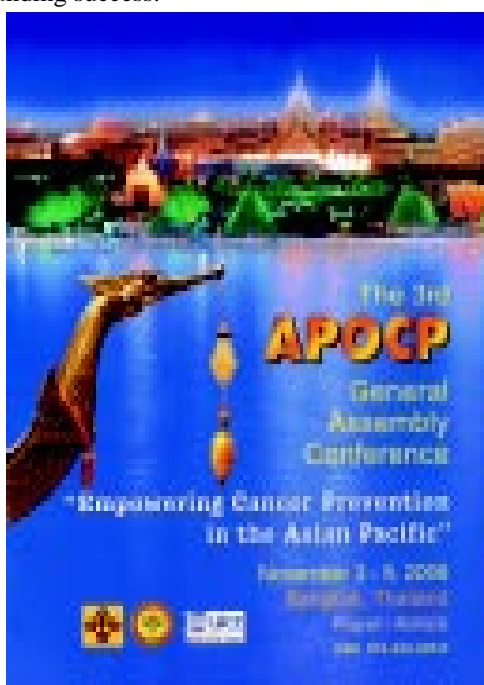


CHIEF EDITOR/UICC ARO HEAD - MESSAGE

Moving on to Asian Cancer Control

The last two months of 2006 was a very busy period for Asian cancer control. At the beginning of November, the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention 3rd General Assembly Conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand, with Thiravud Khuhaprema of the National Cancer Institute, Thailand, as the President. Many thanks are due to his team, and especially Petcharin Srivatanakul and Suleeporn Sangrajrang for their efforts to make this meeting a resounding success.

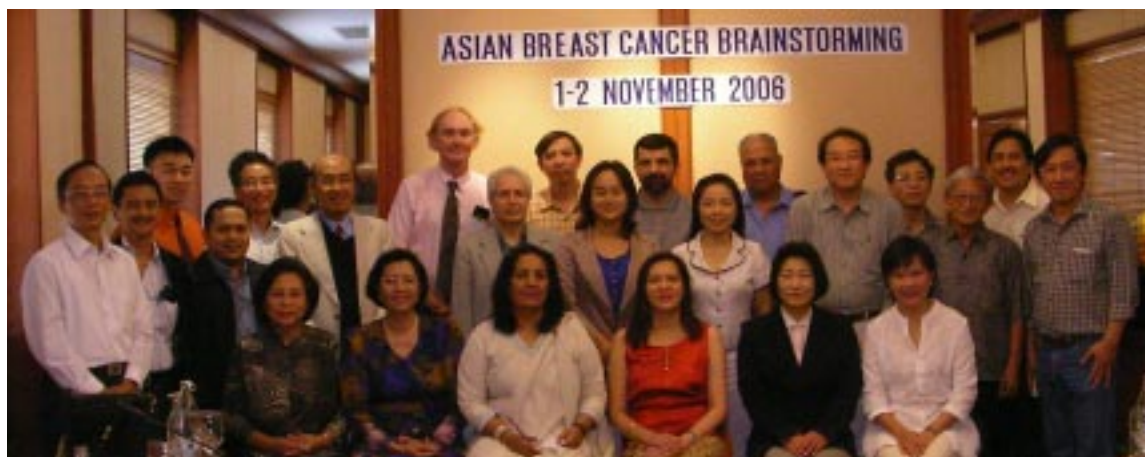


At the meeting, with the theme 'Empowering Cancer Prevention in the Asian Pacific', a large body of scientists from Asia, Europe and the USA presented findings on all of

the main areas within cancer prevention. After long years of service Kazuo Tajima and Malcolm Moore completed their terms as Chairman and Coordination Director, respectively, of the APOCP. To take over the general running of the organization, Keun-Young Yoo, President of the National Cancer Center, Korea, was elected as the new Secretary-General, and You-Lin Qiao, of the Cancer Institute of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, took on responsibility for the 4th APOCP General Assembly Conference, to be held in Beijing in 2008. The opportunity was also used to officially launch the UICC Asia Regional Office for Cancer Control (UICC-ARO) with Malcolm Moore as Head and leading figures from across the region forming a Management Committee. Included in those taking part in the first committee meeting were Tomoyuki Kitagawa for Japan, Keun-Young Yoo for Korea, Thiravud Khuhaprema for Thailand, and Murat Tuncer for Turkey. Kazuo Tajima, also in attendance, will continue to play a major role as Strategic Leader for Asian Cancer Control within the UICC.

