



The History of The Asian Society for Cardiovascular Surgery

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Preface

More than a decade has elapsed since the foundation of the Asian Society for Cardiovascular Surgery (ASCVS). The history of its inception and the major landmarks that have provided its present structure should perhaps be recorded now for future reference. Since the authors have served the ASCVS for more than 12 years, either as Secretary-General or President of the Society, we feel a responsibility to describe its history at this time, before our tenure ends.

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Chapter 1 Asian Chapter of the ISCVS

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN CHAPTER

The parent organization of the ASCVS was the Asian Chapter of the *International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery* (ISCVS). The ISCVS has been active since 1950.^{1,2} Michael DeBakey and Henry Haimovici of the ISCVS sent a letter to Seiji Kimoto of the University of Tokyo inviting Japanese cardiovascular surgeons to join the ISCVS. The Asian Chapter of the ISCVS was thus created in 1973 by accepting this invitation. Although the Asian Chapter consisted only of Japanese surgeons in the beginning, Korean delegates headed by Yung-Kyoon Lee of Seoul National University joined it in 1975. A few Indian and Thai surgeons then entered the Chapter and the members began participating in the biennial World Congress of the ISCVS and submitting manuscripts to its official publication, *The Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery*.

It is probably appropriate to introduce here three eminent cardiovascular surgeons who greatly contributed to the birth and development of the Asian Chapter of the ISCVS during its neonatal period.

SEIJI KIMOTO, MD (1907-1995)

Professor Kimoto was a real pioneer of Japanese cardiovascular surgery. In 1951, he successfully created the first Blalock-Taussig shunt in Japan. In 1952, he succeeded in replacing the abdominal aorta using an aortic homograft. This was the second successful operation for abdominal aortic aneurysm in the world, the first being performed by Charles Dubost. He also successfully closed an atrial septal defect using selective cerebral hypothermia in 1955. As Professor of Surgery at the University of Tokyo, he was a true leader of our specialty in Japan. He decided to enter under the umbrella of the ISCVS and create the Asian Chapter of the ISCVS. He was President of the Asian Chapter from 1973 to 1986, and became the first Asian surgeon to serve as President of the ISCVS (1975-1977).



Prof. S. Kimoto



Prof. Y.K. Lee

YUNG-KYOON LEE, MD (1921-1994)

Professor YK Lee was a pioneer of cardiovascular surgery in Korea. In 1957, when he worked as Assistant Professor at Seoul National University, he decided to go to the USA to extend his surgical horizons under C Walton Lillehei. The success of his first open heart surgery in 1963 on a 28-year-old man with an atrial septal defect was a feat for the Korean cardiovascular surgical community. As Professor and Chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Seoul National University and then as Director of the Sejong Heart Institute, he showed true leadership, but with humility, in many surgical societies, both domestic and international. In 1983, he held the *6th Asian Congress of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* in Korea. He played a critical bridging role between surgical communities in Asia, and spared no effort to strengthen ties with Japanese cardiac surgeons. In particular, he often attended the annual meetings of the Japanese cardiothoracic societies and served as chairman of international symposia of the Asian Chapter of the ISCVS.

MASAHIRO SAIGUSA, MD (1921-2001)

Dr Saigusa was Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Tokyo from 1968 to 1981. In 1966, he repaired an Ebstein anomaly without replacing the tricuspid valve, and he performed a successful operation on a patient with an active infection of the aortic valve. Besides being an excellent cardiac surgeon, he was a great organizer of both domestic and international surgical societies. He founded the Japanese Society for Cardiovascular Surgery (JSCVS) in 1972. He served as Secretary-General of the Asian Chapter of ISCVS from 1973 to 1981, and as President from 1986 to 1991. Without his dedication extending over 18 years, the Asian Chapter would not have been sustained and matured as the precursor of the ASCVS.



Prof. M. Saigusa

Chapter 2 Scientific Activities of the Asian Chapter

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA OF THE ASIAN CHAPTER

It was impossible for the Asian Chapter of the JSCVS to have an independent scientific meeting in those early days. In this infantile stage, international symposia during the annual meeting of the JSCVS were all that could be held (*see Table*). The local organizing committee of the annual meeting of the JSCVS invited all international participants to the symposium. The first Asian Chapter session was conducted in 1984 in conjunction with the JSCVS. YK Lee and K Asano chaired the session. KH Kim from Seoul was one of the participants. In 1987, the *2nd International Symposium* took place in Tokyo during the annual meeting of the JSCVS. Not only Asian but also non-Asian surgeons were invited to this symposium. The *3rd International Symposium* was held at Kobe in 1988. All speakers at this symposium were Asian surgeons. The *4th International Symposium* was held at Sapporo in 1989. Participants from all over the world were invited. The *5th International Symposium* of the Asian Chapter was held at Okayama in 1990 with only Asian discussants. Again, only Asian surgeons participated in the *6th International Symposium* held at Kofu in 1991.

