

EDITORIAL

Asian-Pacific Congress of Cardiology (APCC) – From birth to the present ☆

It is interesting to note that a proposal to establish an Inter-Asian Society of Cardiology originated from a corridor discussion of delegates from the Philippines Heart Association with Dr. Paul Dudley White at the 1954 Second World Congress of Cardiology in Washington, DC. Dr. White was then President of the World Congress of Cardiology.

The First Asian-Pacific Congress of Cardiology was held on April 19–23, 1956 in Manila, Philippines under the presidency of Dr. Antonio Samia (Photo 1).

Dr. Antonio Samia was elected as First President of the Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology, which was organized one day prior to the Congress, April 18, 1956 in Manila.

The Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology was established by representatives from eight Asian-Pacific countries. The name Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology was approved following a suggestion by Sir Kempson Maddox of Australia who insisted that the Society should include not only Asia but also Oceania. The Society's Constitution was approved, and the first officers were elected. They were:

Dr. Antonio Samia, President.
Sir J. Kempson Maddox, First Vice-President.
Dr. Magojiro Maekawa, Second Vice-President.
Dr. S. Padmavati, Secretary General.
Dr. Roeinton B. Khambatta, Treasurer.

The First Asian-Pacific Congress of Cardiology was held jointly with the 49th Annual Meeting of the Philippine Medical Association, and was attended by prominent cardiologists in the region representing eight Asian-Pacific countries. Dr. Paul Dudley White, then the President of the International Society of Cardiology personally came to Manila to grace the Congress on April 17, 1956.

On April 17, 1956, Dr. White, was met at the Manila International Airport by officers of the Philippine Heart Association. This historical picture (Photo 2) from the left to the right; Drs. Nolasco, Barcelona, Gatchalian, Dean Sison, Dr. White, Drs. Busuego, Samia, Dionisio and Dayrit.

A group picture (Photo 3) was taken during the Congress. I can identify my teacher Professor Magojiro Maekawa with certainty, shown here the fifth from the right in the first row. He was at the age of 54, then.



Photo 1

☆ This article was presented in part as Special Session "Past and Perspective of APSC" at the 17th APCC in Kyoto, May 20th, 2009.



Photo 2



Photo 3

Now, let me introduce Dr. White for a while, although this big name may still be remembered by many individuals. Dr. Paul Dudley White was the Physician-in-charge of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a hero of the Second World War. This picture (Photo 4) was taken while they were chatting with each other during the banquet to celebrate the opening of the International Federation of Cardiology (IFC) in New York in 1963. The President is listening to the heart sounds of Dr. White with a gold stethoscope

which President Eisenhower presented to Dr. White with his gratitude.

Dr. White contributed a great deal to establish our Society, APSC. More than that, he was a founder of the International Society and Federation of Cardiology (ISFC), now named as World Heart Federation (WHF), the mother organization of our Society. He also advocated the prevention of heart disease saying, "Do not grow fat, or smoke; walk, walk and walk". He always said that a heart attack after

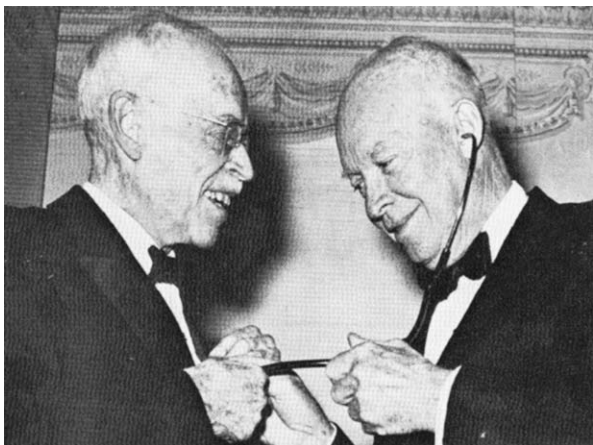


Photo 4

the age of 80 is the work of God, and a heart attack before the age of 80 is a medical failure. He loved the bicycle (Photo 5), and hated the automobile. He lived a long life and died at the age of 87 in 1973.