At the 3rd General Assembly Conference a lunchtime meeting of individuals active in cancer registration was also held to discuss the possibility of establishing a UICC-ARO consortium on chronic disease registration with representatives from 15 Asian countries and also Max Parkin of the International Association of Cancer Registries. As a practical measure a decision was made to produce an APJCP supplement 'Cancer Registration in Asia - 2006 and Beyond'.

On the 1st and 2nd of November a series of smaller 'Satellite' or 'Co-sponsored' meetings were also held in Bangkok, the first chaired by Cheng Har Yip to launch the UICC-ARO Breast Cancer Research Consortium. Many of the same members then also participated in a meeting of the Shinkan Tokudome three country (Indonesia, Thailand and

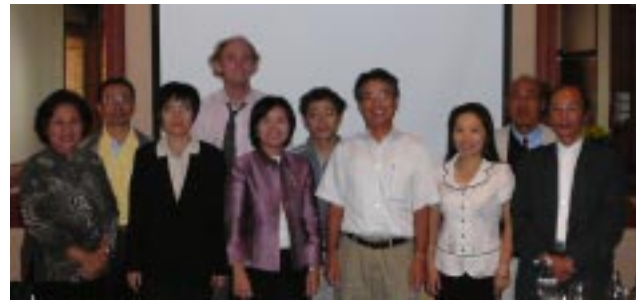


Founding Members of the UICC-ARO Breast Cancer Research Consortium (Courtesy of Shamsul Azhar Shah)

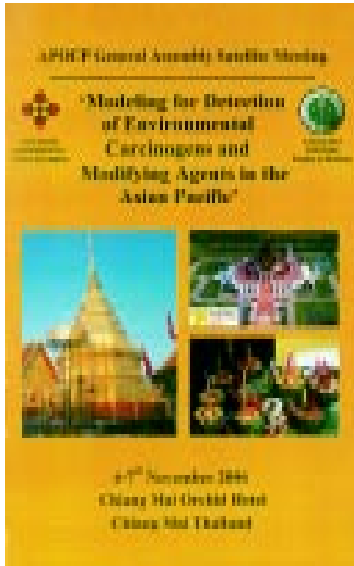
Malcolm Moore

Viet Nam, with Japan for comparison) continuing research project on gastric and colorectal cancer. Others took part in a Family Health Initiative organized meeting on cervical cancer, with the main focus on advocacy for HPV vaccination.

Moving on from Bangkok, a specialist APOCP satellite meeting was held in Chiang Mai covering areas of interest within toxicological pathology, particularly the use of *in vivo* and *in vitro* models for risk assessment, elucidation of mechanisms and identification of chemopreventive agents. Especial thanks are due to Pornngarm Limtrakul, who acted as Chairperson of the local organizing committee and its



Gastric and Colorectal Cancer Three Country Project Members (Courtesy of Shinkan Tokudome)



Speakers at the Cervical Cancer Meeting (Courtesy of Graham Nielsen)

coordinator Rawiwan Puatanachokchai, as well as their staff.

The next meeting of note was the 3rd International Asian Conference on Cancer Screening (IACCS), with 'Quality Trends and Policy Issues' as its theme, held in Singapore on the 17-18th of November. Thanks go to President Tony Chen of Taiwan, Co-Chairs Khay-Guan Yeoh and Shyamala Thilagaratnam of Singapore, and the organizers for providing a unique learning experience. Indeed in the previous two days a pre-conference IACCS Workshop on Basic Course for Evaluation of Cancer Screening was included.

