past-President (96 to 98)

By the time you read this message, the APSR will have held the 5th Congress in Sydney, Australia: my term as the immediate past president will have completed, and the smooth transition to the new team of President, President-elect and immediate Past-President will be complete.

Much has happened in the last two years. Many of the highlights are covered in the message from the current President and immediate-Past-President. I will therefore restrict my message to some of those highlights, in the paragraph below:

1. Respirology

Beyond our most optimistic expectations, Respirology, the journal of the APSR received unexpected early recognition by Index Medicus and Current Contents. We had hoped that this would come about within 2 years from the first issue, as is the standard average time for recognition for new journals. So it was wonderful news when we were informed by Index Medicus and Current Contents within 1 year of the launch of the journal, that Respirology would be indexed from the very first issue.

2. In the year 2000, the 6th Congress will be held in conjunction with the ERS, ATS and IUATLD, in Firenze, Italy. The APSR program committee consisting of Dr. Teresita de Guia, Dr. Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, Dr. Norbert Berend and myself are currently working to put together a program to ensure that the overall scientific program will contain issues of special concern to the Asia Pacific region.

3. APSR/ACCP relationship. The APSR is actively



Prof J.P. Seale, the Congress President (left) and Prof. A.J. Woolcock, the new Society President (right)

exploring ways in which the American College of Chest Physician could have a role in helping the Society with its endeavors in furthering the scientific and educational activities in Respiratory Medicine in the Asian Pacific countries.

Wan-Cheng Tan

Report from the Secretary General

Before starting my report as the Secretary General of APSR, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Professor J.P. Seale, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Sydney, the President of the 5th Congress of Asian Pacific Society of Respirology, and his staff for the tremendous effort they gave to organize the Congress. Their efforts have continued since 1993 when our 3rd Congress was held in Singapore, and it was decided to hold the 5th Congress in Sydney under his leadership, after the 4th Congress in Beijing in 1996 which was led by President, Prof. Luo.

As you all realize, it is really not good timing to organize such a big meeting because of the financial situation, not only in this area but also throughout the world. In spite of this, they have successfully organized a neat and intellectually exciting meeting, having more than 500 participants from all over the world including more than 100 participants from mainland China. We enjoyed speeches by experts from Europe, USA and our own area. The discussions held in each presentation and the poster exhibitions were also helpful and intellectual. They were very valuable for future communication.

THE NEXT CONGRESS in the year 2000, will be held in FLORENCE, ITALY under the COOPERATION of ATS, ERS, IUATLD and OUR SOCIETY.

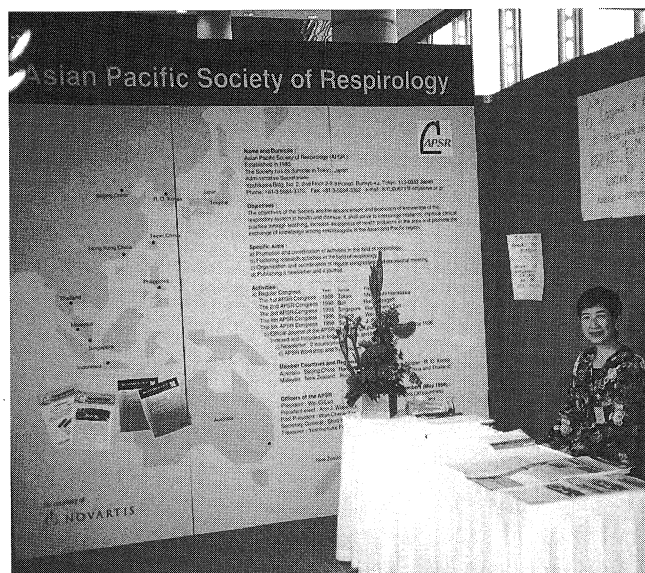
We will let you know the details, as soon as we get them from the congress office in Italy and the Congress President, Prof. A.J.Woolcock, either through our Journal or by Newsletter from the Tokyo Office. Please commit this coming joint Congress to your schedule now.

I am also very happy to report that we have finally been able to hold our executive meeting annually, which was a strong desire from the very beginning of our society. This gave a unique and important opportunity to hold discussions among our executives regarding our activities such as the aims and objects, the structure, the bylaws and charter, future plans of our Society, et cetera. We had the executive meeting in Beijing in 1996, in Singapore last year and in Sydney in 1998. The meeting for 1999 has been approved to be held in Taipei.