Year	Symposium	Chairman	Participants
1984	Practice of Myocardial Protection	YK Lee K Asano	Japan (39), Korea (1)
1987	Takayasu Arteritis	Y Mishima	Chile (1), Japan (3), Korea (1) PR China (1), S Africa (1)
1988	Current Status of Acquired Valvular Disease in Asia	K Asano K Nakamura	Hong Kong (1), India (1) Japan (2), Korea (1)
1989	Long-term Results of Biological Valves	K Asano T Tanabe	France (1), Japan (2), USA (1) Australia (1), PR China (1)
1990	Current Status of Acquired Valvular Disease in Asia	K Asano T Iwa	India (1), Japan (3) Korea (1), Taiwan (1)
1991	Surgery for Arterial Occlusive Disease	A Ueno RM Greenhalgh	PR China (1), Japan (1) Korea (1), Thailand (1)
1992	Congenital Heart Disease	YK Lee	Italy (1), Japan (1), Korea (3)
1992	Coronary Artery Disease	CR Hung	Japan (1), PR China (2), Italy (1) Australia (1), Korea (1), Taiwan (1)
1992	Valvular Heart Disease	S Sugimura	PR China (5), India (1), Japan (1) Australia (1), Korea (1), Taiwan (1)

Joint sessions of the Asian Chapter and the JSCVS were held at Sendai in 1992 in preparation for the annual meeting of the upcoming new ASCVS. In the first session on congenital heart disease chaired by YK Lee (Seoul), 3 papers from Korea and 1 paper each from Italy and Japan were presented. In the second session on coronary artery disease chaired by CR Hung (Taipei), 2 papers from the Peoples' Republic of China and 1 paper each from Korea, Australia, Taiwan and Japan were read. In the 3rd session on valvular heart disease chaired by S Sugimura (Nagoya), 5 papers from PR China and 1 paper from India were presented. The joint Asian Chapter sessions were thus successfully performed with a total of 18 presentations and discussions fully in English.

PROVISIONAL MEETINGS OF THE ASCVS

It was realized that the time had come for the Asian Chapter to hold a scientific session of its own. In order to exchange opinions on the possibility of founding the ASCVS, the following persons met together on May 31, 1991, during the JSCVS meeting at Kofu: K Asano, A Furuse, A Ueno, and H Mohri from Japan, CS Choi from Korea, and ST Lai from Taiwan. At

this meeting, it was agreed that active participation in the Asian Chapter of the ISCVS should be asked of other influential surgeons such as Chi-Ren Hung in Taipei, Yung-Kyoon Lee and Yong-Kak Lee in Seoul, and that a formal letter of invitation should be sent to many other cardiovascular surgeons in Asia as well. The Ad-Hoc Committee of the JSCVS met in Tokyo on August 3, 1991, to discuss the issue of the ASCVS. Those present at this meeting were M Saigusa, K Asano, A Furuse, N Nakamura, S Teramoto, H Mohri, and K Tokunaga. It was recommended that: the name of the society should be *The Asian Society for Cardiovascular Surgery*; this society should remain functioning as the Asian Chapter of the ISCVS; the ASCVS should invite Asian colleagues who did not belong to the ISCVS to join the ASCVS; the first annual meeting would be held at the JSCVS meeting in 1993. The Executive Council Meeting of the JSCVS approved all these recommendations. Then a formal letter of invitation to the ASCVS and a call for English abstracts of papers or videos to be presented at the *1st Annual Meeting* in 1993 were sent out to many Asian cardiovascular surgeons. The Secretary-General of the Asian Chapter met with Lee Chuen Neng of the National University of Singapore who came to the *Japanese Meeting on Artificial Organs* in October 1991. He expressed a strong desire to take an active part in the Asian Chapter. In January 1992, Hongxi Su, President of the Chinese Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, responded to our invitation. Although he showed some interests in the Asian Chapter, he registered deep concern about participation from Taiwan.

FOUNDING MEETING OF THE ASCVS

A preliminary council meeting was held on April 16, 1992, at Sendai. This was to formally found the ASCVS. Those present were YK Lee from Seoul, CR Hung from Taipei, M Saigusa, K Asano, A Furuse, Y Hosoda, H Matsunaga, Y Mishima, and Y Sezai from Tokyo, H Mohri from Sendai, and Ohishi from Kurume. It was fortunate that all surgeons attending from Seoul and Taipei were able to speak fluent Japanese. This was real serendipity for the founding of a new organization involving different regions of Asia. K Asano, President of the JSCVS, explained the necessity of creating the ASCVS. A Furuse, Secretary-General of the Asian Chapter of the ISCVS, reported the particulars of provisional meetings. It was unanimously voted to found the ASCVS. The major concepts of this new organization were: that it consisted of members paying annual fee; it should not be composed of national delegates; annual (rather than biennial) scientific congresses should be held; formally, only the name of the city should be used without mentioning the name of *country*. The last recommendation was added in regard to the relationship between mainland China and Taiwan. The Founding Council examined the draft constitution. It was decided to propose it to the General Assembly the following year. After considerable discussion regarding the annual fee for the Society, it was decided to propose to the General Assembly that members should pay USD 30 per annum. This Founding Council nominated the following members as officers of the ASCVS and decided to propose nominees to the General Assembly at the *1st Annual Meeting of the ASCVS*: President of the Society, K Asano; President of the First Congress, K Ohishi; President of the Second Congress, M Kusagawa; Councilors, YK Lee, CR Hung, CN Lee, KP Suh, Y Mishima, Y Sezai; Secretary-General, A Furuse; Assistant Secretary-General, Y Hosoda; Treasurer, H Matsunaga.