The following papers were presented at the plenary session of the First APCC.

“Heart Disease among the Chinese”

“Primary Tumor of the Heart”

“Pressor Substances”

“Pharmacology of the Coronary Circulation”

“Sodium and Potassium Content of the Human Heart”

“Hemodynamics of Constrictive Pericarditis”

“Aneurysm of the Abdominal Aorta”

“Mitral Valve Surgery”

Dr. Chang Munien.

Dr. Seiji Kimoto.

Dr. Magojiro Maekawa.

Dr. Bunzaburo Nuki.

Dr. Conrad Dayrit.

Dr. Kempson Maddox.

Dr. Rointon Khambatta.

Dr. Cristino Lazatin.

The Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology decided to honor the major contribution by the First President of the Congress, Dr. Antonio Samia, Philippines, by endowing an annual lectureship to be given by a distinguished cardiologist or cardiac surgeon in the Asian-Pacific region, to be called the Antonio Samia Lectureship. The first lecture was given in 1976 by Henry Neufeld of Israel at the time of the sixth APCC in Honolulu. Subsequent lecturers are listed in the Table (Photo 6).

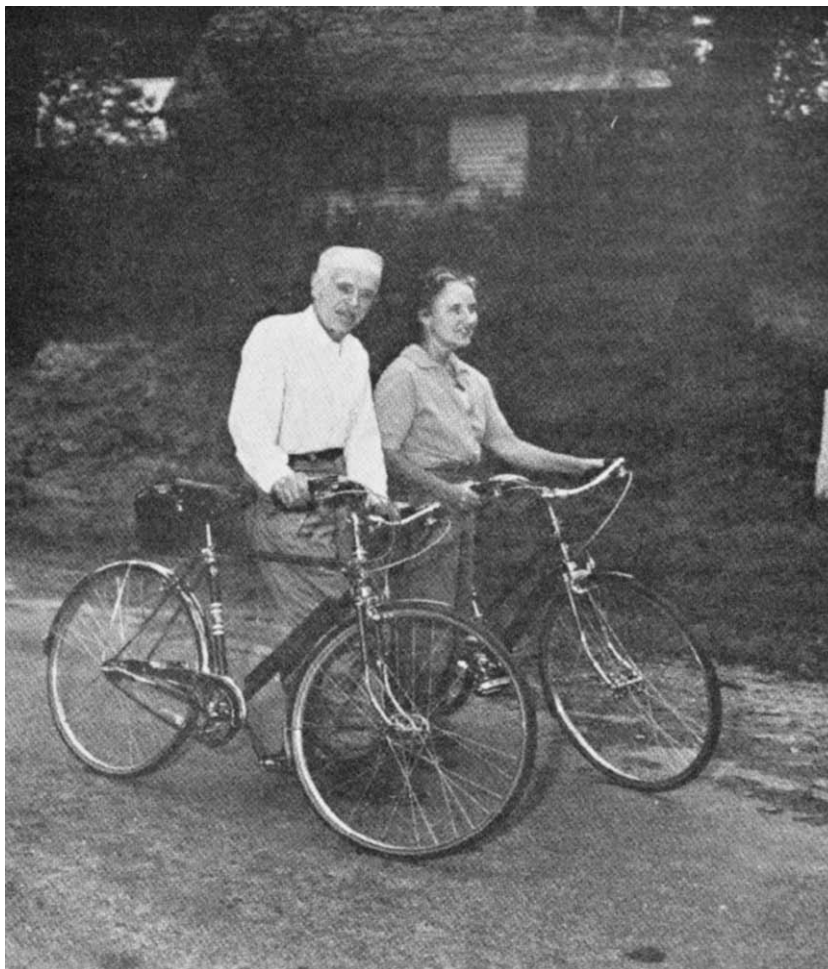


Photo 5

Antonio Samia Lectures

Year	Venue	Name of Lecturer
1976	Honolulu	Dr. Henry Neufeld
1979	Bangkok	Sir Brian Barrat Boyes
1983	Taipei	Dr. Chuichi Kawai
1987	Auckland	Dr. Abraham Kagan
1991	Seoul	Dr. Roger B.B.Mee
1995	Bali	Dr. Asikin Hanafiah
1999	Lahore	Dr. Nasiruddin Azam Khan
2001	Manila	Dr. Bun Yok O.Dy
2004	Singapore	Dr. Chia Boon Lock
2005	Mumbai	Dr. S Padmavati

Photo 6

The Second APCC was held in June 1960 at the Anatomy School of the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.