Moving the venue to Europe, visits by Kazuo Tajima and Malcolm Moore to WHO and UICC Headquarters in

Geneva should be mentioned. Discussions at WHO allowed insight into complex political situations and also difficulties faced by cancer registries in maintaining their financial support. Our distinct impression was that an Asian Registry Network would be a core resource, as further detailed below.

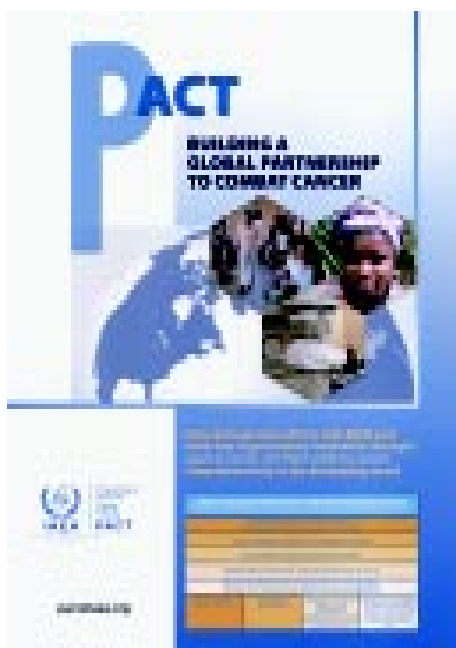
At the UICC, the name 'UICC Asian Regional Office for Cancer Control' was finally selected for the operation to be set up in Bangkok (actual office) and Khon Kaen (training center), Thailand, under the direction of Malcolm Moore, with the support of Kazuo Tajima and the members of the UICC-ARO Management Committee.



Participants at the 3rd International Asian Conference on Cancer Screening (Courtesy of Clare Short)

Since the areas to be covered include many clinical aspects, one discussion point was whether the name of the APJCP, presently the official journal of the APOCP and also the UICC-ARO, as well as being one of the official journals of the IACR, should be changed to the Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Control. Any comments can be addressed to Malcolm Moore, Head of UICC-ARO at apocp2000@yahoo, Kazuo Tajima, UICC Strategic Leader for Asian Cancer Control at ktajima@aichi-cc.jp and Keun-Young Yoo, Secretary-General of the APOCP at kyyoo@plaza.snu.ac.kr.

One of the first duties of Malcolm Moore as Head of the UICC-ARO was to represent the UICC at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nobel Prize Special Event for Asia and the Pacific on 'Human Resources Development in Radiation Oncology in the Context of Cancer Control Programmes', in Bangkok, December 4-5th.



This meeting was part of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) of the IAEA, with UICC as one of the collaborating organizations, together with WHO, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR) among others. Held with the support of the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University and the Office of Atoms for Peace, Thailand, the focus was on building partnerships to facilitate introduction of effective cancer control programs. Further developments will be reported in the pages of the APJCP/APJCC.

The last meeting of major interest at the end of 2006 was an Asia High-Technology Network event, held in the Assembly Hall of Prefectures, Tokyo, Japan, on the 8th of December. Organized by Jun Miyake, this included a workshop on 'Viewing Common Base for Asian Cancer Control' with the emphasis on the current status of the cancer epidemic and related issues in disease registration. The

necessity for cooperation to guarantee continued compilation of accurate statistics on cancer incidence and mortality has been stressed above. A number of related editorials have already appeared in the APJCP with this theme and we will certainly hear more about this issue in the future. It is fervently to be hoped that the application for funding through the Asia High-technology Network will be successful.

The last three months of 2006 were exceedingly hectic, including moves into a new office of the UICC-ARO/APJCP in Bangkok and the establishment of a training center in Khon Kaen before January 1st. As Chief Editor of the APJCP, Malcolm Moore hopes that you will hope that you will bear this in mind in forgiving the lateness of publication of the present issue. As a one-man operation, producing a journal with over 600 pages in 2006 has been truly exhausting. Let us hope that the support provided to the UICC-ARO will allow an editorial team to spread the load in the future. However, the continued help of all interested scientists across the region, submitting manuscripts for publication and participating in research meetings, is the only guarantee of success. It is up to you!



(Courtesy of Supot Kamsa-ard)

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