KEN-ICHI ASANO, MD (1925-1998)

The authors should like to introduce here the first President of the ASCVS. Dr Asano received surgical training at the University of Tokyo Hospital. He devoted himself in the laboratory to the development of a new method by which surgeons could perform an intracardiac operation under direct vision. He showed that animals could survive a 50-min caval occlusion by cerebral perfusion cooling. Since 1955, 137 patients have undergone open heart surgery by this method with great success. In 1965, he was appointed Professor of Surgery at Niigata University. He returned to Tokyo in 1976 as Professor of Surgery at Tokyo Medical and Dental University and then became Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Tokyo in 1981. His academic achievements, of the highest quality, include selective cerebral perfusion for aortic arch aneurysm, valve-retaining patch repair for tetralogy of Fallot, and mitral valve replacement with preserved chordae tendineae. In 1987, he was elected President of the ISCVS. He was one of the founders of the ASCVS and served as its President from 1993 to 1997.



Prof. K. Asano

Chapter 3 Initial Annual Meetings in Japan

1ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

The *1st Annual Meeting of the ASCVS* was held in Fukuoka under the chairmanship of Kiroku Ohishi of Kurume University on March 2, 1993. The meeting was scheduled one day before the *23rd Annual Meeting of the JSCVS*. The Executive Council Meeting chaired by Ken-ichi Asano was conducted on March 1. Prior to this, there were 368 senior and active members in the Asian Chapter of ISCVS: 340 from Japan, 24 from Korea, 1 from Taiwan, 1 from Thailand, 1 from Singapore, and 1 from India. Thus, 92% of the membership of the Asian Chapter was Japanese. At this time, 57 new members joined the newly founded ASCVS: 35 from Korea, 13 from Japan, 4 from Taiwan, 2 from Pakistan, 1 each from India and Hong Kong. The total membership of the ASCVS became 425 from 8 regions or countries, and the percentage of Japanese members dropped to 83%. The scientific programs occupied 3 halls in Fukuoka Sun Palace. Besides two Special Lectures, there was a symposium on *Surgical Treatment of Valvular Heart Disease* chaired by H Koyanagi and HM Kim. Sixty-six free papers and 7 videos were presented during 11 sessions. Approximately 300 surgeons from many Asian countries participated, and the sessions were well attended with very fruitful discussions. At the General Assembly, the constitution, annual dues, slate of officers, and admission of new active members were approved as proposed by the Executive Council. There were two types of membership fee: USD120 for both ASCVS and ISCVS membership, and USD30 for ASCVS membership only. Senior members reaching the age of 65 were exempted from annual dues. The new officers appointed at the General Assembly included: President of the 2nd Congress, M Kusagawa; President of the 3rd Congress, M Wasio; President of the 4th Congress, KP Suh; President of the 5th Congress, CR Hung; Treasurer, Y Kotsuka. This very first annual meeting of the ASCVS was such a memorable one for all participants, not only in exchanging valuable experiences but also in becoming acquainted with Asian colleagues and their wives, paving the way for future development. We are very appreciative of the great efforts of Professor Ohishi and his colleagues in Kurume University.



Prof. K. Ohishi



Executive Council Meeting at the 1st Annual Meeting

Top (L to R): Akira Furuse, Hitoshi Matsunaga, Yutaka Kotsuka, Sigeaki Aoyagi

Middle (L to R): Kenichi Kosuga, Yoshio Mishima, Yukiyasu Sezai, Lee Chuen Neng, Isao Yada

Bottom (L to R): Kyung Phill Suh, Yung Kyoon Lee, Ken-ichi Asano, Kiroku Ohishi, Hung Chi Ren, Yasuyuki Hosoda



Prof. M. Kusagawa

2ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

The *2nd Annual Meeting of the ASCVS* was chaired by Professor Minoru Kusagawa of Mie University. It was held at Nagoya Tokyu Hotel on February 11, 1994, just before the *24th Annual Meeting of the JSCVS*. Both meetings were organized in a spirit of mutual cooperation. During the JSCVS meeting, English was used for all slides, posters, and video narration for the Asian visitors. The registration fee for the ASCVS meeting was JPY 5,000. Special consideration was offered to non-Japanese so that they could participate in the JSCVS meeting at no extra charge, while the registration fee for Japanese was JPY 15,000 for both meetings,

and JPY 12,000 for only the JSCVS meeting. The meeting began with a welcome reception in the evening of February 10. Invited Lectures given at the meeting were on pulmonary hypertension by Tim Higenbottom from Cambridge, and on corrected transposition by Richard Van Praagh from Boston. Professor Kyung-Phill Suh of Seoul National University delivered a Special Lecture on the current status of open heart surgery in Korea. It was impressive that he reported a significant increase in patients undergoing cardiac surgery after the introduction of a national health insurance system in Korea. J Wei (Taipei), MS Kang (Seoul), CN Lee (Singapore), and N Nishida, T Isomura, K Ogawa and T Tashiro from Japan participated in a symposium on *Surgery for Ischemic Heart Disease* chaired by Y Hosoda and CN Lee. There were 62 papers and 6 videos presented during 15 sessions in 3 rooms. It should be noted that BR Zhang and his coworkers from Shanghai presented 9 papers at the meeting. At the General Assembly, YK Lee was elected an honorary member of the ASCVS. It was reported that the total number of the Society members was 411, although the number of active members was 377 including 30 new members. As for the finances of the Society, Japanese members were obliged to pay USD120 for ASCVS/ISCVS while most of the non-Japanese remitted USD30 for ASCVS membership only.

3RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

Masahiko Washio of Yamagata University was chairman of the local organizing committee responsible for holding the *3rd Annual Meeting of the ASCVS* in Yokohama on February 14, 1995. This one-day meeting was held just before the annual meeting of the JSCVS. The venue was Pacifico Yokohama. A Special Lecture on *Heart Transplantation* given by Jeng Wei from Taipei was outstanding and impressed all in attendance. Invited Lectures included *Double-Outlet Right Ventricle* by Cho Bum Koo (Seoul), *Dissecting Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm* by Chau Hsuing Chang (Taipei), and *Nonspecific Aortoarteritis* by GB Parulker (Bombay). It is worthy of mention that all these Special and Invited Lectures were delivered, chaired, and discussed solely by Asian surgeons. A total of 84 papers and 16 videos were presented during 23 sessions in 3 rooms. At the General Assembly, Seiji Kimoto was bestowed honorary membership of the ASCVS. It was reported that YK Lee, an honorary member, passed away in August 1994, and all attendants prayed silently for him. Cho Bum Koo was approved as a new Councilor from Seoul. It was reported that the total membership of the ASCVS was 495 and there were 460 active members including 30 new members. Considerable discussion took place at the Executive Council Meeting as to the proper representation of PR China. No specific recommendation was made about the Councilor from PR China before the General Assembly. The Treasurer reported a considerable amount of surplus in the fiscal year 1994. It was decided, therefore, to increase assistance for the 1996 Congress to JPY 2,000,000.



Prof. M. Washio

Chapter 4 Meetings in Northeast and Southeast Asia

4TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

The 4th Annual Meeting of the ASCVS held in Seoul, May 15-17, 1996, represented an important landmark in the Society's history. It was the first to be held outside Japan, and the 3-day meeting was just before the 12th Spring Meeting of the Korean Society for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. Kyung-Phill Suh of Seoul National University was the Congress President. The venue was the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel. On the first day, a workshop on *Heart Laser* was conducted, followed by a welcome reception. On the 2nd day, the scientific programs were scheduled. Special Lectures included *Complete Atrioventricular Canal* by Hisataka Yasui from Fukuoka, *Aortic Aneurysm* by Kageharu Kojima from Okinawa, *Atrial Fibrillation* by Frang Ye Lin from Taipei, and *Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting* by Yasuyuki Hosoda from Tokyo. There were 95 free papers and 7 videos presented during 12 sessions in 3 rooms. The farewell dinner was magnificent. On the 3rd day, visits to major general or university hospitals were conducted. It was very impressive for foreign visitors to observe the daily activities of modern Korean hospitals such as Asan Medical Center, Samsung Medical Center, Seoul National University Hospital, and Yonsei University Severance Hospital. The General Assembly met immediately after lunch on the 2nd day. All attendees were asked to devote a minute of silent prayer for S Kimoto, an honorary member, who passed away in March 1995. It was reported that the membership had increased to 536 and the active membership was 469 including 17 new applicants. The Secretary-General raised the issue of nonpayment of dues for more than 2 years despite 3 notifications during the previous year. It was decided that after one more notification, the Society would drop his or her name from the membership roster. This was an important decision for the ASCVS which is totally dependent on the annual fees of the members.



Prof. K.P. Suh

5TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS



Prof. C.R. Hung

Hung Chi-Ren of Taipei University was Congress Chairman for the 5th Annual Meeting of the ASCVS. The meeting was held jointly with the 5th Wu Ho-Su Memorial Lecture, January 10-13, 1997 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Taipei. The main theme of the scientific program was *Update on Cardiovascular Surgery*. Invited Lectures were on *Univentricular Repair* by Jeong Wook Seo (Korea), Hiromi Kurosawa (Tokyo), and Toshikatu Yagihara (Osaka). In addition, 3 Invited Lecture sessions were conducted on *Complex Congenital Heart Disease*, *Valvular Heart Disease*, and *Vascular Surgery*, with the participation of internationally renowned surgeons including Tom Karl from Australia, Brian Barratt-Boyes from New Zealand, Carlos Duran, James Fann, and Kit V Arom from USA, and Yasunaru Imai, Hisataka Yasui, Hitoshi Koyanagi, Shunichi Hoshino, and Nobuyuki Nakajima from Japan. There were 173 free papers, 19 videos, and 25 posters presented in 4 rooms. CR Hung made the *Annual Meeting of the ASCVS* into a truly international one with many scientific contributions from the pan-Pacific area. On top of this achievement, the farewell party was the most impressive ever experienced. We still remember our surprise when K Asano and CR Hung entered the hall on portable decorated chairs carried on the shoulders of 4 men, and Dr Asano almost fell from the chair. It was reported that the total membership was 533, including 445 active members. Since all officers had completed their terms, the following nominations were made at the Executive Council and approved by the General Assembly: President of the Society, A Furuse; Councilors, KP Suh, CN Lee, CR Hung, H Yasui, BK Cho, N Nakajima; Secretary-General, Y Hosoda; Treasurer, Y Kotsuka. K Asano, Y Mishima, and Y Sezai, leaving the Executive Council, were recommended to become honorary members.

6TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

The 6th Annual Meeting of the ASCVS was chaired by Toshio Mitsui of Tsukuba University. The meeting was held jointly with the 28th Annual Meeting of the JSCVS. Yasuyuki Hosoda, the Congress Chairman of the 28th Annual JSCVS Meeting, worked very hard not only for the JSCVS but also for the ASCVS, as he was the Secretary-General of the ASCVS at that time. It is worth noting that A Furuse, President of both societies, M Mitsui, and Y Hosoda were



Prof. T. Mitsui Prof. Y. Hosoda Prof. A. Furuse Prof. C.N. Lee

classmates at the University of Tokyo. It was appreciated that the teamwork of the three was perfect in organizing the joint meeting. It was held from February 18 to 20, 1998 at Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo. All presentations were open not only to JSCVS members but also to ASCVS members, although the programs of both societies proceeded in different rooms. It

was reported that the total membership was 541 with 29 new applicants. The Society again thanked CN Lee for his great efforts in recruiting members from Singapore, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, and Myanmar. There was a small financial deficit. The main reasons for this deficit were some members' dereliction of payment of their dues and the Japanese yen's low exchange rate. Considerable discussion took place about the new official journal of the JSCVS, *Cardiovascular Surgery*, published by Elsevier. The Co-Editors-in-Chief had decided not to accept case reports in order to increase the impact of the journal. This abrupt editorial change had resulted in a significant decrease in submission of manuscripts from the ASCVS. Hisataka Yasui proposed that the annual meeting in 2000 be held from September 8 to 9 in Fukuoka. The reason for holding the meeting in the fall was that September 2000 was to be Asian Month in the city of Fukuoka and it had the advantage of raising funds from the city. Shuichiro Sugimura offered to host the *2001 Annual Meeting of ASCVS* in Nagoya.

7TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

Lee Chuen-Neng was Chairman of the *7th Annual Meeting of the ASCVS* from May 25 to June 1, 1999. It was held at the turn of the century, a time when all in Asia were looking forward to the next millennium. The venue for the meeting was Raffles Convention Centre in Singapore. Tremendous effort went into the organization of this meeting. Fifty-three eminent cardiovascular surgeons were invited from all over the world to participate. During the meeting, 377 papers and videos were presented. This was the largest number of presentations to date. A pre-conference hands-on workshop on *Stentless Valve Surgery* and a post-conference graduate course on *Perfusion Technology* were incorporated. At the Executive Council Meeting, the Secretary-General informed



Executive Council Meeting at the 7th Annual Meeting

Top (L to R): Prof. Shuichiro Sugimura, Prof. Hisataka Yasui, Prof. Hltoshi Mohti, Prof. Cho Bum Koo, Prof. Sinichi Takamoto, Prof. Yutaka Kotsuka
Bottom (L to R): Prof. Yasuyuki Hosoda, Prof. Kyung Phill Suh, Prof. Akira Furuse, Dr Lee Chuen Ngng, Prof. Hung Chi Ren

the Council members that 4 countries had indicated their desire to host the meetings in 2002 and 2003: Malaysia, Turkey, Israel, and Korea. After presentations from representatives of these countries and considerable discussion, it was decided to hold the 2002 annual meeting in Korea and the 2003 annual meeting in Malaysia.

It was reported that Ken-ichi Asano, a former President of the Society had passed away, and a silent prayer was offered by all Council members. The Society members came from 16 regions and the membership was 568. Furthermore, we had 49 new applicants from 13 regions this year. The Society was indebted to CN Lee for his continued efforts to increase the applications from various regions. Financially, there was a small deficit for the fiscal year January 1 to December 31, 1998. This was due to the low exchange rate of the Japanese currency. At the General Assembly of the ASCVS, the President of the Society was re-elected for a second term and Shinichi Takamoto was newly elected as Assistant Secretary-General. Frank Tamru, publisher of the Asian Cardiovascular and Thoracic Annals (ACTA), proposed that the journal would be the official journal of the Society. Following CN Lee's suggestion, an ad-hoc committee was formed to establish a database, consisting of S Takamoto (Chair), CN Lee, Y Hosoda, and A Furuse.

Chapter 5 Second Round of Meetings in Northeast Asia

8TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

Hisataka Yasui of Kyushu University was President of the Organizing Committee of the *8th Annual Meeting of the ASCVS*. The meeting was held from September 6 to 8, 2000, at Sea Hawk Hotel & Resort in Fukuoka. The 1st annual meeting of the Society had also been held in Fukuoka, so this was the Society's second visit to this city. In ancient times, Fukuoka was the gateway to Asian culture in Japan, because of its geographical location. In the city of Fukuoka, September is designated Asian Month. During this month, the city organizes various cultural, industrial, and academic events related to Asian countries. Thus, the *2000 Annual Meeting of the ASCVS* was part of Asian Month in Fukuoka.