Sir J. Kempson Maddox (**Photo 7**) was then elected the Second President of the Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology for the next four years. Sir Kempson Maddox made a considerable contribution to establish the Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology, the name of which was determined by his suggestion to indicate the region the Society covers stretching from Israel to Hawaii.

The Second Congress was characterized by the fact that, with the assistance of Dr. Paul Dudley White, 13 young cardiologists from the US and Canada who all later became leading international cardiologists attended and presented papers. Among them, there were Eugene Braunwald who talked on "Transseptal catheterization", Walter H. Abelmann



Photo 7



Photo 8

"Aortic and mitral stenosis" and Russel Ross "Labelled serum proteins in edema". It is no doubt that this group made a great contribution to the scientific quality of the meeting. It is also said that they influenced cardiology in Australia thereafter. Many of them went on to head major departments in the United States and provided an important link between Australian cardiologists and cardiac departments in the United States. It is said that almost from that time, Australian cardiology turned from the United Kingdom to the United States for both training and postgraduate education.

The Third Congress was held on May 10–14, 1964 in Kyoto, Japan presided by Professor Magojiro Maekawa (**Photo 8**), Kyoto University.

This congress was opened in conjunction with the 28th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Circulation Society.

The Third Asian-Pacific Congress of Cardiology started with a get-together meeting held the preceding evening on May 9, at the Kyoto Miyako Hotel (**Photo 9**).

Partly because the Congress was held in conjunction with the 28th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Circulation Society, a large number of delegates for the early days of the Congress participated in the Kyoto Congress; 160 active and 60 associate members from overseas, and 2000 members from Japan. The scientific sessions were composed of 39 symposia and a panel discussion. In addition, 16 scientific exhibits and seven motion picture exhibits were presented at an exhibition hall near the auditoriums.

Dr. Magojiro Maekawa invited Dr. and Mrs. White to the Kyoto Congress as the guest of honor. Dr. and Mrs. White



Photo 9

are enjoying tea ceremony during the Congress at the Garden of the Heian Shrine (Photo 10).

After the fourth Congress, congresses of which the secretariats kindly sent us the information including nice pictures will be introduced.

The 10th APCC took place in October, 1991, in Seoul, Korea with the President Dr. Soon Kyu Suh.

This seems to be a shot of the opening ceremony (Photo 11, by courtesy of the Korean Society of Circulation).

The 13th APCC was held in October 2001, in Manila, Philippines under President Dr. Noe Babilonia. This is a picture (Photo 12) of the executive officers of the Congress: The lady in the extreme right is Dr. Annette Borrromeo, secretary general; to her left is Dr. Shyaryar Sheikh, President of the Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology; in the middle is the keynote speaker, Philippine Vice-President Teofisto Guingona; to his left is Dr. Noe A. Babilonia, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 13th APCC; on his left is Dr. Edgardo Ortiz.

Photos 13–15 show the number of delegates, number of participating countries, and number of papers presented, respectively, in the past APCC meetings. The congress with the largest number of participants was that in Bali, Indonesia in 1995, which counted 3000 participants. Other congresses with fairly large numbers of delegates ranging 2000–2500 were Kyoto, Japan in 1964, Taipei, Taiwan in 1983, Seoul, Korea in 1991, and again Taipei, Taiwan in



Photo 10



The 10th Asian-Pacific
Congress of Cardiology
(1991)

Photo 11



Photo 12

2007. The number of delegates pre-registered in the 2009 Kyoto Congress was over 2000, despite the Swine Flu pandemic.

It is worth noting that 51 countries sent delegates to the 2009 Kyoto Congress, which is the largest number in the history of APCC. This increase may reflect the fact