As you have already seen, we distributed the minutes of the executive meetings in 1996 and 1997. Based on the agreement following discussion in these meetings, we successfully carried out the election of the councilors last July, and welcome today the councilors from our member countries. Their names are listed in a section at the back of this Newsletter. I am sure we now have new power to support the executives and the society, and to guide us toward 21st century. From them, we elected and welcome four councilors to the executive meeting as the representatives of the council meeting at Sydney. This is shown in the amended bylaw which is distributed to council and executive members. Their names are also posted at the back of this Newsletter.

After this congress, the executive meeting is comprised of new officers, four councilors and members of International Advisory Committee. The new executives will start to fulfill our aims and objectives for the coming century under very close and strong cooperation with ATS, ERS and IUATLD. If you have any suggestions or points regarding our activities, your comments would be greatly appreciated. The names of the Executive Committee members are also listed on the back cover page.

The second issue we can report with much pleasure, is that our society journal "Respirology" has been recognized by the US National Library of Medicine, and selected to be indexed and included in Index Medicus and MEDLINE from Volume 1 onwards. Thank you all, our contributors, editorial board and membership, for your huge support, and we look forward to further active contribution and support to our official journal in the future. In parallel with this important issue, the number of manuscripts received by our editorial office in Tokyo is



The APSR booth at the 5th Congress of the APSR, Sydney

rapidly increasing. I really appreciate the contribution of the associate editors and referees. I also am happy to report that the No. 1 and 2 issues of volume 4 which are scheduled for publication in the coming March and June, are already full. Therefore, to facilitate quicker publication, we are considering the possibility of switching from quarterly to bimonthly publication of our Journal in the near future.

The third issue I have to report, is the matter of the membership. On the occasion of this Congress, we are happy to have had more than 300 new membership registrations at Sydney. However, as we report in this Newsletter, the increase of the membership is still not satisfactory. As an established society in the Asian Pacific Area which is officially expected to cooperate with ATS, ERS and IUATLD, we need more members. I sincerely hope you will all invite more members from your own countries to join the society. This is strongly related to the report by the treasurer which you will see below.

At the end of the year 1998, I, as the Secretary General of APSR, and Editor-in-Chief of Respirology, am sending you my best wishes for the New Year, and asking for your continued support to our Society.

Shiro Kira

Report from the Treasurer

The size of the budget of the APSR has been increased considerably since the launching of the regular publication of the Society Journal "RESPIROLOGY" in 1996. The main source of the income for the last year consisted of a generous

contribution by the Organizing Committee of the 4th APSR Congress in Beijing (Dr. Luo Wei-Ci, the president as much as US\$ 100,000), continuous yearly support by the JRS (Dr. Masayuki Ando, President, approximately US\$50,000) and membership dues of 470 paid members (US\$ 24,000). Expenditure is largely taken up by the publication cost of RESPIROLOGY (US\$ 70,000 or more/4 issues), office rent and salaries for the running of the office (US\$52,000 or less) and communication fees. The treasurer requested the members of the executive board and the council members to find the most effective way to stabilise the financial status as soon as possible. The single most important issue is to increase the membership to decrease the cost of the Journal per head and to promote all possible means to supplement membership fees. I urge you to recruit your colleagues to APSR to help strengthen our finances.

Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, M.D. Treasurer of APSR

6th Congress of APSR Florence, August 30 - September 1, 2000

There will be a world meeting of respiratory scientists and physicians in Florence on the above dates. The APSR is combining with ERS, ATS and IUATLD. The APSR was founded to represent the respiratory scientists and physicians of the Asia-Pacific Region and this is the first truly global meeting of respiratory science! The APSR will have business, council and executive meetings during this meeting.

Please make your plans to come now - the conference facilities are excellent, there are plenty of hotels, some with inexpensive accommodation. In addition, we hope to get sponsorship for some of our members. Hope to see you in Florence in 2000.

Ann J. Woolcock
President

Report from Member Countries

Japan

The Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) has been hosting APSR/JRS workshop during its annual meeting since 1996. The JRS decided to change the format of this international event and it will organize a Symposium instead of workshop. The symposium will be held on March 27, 1999 in Yokohama during the 39th Annual Meeting of JRS. More than 4,000 JRS members are expected to register

for the meeting. The Symposium "Influence of Air Ecology on Lung Health in the Asian Pacific Region" will be co-chaired by Dr. JC Hogg and Dr. Y Fukuchi. Invited speakers are: Dr. TY Aditama (Indonesia), Dr. SC Emmanuel (Singapore), Dr. M Awang (Malaysia), Dr. H Takizawa (Japan), Dr. M Hojo (Japan), Dr. M Tanaka (Japan). This symposium will discuss some important issues of Polluted Air in this part of the world, such as Haze from Forest Fires, Diesel Exhaust Particles and related pollution.

Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, M.D. The Chair, IRC of JRS

Malaysia

The Malaysian Thoracic Society has been very active in the last 6 months. We are still going on with our "road-show" to all states of Malaysia to disseminate our adult Asthma guidelines. Almost all 14 states have been covered and the guidelines seem to have been well received both by general practitioners as well as government doctors.

The end of August has seen MTS completing the final draft of MTS guidelines in COPD management which is due to be presented at the Malaysian Academy of Medicine/Ministry of Health meeting on the 7th November 1998. The committee members had spent more than a year to complete the guideline and the completed draft copies were sent to all members of MTS for them to comment.

The third Asthma Camp was organized in the State of Penang on the 16th August. It was very well attended. This is an activity to educate asthmatics in managing their condition. As with the previous two camps, the participants participated actively in the inhaler and peak flow meter workshops and during the questions and answer sessions. More such camps will be organized throughout Malaysia and the next one will be in the state of Selangor.

In conjunction with the MTS annual congress, a special two day scientific meeting "The First National Tuberculosis Meeting" was organized. The meeting which was held on the 18th and 19th July was attended by more than 350 participants. The Director General of Health of Malaysia officiated the opening of the occasion. Dr. Klaus Jochem, a WHO tuberculosis consultant was invited to be one of the speakers.

The MTS Annual General Meeting was held at the same time and a new committee was elected. The members of the 1998/1999 committee are:

President: Dr. Aziah Ahmad Mahayiddin
 Vice President: Dr. Zainuddin Md. Zin
 Hon. Secretary: Dr. Norhaya Mohd. Razali
 Asst. Secretary: Dr. Jeffrey Abu Hassan
 Treasurer: Dr. Liam Chong Kin
 Asst. Treasurer: Dr. Jessie d'Bruyne
 Members: Dr. Ronnie Chong
 Dr. Azizi Omar
 Auditors: Dr. Patrick Chan
 Dr. Hamidah Shaban

15 members of the society attended the 5th APSR meeting in Sydney from 9-13th, October 1998. Unfortunately during the council meeting, MTS failed in the bidding to hold the next APSR meeting but is still hopeful to have a future APSR congress in Malaysia.

The next activity to be organised by the society will be the 1999 MTS annual congress. The special theme for this meeting will be "Obstructive Airway disease - into a new millennium". Prof (Dr.) Liam Chong Kin has been nominated to chair the organising committee. We hope to extend the invitation for this meeting to participants in the neighbouring countries.

Dr. Aziah Ahmad Mahayiddin
 President

Singapore

The respiratory activities in Singapore are initiated and coordinated by the Singapore Thoracic Society (STS) and the Asthma Association of Singapore (AAS). The membership of the STS comprises Respiratory specialists and generalists with a special interest in respiratory diseases. The main activities of the Singapore Thoracic Society are centered on continuing medical education (CME) and consist of:

- (i) Regular Monthly respiratory clinicopathologicals (CPCs) held in rotation in the different teaching hospitals;
- (ii) Ad hoc lectures/talks by visiting professors;
- (iii) An Annual Scientific Meeting held alternately in Singapore and Malaysia in conjunction with the Malaysian Thoracic Society.
- (iv) A Quarterly newsletter.

The membership of the Asthma Association of Singapore comprises doctors and laypersons interested in asthma. The AAS is extremely active and organizes nationwide activities to increase awareness of asthma. It organizes regular talks on asthma management in schools for children and teach-

ers; government and private medical clinics for health care givers; and sporting activities such as walkathons. This year it has been instrumental in organising the activities for the asthma-awareness week leading up to celebrations for the WHO World Asthma Day on the 11 December 1998.

Wan-Chen TAN

From the Editorial Board

We had our first meeting of the Editorial Board of Respiriology in Sydney, the day before the opening of the APSR Congress. This was a unique opportunity for us to exchange views and to receive the benefit of advice from internationally renowned figures such as Dr. John Murray.