Prof. H. Yasui

This was the first meeting in Japan to be held completely and independently of the JSCVS. As stated earlier, the first 3 meetings in Japan had to be held in parallel or jointly with the *Annual Meeting of the JSCVS*. The 4th meeting in Seoul was held just before the *12th Spring Meeting of the Korean Society for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. The 5th meeting in Taipei was held jointly with the *5th Wu Ho-Su Memorial Lecture*. The 6th annual meeting was a joint meeting with the *28th Annual Meeting of the JSCVS*. The 7th meeting in Singapore was the first truly independent meeting when the Society had matured enough to hold its annual meeting by itself. A number of world-renowned cardiac surgeons and international experts focused on cutting-edge or useful routine techniques in the pre-congress seminars and 14 symposia, in addition to 280 free paper presentations. Approximately 600 surgeons from various countries in Asia participated. Seventy young Asian cardiovascular surgeons won travel awards to present high quality papers. The provision of the travel grant would certainly stimulate and inspire young surgeons in building a new era of Asian cardiovascular surgery. There were a number of important changes to the ASCVS. Firstly, on September 6, 2000, the Society became a member of CTSNet, an international internet community of cardiothoracic surgeons. Every member of the ASCVS automatically had a personal page on the CTSNet website. Secondly, the affiliation between the ASCVS and ACTA became effective as of January 1, 2000. Thirdly, the trial of the Asian Cardiac Surgical Database started in Japanese institutions, although the number of participants was small in the beginning. The membership was 611 including 460 active members. Because of the retirement of Chi Ren Hung from the Executive Council, he became an honorary member, and WC Yu was elected as his replacement. The finances of the Society were sound with a small surplus. The main reason for this surplus was the reduction of annual dues to the ISCVS headquarters, from USD 40 to 20 per member. With regard to the hosting of the 2004 meeting, there was considerable discussion at the Executive Council meeting. Finally, it was decided that the 2004 annual meeting should be in Istanbul. Professor Omer Isik was nominated President of the 2004 Congress.



Prof. S. Sugimura

9TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

Shuichiro Sugimura of Fujita Health University was Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the *9th Annual Meeting of the ASCVS*. It was held at Nagoya Kanko Hotel on March 28 to 30, 2001. The same city had hosted the *2nd Annual Meeting of the ASCVS*, but the 9th annual meeting was completely independent of the JSCVS. A problem the Organizing Committee faced was the short interval since the last meeting in Fukuoka; it was only 6 months. It was anticipated, therefore, that the number of the participants at this meeting would be much less than usual. The ASCVS is indebted to Professor Sugimura who understood the importance of continuing the

annual meeting and agreed to take on this difficult task. A more difficult issue was that of the ISCVS. The International Society was composed of many Chapters. The North American Chapter had lost almost all its cardiac surgeons and consisted solely of vascular surgeons. On the other hand, the European Chapter had a well-balanced membership of cardiac and vascular surgeons. The Asian Chapter had many more cardiac than vascular surgeons. At the Interim Meeting of the Executive Council of the ISCVS, considerable discussion took place regarding the future of its official publication, *Cardiovascular Surgery*. At the Executive Council Meeting of the ASCVS in Nagoya, it was decided that the ASCVS wished to keep the journal as it was, and to convey the opinion of the ASCVS to the Executive Committee of the ISCVS scheduled to meet in September 2001. The numbers of total, active, and applicant members were 628, 478, and 22 respectively. CR Hung and H Mohri were elected honorary members of the Society because of their great contributions to the Society for many years. New officers elected or re-elected at the General Assembly were: President of the Society, Akira Furuse; Secretary-General, Shinichi Takamoto; Assistant Secretary-General, Masashi Komeda; new Councilors, Prinya Sakiyalak and Yasuyuki Hosoda.

10TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

Cho Bum Koo of Yonsei University was Chairman of the *10th Annual Meeting of the ASCVS*, April 17-19, 2002. The venue was Shilla Cheju in Jeju Island, one of the famous resorts in Korea. Fourteen young Asian investigators won a Young Investigator Travel Award. Pre-meeting workshops on *Mechanical Anastomosis System*, *Surgical Anatomy of Congenital Heart Disease*, *Update in Cardiopulmonary Bypass*, and a pre-meeting seminar on *Aortic Dissection* attracted many participants. The latter was part of the *Spring Meeting of the Korean Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. In the morning of the 2nd and 3rd days, meet-the-expert sessions were successfully conducted. The topics were *Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome*, *Surgical Approach to Congestive Heart Failure*, and *Robotic Surgery*. These sessions were fully attended with many in the audience having to stand. Plenary sessions were on *Asian Annals*, *Failing Heart*, *Cell Transplantation*, and *Tissue Engineering*. There were 8 symposia on various topics of cardioaortic surgery. Including presentations during the plenary sessions and symposia, 362 papers, videos, and posters were presented during the meeting. The total number of participants was 631. It was reported at the General Assembly that the number of members was 640 including 477 active members, and there were 69 new applicants. The database system was expanding gradually and steadily. There was a discussion on unification of the databases in Japan, Korea, and Singapore. Four cities expressed their desire to host the 2005 annual meeting: Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, and Bangkok. After considerable discussion, Bangkok was chosen. The meeting would be held under the chairmanship of P Sakiyalak. Kyun-Phill Suh retiring from the Executive Council became an honorary member. New Councilors elected were Young-Jin Kim from Seoul, David Cheung from Hong Kong, and Qing-Yu Wu from Beijing. Considerable discussion took place regarding the future relationship between the ISCVS and the ASCVS. The unilateral North American proposal of changing the name of *The International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery* to *The International Society for Vascular Surgery* was severely criticized.³ The strong disapproval of the ASCVS would be relayed to the Interim Executive Council Meeting of the ISCVS in June, 2002.