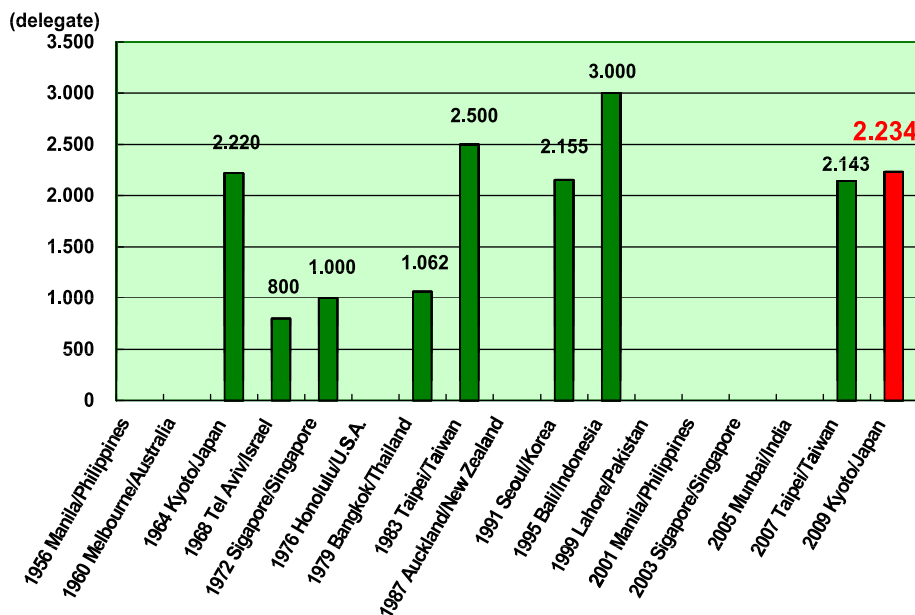


Photo 13

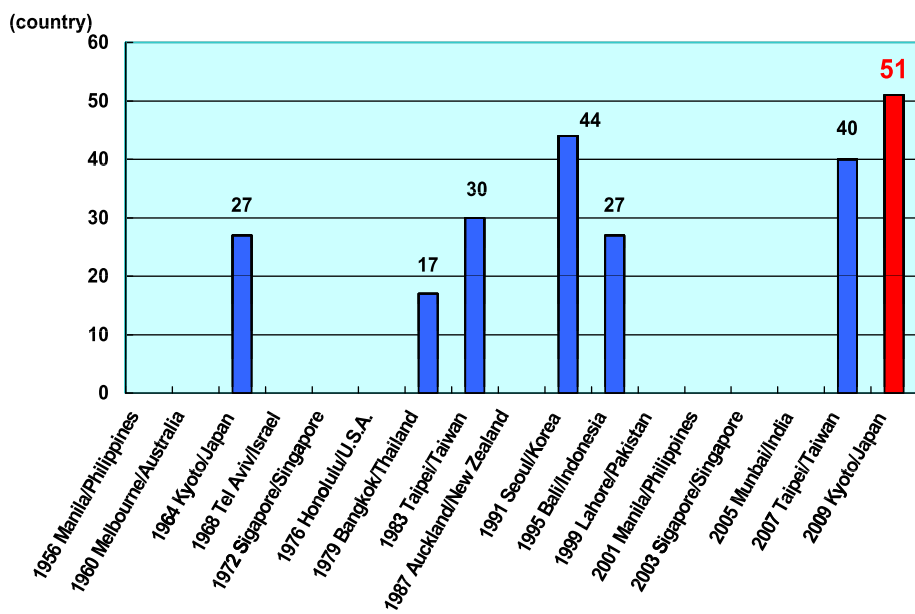


Photo 14

that cardiologists not only in the Asian-Pacific region but also in developing countries around the world are eagerly seeking places to publish their work and at the same time, to increase their knowledge by communicating with colleagues from different parts of the world. This is the most welcome tendency in the world community of cardiology.

The number of presentations ranged between 1000 and 500. There were 661 presentations this year, including origi-

nal communications, plenary sessions, symposia and echo-course lectures.