We feel that in the short time since we have started the Journal we have come a remarkably long way, not least of which is our inclusion in Index Medicus, but it was acknowledged that there are still problems that have to be overcome. The main problem facing us and also many other journals, is expediting the review of papers. In order to facilitate this we have developed a system whereby a prospective reviewer is first asked by fax about the possibility of reviewing a paper within a fixed period of three weeks. If an affirmative reply is obtained, the paper is then sent to that reviewer. With the introduction of this system, it is hoped that we will overcome the delays caused by a paper arriving on the desk of a reviewer who is perhaps away at an international meeting or otherwise unavailable to perform the review.

However, an even greater cause of delay in reaching a decision on the acceptability of a paper is the fact that more than one third of all papers do not fit the format specified in the Instructions to Authors. All papers coming into the Tokyo office are first examined by the assistant editors before being sent out to reviewers. Because of this large number of papers not meeting the format requirements, there is understandably a delay. I would like to encourage all prospective authors to be sure to check the format specified in the Instructions to Authors and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us at the Editorial Office. We will always endeavor to give whatever advice and help we can.

Yuichi Ichinose

Forthcoming important meetings in Respirology:

20th Eastern Region conference of the International Union Against Tuberculosis & Lung Disease (ERIUATLD)

4-7 June 1999

Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center
Conference Secretariat
20th ERIUATLD Conference
Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest & Heart Diseases
Association
266 Queen's Road East
Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tel: +852-2572-3466
Fax: +852-2834-0711

2000 World Congress on Sleep Apnea 12-15 March 2000, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

Tel: +61 (0)2 9252 3388
Fax: +61 (0)2 9241 5282
Email: capcon@ozemail.com.au

1999 April 23-28

ATS meeting
(San Diego, USA)

October, 9-13

ERS meeting
(Madrid, Spain)

2000 August 30-September 3

6th APSR Congress
World Lung Health Conference
(Florence, Italy)

APSR Members (as of Oct 1998)

Country NAME	Number of members
ARGENTINA	1
AUSTRALIA	60
BEIJING, CHINA	216
BELGIUM	1
BRAZIL	1
BRUNEI	1
CANADA	3
EGYPT	1
FRANCE	1
FRENCH POLYNESIA	2
GERMANY	1
HONG KONG, CHINA	35
ILE DE LA REUNION INDIAN OCEAN	1
INDIA	1
INDONESIA	17
ITALY	3
JAPAN	409
KUWAIT	3
MALAYSIA	22
NEW ZEALAND	6
NORWAY	1
PERU	1
PHILIPPINES	20
Republic of KOREA	27
SAUDI ARABIA	6
SINGAPORE	12
SLOVENIA	1
SOUTH AFRICA	1
SPAIN	1
SRI LANKA	3
SWEDEN	6
SWITZERLAND	1
TAIPEI, CHINA	71
THAILAND	7
TURKEY	3
U.S.A.	10
UNITED KINGDOM	4
VIETNAM	7
Total	967

Officers of the APSR:

President: Ann J Woolcock
President-elect: Shiro Kira
Past President: Wei-Ci Luo
Secretary General: Shiro Kira
Treasurer: Yoshinosuke Fukuchi

Council Members

Australia:	Philip John Thompson Stephen Michael Stick Deborah Yates	P.R. China:	Wei-Wu Deng Yuan-Jue Zhu Nan Shan Zhong
Hong Kong:	Christopher K.W. Lai Alfred Y.C. Tam	Philippines:	Camilo Roa Teresita S. de Guia
Indonesia:	Hadiarto Mangunegoro Adji Widaja	Republic of Korea:	Sung-Kyu Kim Wong Dong Kim
Japan:	Masayuki Ando Shoji Kudoh Satoshi Kitamura Takashi Horie	Singapore:	Nyat-Kool Chin
Malaysia:	Aziah A. Mahayiddin	Taiwan:	Kwen-Tay Luh Reury-Perng Perng Sow-Hsong Kuo
New Zealand:	John Kolbe	Thailand:	Suchai Charoenratanakul Praparn Youngchaiyud

Executive Members representing the Council Members

Suchai Charoenratanakul
Won Dong Kim
Kwen-Tay Luh
Hadiarto Mangunegoro

International Advisory Committee:

J. Patrick Barron
Norbert Berend
Wah Kit Lam
Young-Soo Shim
Wan-Cheng Tan

Finance Committee:

Yoshinosuke Fukuchi (Chairman)

Membership Committee:

Teresita S. de Guia (Chairman)

Research & Education Committee:

Nan-Shan Zhong (Chairman)

Publications Committee:

Philip Thompson (Chairman)

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
President of the 5th APSR Congress in Sydney, 1998	J Paul Seale

The Asian Pacific Society of Respirology

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