Education Committee of International Academy of Pathology

Report on

6th ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF PATHOLOGY

Kochi
20th to 23rd August 2009

The 6th Asia Pacific Congress of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) was held at Kochi, Kerala, from 20th to 23rd August 2009 at the Le Meridien Resorts and Convention Center. The host Division for the Congress was the IAP – Indian Division and the Congress was organized by the IAP – Indian Division with the local Organizers being the Kerala Chapter of the Indian Association of Pathology & Microbiology. The Organizing Committee included Dr. M. Balaraman Nair (Congress President), Dr. Anita Borges, Vice President Asia IAP (Congress Vice President), Dr. Francisco Couto, President IAP – Indian Division (Chairman of Congress Scientific Committee and Chief Co-Ordinator), Dr. K. R. Harilal (Congress Organizing Chairman) and Dr. S. Sankar (Joint Organizing Chairman) and many other local and national Committee members. Prof. Robin A. Cooke (Australia) and Prof. H. K. Ng (Hong Kong) were the International Advisors for the Congress. Dr. Francisco Couto, President IAP – Indian Division was the Chairman of the Scientific Committee and the Chief Co-Ordinator of the Congress and was the key person of the Congress. The Congress was very well attended with delegates from India and all over the world. The Faculty for the Congress consisted of eminent Pathologists from all over the world. There were 130 Faculty speakers and more than 630 delegates from different countries of the world including India. Amongst the countries represented were India, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Kuwait, United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, Romania, The Netherlands, Canada, France, United States of America, etc. The Congress was attended by several dignitaries from the IAP and various IAP Divisions from all over the world specially the Asia Pacific region like Prof. H. Konrad Muller (Immediate Past President IAP), Prof. Kristin Henry (President Elect IAP), Prof. Francis Jaubert (Past President IAP), Prof. David Hardwick (Secretary IAP), Prof. Robin Cooke (Editor, International Pathology), Prof. H. K. Ng, Prof. Bob Osamura and various Vice Presidents of the IAP, Presidents & Secretaries of various IAP Divisions, etc. Prof. Florabel Mullick, the President of the IAP, unfortunately could not attend and sent her greetings and best wishes for the success of the Congress. Prof. H. Konrad Muller who was the Chief Guest inaugurated the Congress by lighting the traditional lamp assisted by other dignitaries Prof. David Hardwick, Dr. Anita Borges, Dr. Francisco Couto, Dr. M. Balaraman Nair and Dr. K. R. Harilal. Prof. David Hardwick who was the Guest of Honour released the publications of the Congress like the "Congress Proceedings" CD, Abstract Book, Scientific Programme and the Souvenir book. Earlier, Dr. M. Balaraman Nair welcomed the delegates and Faculty to the Congress. The Presidential Address was delivered by Dr. Francisco Couto who highlighted the tremendous progress made by the IAP – Indian Division over the years and also thanked the IAP Asia Pacific Divisions and the IAP for their support. Dr. Couto also thanked all the Faculty speakers and delegates for their contributions to the success of the Congress. Dr. Couto also expressed the gratitude and thanks to the IAP (specially its Education Committee), Australasian Division of IAP, Hong Kong Division of IAP and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Japanese Division of IAP, and the British Division of IAP for their help and support towards the Congress. Dr. K. R. Harilal proposed the vote of thanks. Both Dr. Balaraman Nair and Dr. Harilal in their address praised and thanked Dr. Francisco Couto for his yeoman services and tremendous contribution in ensuring the success of the Congress. The Inauguration function was attended by the various IAP dignitaries and

delegates present. This was followed by the Welcome Reception. On the other days there was also a Cultural Programme which show cases the rich cultural heritage of local Kerala state and was deeply appreciated by the audience. Prof. Robin A. Cooke (Australia) delivered the Keynote address for the Congress and there were four Plenary speakers namely, Prof. Mahul B. Amin (USA), Prof. Bharat Jasani (UK), Prof. Bharat N. Nathwani (USA) and Prof. Sunil R. Lakhani (Australia). The Scientific sessions included Genito Urologic Pathology, Bone & Soft Tissue Pathology, Cytopathology, Molecular Pathology, Molecular & Immunohistology (which was in association with APSMI), Endocrine & Neuroendocrine Pathology, Gastro Intestinal Pathology, Breast Pathology, Gynaecologic Pathology, Hepatobiliary Pathology, Neuropathology, Pulmonary Pathology, Cardiac Pathology, Renal Pathology, Infectious Diseases Pathology, Haematolymphoid Pathology, Paediatric Pathology, Medical Education and Dermatopathology. The 12th Annual CME of the IAP - Indian Division was incorporated as a session of the Congress and was on the theme of Dermatopathology. The scientific sessions were in the form of lectures, case presentations and slide seminars. Besides these Scientific sessions there were scientific poster presentations by the delegates and more than 200 scientific poster presentations were made. There was also a sizable Trade Exhibition with Companies from India and abroad having stalls highlighting their Company products. The Congress ended with a short Valedictory function where the President of the IAP – Indian Division Dr. Francisco Couto handed over the IAP flag to the President of the IAP – Taiwan Division Prof. Shih-Ming Jung and his team who will be hosting the next Asia Pacific Congress in 2011 in Taiwan and Dr. Couto wished them all success for the forth coming Congress. The 6th Asia Pacific Congress was very well appreciated by both Faculty and delegates and evoked a very good feedback.

Finances for the Congress were raised from Trade Exhibitors and other sponsors, Congress Registration fees, contributions from IAP (Education Committee) and various IAP Divisions named before, etc. Dr. Francisco Couto, on behalf of the IAP – Indian Division once again expresses his deep appreciation and thanks to, this, the Education Committee of the IAP for the generous contribution of US Dollars 5000 towards the 6th Asia Pacific Congress of the IAP. Expenses for the Congress were incurred under various heads one of which was for the payment of the fees for booking and usage of the Convention Center where the Congress was held which worked out to Indian Rs 22,00,000/- (for 4 days from 20th to 23rd September 2009) plus Indian Rs 1,14,013/- for Stall charges in the Trade Exhibition coming to a total of Rs. 2314013 (about US Dollars 51423 taking the exchange rate as 1 US Dollar = Indian Rs. 45). The grant of US Dollars 5000 given by the Education Committee of the IAP was fully used to partly cover this cost incurred.

I would once again thank very much the IAP (and its Education Committee), the IAP Divisions from various countries around the world, and various IAP members for their help and contributions towards the success of the 6th Asia Pacific IAP Congress.

Dr. Francisco Couto
President, IAP – Indian Division
Member, Education Committee of IAP
Chairman, Scientific Committee &
Chief Co-Ordinator, 6th Asia Pacific Congress of IAP