It is our sincere hope that our Society will continue to grow scientifically, and through our knowledge of cardiovascular diseases in Asian-Pacific region we can contribute to improve the health and welfare not only for people in our region but for all mankind throughout the world.

Finally, venues and names of presidents of the past Asian Pacific congresses are listed in the Table (Photos 16 and 17).

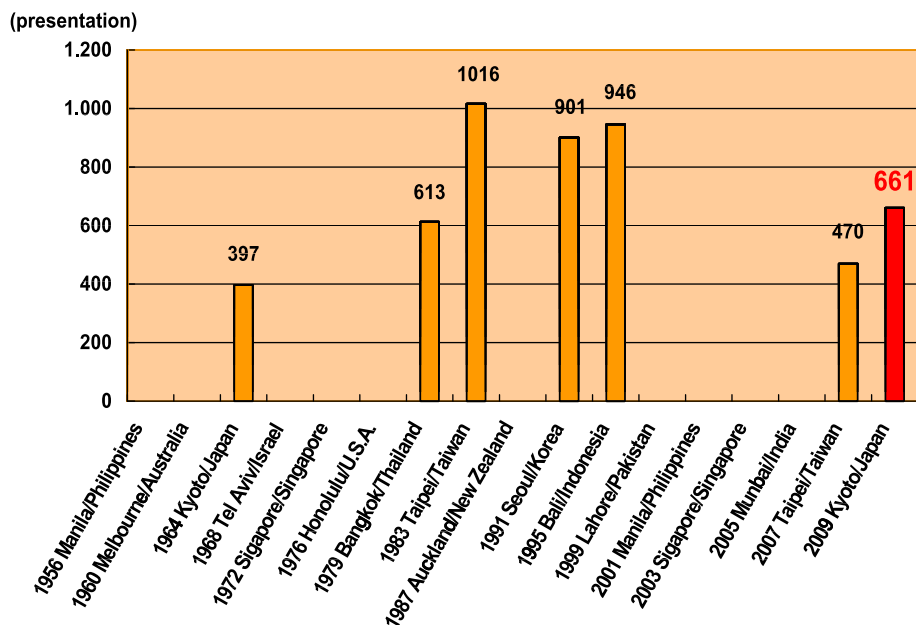


Photo 15

Venues & Presidents of APCC (1)

1 st	1956, Apr. 19-23	Manila, Philippines: A.Samia
2 nd	1960, June	Melbourne, Australia: T.E.Lowe/J.K.Maddox
3 rd	1964, May 10-14	Kyoto, Japan: M.Maekawa
4 th	1968, Sep.1-7	Jerusalem & Tel Aviv, Israel:H.N.Neufeld
5 th	1972, Oct.8-13	Singapore: C.S.Toh
6 th	1976, Oct.3-8	Honolulu, Hawaii: M.E.Berk
7 th	1979, Nov.26-30	Bangkok, Thailand: K.Sindhvananda
8 th	1983, Nov.27-Dec.2	Taipei, Taiwan: N.Ting
9 th	1987, Feb.11-16	Auckland, New Zealand: B.Barratt-Boyes
10 th	1991, Oct.6-11	Seoul, Korea: S.K.Suh

Photo 16

Venues & Presidents of APCC (2)

11 th	1995, Sep.17-22	Bali, Indonesia: S.Karim
12 th	1999, Oct.17-21	Lahore, Pakistan: S.A. Sheikh
13 th	2001, Oct.3-6	Manila, Philippines: N.A.Babilonia
14 th	2004, Jan.17-21	Singapore: M.Lim
15 th	2005, Dec.1-4	Mumbai, India: A. Kumar
16 th	2007, Dec.13-16	Taipei, Taiwan: C.W. Chiang
17 th	2009, May 20-23	Kyoto, Japan: A. Kitabatake

Photo 17

Acknowledgement

The author would like to express his sincere gratitude to Dr. Noe Babilonia, Philippine Heart Center, for providing considerable information on the early days of Asian-Pacific Congress of Cardiology, and for granting permission to use invaluable pictures in this presentation.

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Available online 18 April 2010