Prof. B.K. Cho

Chapter 6 Meetings in Southeast and West Asia

11TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

Dato' Dr Mohd Azhari Yakub of the National Heart Institute of Malaysia was Chairman of the 11th annual meeting held on February 12-15, 2003. The venue was the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The topics of the pre-congress workshop were *Latest Techniques and Technologies in Minimally Invasive Beating Heart CABG* and *Pediatric Cardiac Care*. Twenty-nine prominent cardiovascular surgeons were invited to share their experiences with cardiovascular surgeons in the region. There were 189 selected presentations during plenary sessions, symposia, free oral, video, or poster sessions. The plenary sessions were on *Status of Asian Cardiac Centers*, *Impact of Interventional Pediatric and Adult Cardiology on Cardiac Surgery*. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad delivered an opening address which was so impressive that we placed it on the CTSNet website. Dr Mahathir, who himself underwent coronary artery bypass surgery in 1989, urged congress delegates to practice the "human touch" in dealing with patients. The total membership, active membership, and new applicants in the ASCVS were 656, 500, and 110, respectively. A remarkable increase in new applicants resulted from the new requirement of the Japanese Cardiovascular Surgery Board. As the official journal of the ISCVS, *Cardiovascular Surgery*, would cease publication at the end of 2003, the ASCVS decided to take the *Asian Cardiovascular and Thoracic Annals* as its official journal. A publication committee was formed to discuss the details of the official journal. The members of the committee consisted of A Furuse (Chair), BK Cho, CN Lee, Y Hosoda, and S Takamoto. After discussions about possible venues for future annual meetings, it was voted to hold the 2006 annual meeting in Osaka under the chairmanship of S Kitamura, and the 2007 annual meeting in Beijing under the chairmanship of QY Wu. The term of the President of the Society was extended by 2 more years. The President of the ISCVS proposed to divide the ISCVS into 2 societies, one vascular and one cardiovascular, and this proposal would be voted on at the General Assembly of the ISCVS scheduled for April, 2003. The ASCVS could not find any reason to support the new vascular society. It was also deemed difficult for the ASCVS to maintain a new cardiovascular society in conjunction with the European Society for Cardiovascular Surgery. Therefore, it was decided that the ASCVS proposed the total dismantling of the ISCVS to the General Assembly of the ISCVS. Due to the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, however, the Biennial World Congress and the General Assembly of the ISCVS were postponed until March 2004. This was a unilateral decision made after the 2003 ASCVS annual meeting by the leadership of the ISCVS without proper consultation with the Executive Council members. The ASCVS had to inform the ISCVS, therefore, that the ASCVS would cease functioning as its Asian Chapter and leave the ISCVS as of December 31, 2003.⁴



Dato' Dr. M.A. Yakub



Prof. O. Isik

12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

Omer Isik was President of the 12th annual meeting that was scheduled to take place in the Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Center, April 18-22, 2004. The theme of the meeting was *State of the Heart*. The meeting was a particularly significant one because the ASCVS which started in the East of Asia had finally arrived at its Western end, and this was the very first meeting after the ASCVS left the umbrella of the ISCVS. The success of the meeting at this location would certainly show that the ASCVS had grown up to stand on its own feet and look to the new horizon of the global cardiovascular community. However, the meeting was jeopardized by the devastating attacks of suspected suicide bombers on November 15 and 20, 2004, in the host city of Istanbul. In the face of these incidents

and future uncertainty about the security and safety of the participants at the meeting, an urgent email was sent to all members of the Executive Council seeking their opinions. The Organizing Committee in Istanbul responded expressing its strong desire to hold the annual meeting as scheduled. Then many emails came from members of the Executive Council residing in various cities of Asia. All stated that we should proceed in Istanbul and trust the judgment of our Turkish colleagues. It took only 6 days for the ASCVS to decide the meeting should be held in Istanbul and that we should send a strong message of support to the Organizing Committee in Turkey. Thus, the strong solidarity of the ASCVS overcame the crisis. Due to the terrorist attack, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a safety alert to travelers in Istanbul. This caused a serious problem for those whose papers had been accepted for presentation at the 12th annual meeting, because they were unable to get permission from their hospital administrators to go to Istanbul. We realized that the problem resulted from lack of proper communication between Japan and Turkey. The Japanese officials stated that they could not reduce the level of the safety alert simply because the safety and security of travelers in Istanbul had not been declared by the Turkish authorities. On March 29, 2004, the President of the ASCVS wrote to the Turkish Ambassador to Tokyo asking him to get in touch with Turkish authorities so that they could issue a safety declaration for the city of Istanbul. At the same time, an email was sent by the President of the ASCVS to the Secretariat of the local organizing committee in Turkey explaining the situation in Tokyo and asking them to do whatever they could in Istanbul. The Secretariat successfully obtained an official letter dated March 31, 2004, from the Deputy Governor of Istanbul to the President of the ASCVS, declaring the safety of the city. The Secretariat sent a photocopy of this letter to the Turkish Embassy in Tokyo and the Japanese Embassy in Istanbul. To our surprise, on April 1, 2004, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs reduced the level of the safety alert. Of 485 abstracts submitted, 334 were accepted but 39 were not presented in this Congress. There were 503 participants from 38 countries. Probably because of the unstable situation in the world, only 45% of them were from outside Turkey. The ASCVS owe very much to their Turkish colleagues for holding this successful meeting during such a difficult time. We were pleased to know that there was no financial deficit at this time.

13TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASCVS

Prinya Sakiyalak was Chairman of the 13th annual meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, February 5-8, 2005. The theme of the Meeting was *New Horizon in Cardiovascular Surgery*. This was an occasion for the ASCVS to recognize its increasing stature as an international Asian society with more contributions from the region's experts; 80% of the invited speakers were regional. They participated and exchanged their views with world-renowned speakers in the state-of-the-art lectures and symposia. Invited speakers from outside Asia included Sir Magdi Yacoub and Dr Alain Carpentier. The meeting served as a platform for Asian cardiovascular surgeons to present more than 200 scientific papers. Young Investigator Awards were given to stimulate young surgeons in the region to participate and present their valuable work. On February 5, 2005, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the opening ceremony of the *13th Annual Meeting of the ASCVS*. On that occasion, on behalf of the Society, the President of the Society presented a donation to Her Royal Highness as a token of deep compassion for tsunami disaster victims and their families in Southern Thailand. The topics of the pre-congress program were *Emerging Technologies and their Impact on Perfusion and Postoperative Care*, and *Aortic Dissection*. Highlights of the scientific program were 6 plenary sessions and 11 symposia. *The Future of Cardiac Surgery* was discussed in the final session. The number of active members of the ASCVS amounted to 633 including 29 new applicants and there were 179 senior members. The total number of members was 812. Unfortunately, we had to drop the names of 12 active



Prof. P. Sakiyalak

members due to nonpayment of annual dues for more than 3 years. It was recommended that the official journal should be delivered only to the active members and that those senior members who wanted to subscribe the Asian Annals should return to active member status. It was also confirmed that each country should work hard to increase the number of active members.

The Publication Committee reported on the agreement between the ASCVS and Asia Publishing EXchange (APEX) for the year 2005. According to the memorandum, the ASCVS would pay USD 60 per volume for the total agreed number of subscriptions in 2005 to APEX, the ASCVS should assist to secure advertisement for the Asian Annals from companies conducting business in Asian countries, and the ASCVS should be entitled to recommend the editorial and advisory board members. The Ad-Hoc Committee on the Database reported that the Japanese database had collected data from more than 10,000 cases and that the Asian Database would start initially in a limited number of Asian institutes using next-generation software that enables fine graphic presentations and sophisticated statistical analyses. Since all officers had reached the end of their terms, new officers were elected or re-elected as follows: A Furuse was re-elected President of the Society; Councilors, CN Lee, Y Hosoda, BK Cho, DLC Cheung, QY Wu, P Sakiyalak, TJ Yu, YK Kim, MA Yakub were re-elected. M Komeda and T Kazui were newly elected as Councilors. S Takamoto was re-elected as the Secretary-General and Y Ueda and N Motomura were elected as Treasurer and Assistant Secretary-General, respectively. Honorary memberships were awarded to N Nakajima and H Yasui for their contribution to this Society for many years. CN Lee offered to host the 16th annual meeting in 2008 in Singapore, and TJ Yu offered to host the 17th annual meeting in 2009 in Taipei. The ASCVS accepted both invitations. A discussion took place about the feasibility of holding the 2009 congress jointly with the Association for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons of Asia (ACTSA), anticipating the possible merger of the two societies in the future. No decision was made at the Executive Council Meeting of the ASCVS regarding this proposition.

Chapter 7 Future Prospects of the ASCVS

The future prospects of the ASCVS concern the following 4 issues.

1. Possible merger of the ASCVS and the ACTSA to form a larger and stronger cardiovascular society in Asia. There is a proposal about a future joint meeting as an initial attempt to bring the two societies together. Representatives of the two societies have to discuss this issue further.

2. Strengthening and improving the quality of ACTA as the official journal of the society. At least bimonthly publication is necessary to strengthen the journal. The quality of the manuscripts should be improved. On the other hand, the journal has substantial potential for improvement because it has become one of the four on-line journals of CTSNet.

3. Constructing a strong and reliable cardiovascular database in Asia. Quality control of surgical results in terms of risk-adjusted mortality and morbidity is becoming one of the most important issues in our specialty. The Database Committee of the ASCVS has developed a web-based database system that is now on trial. The most critical issue to be solved is validation of the data.

4. Establishing a program for continuing education of cardiovascular surgeons in Asia. Continuing education is the key to assuring the quality of cardiovascular surgery. The ASCVS should contribute to the establishment of such system. A common cardiovascular surgery board is also on our horizon.

APPENDIX

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