



In the various regions of Asia and Oceania, there are large differences in the provision of services for Movement Disorder patients and care givers. In several areas there are very few Movement Disorder specialists, and therefore the service is largely provided by the general neurologists and, in some regions, by internists. The Asian and Oceanian

Section (AOS) of The *Movement* Disorder Society was established in 2005 and has proved to be a boon for this region as already in the short period of its existence, a notable improvement in Movement Disorder services has been observed. I have to thank my predecessors, Philip Thompson (Chairman 2005-2006) and Robert Iansek (Chairman 2007-2008) and their teams who have worked tirelessly to make this possible.

Two very successful Asian and Oceanian Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Congress (AOPMC) meetings have been held so far. The first was in Singapore in October 2007 and the second was held in New Delhi in February 2009. The large number of general neurologists and other health professionals, besides the Movement Disorder specialists who attended these meetings, was clear evidence of the growing popularity of the Movement Disorder specialty in this part of the world. Earnest preparations are already under way for the third AOPMC meeting which will be held in Taipei from 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Prof. Ruey-Meei Wu and her team are working hard to put up an impressive academic program. With the excellent conference facilities, a dedicated team and a

growing regional interest in Movement Disorders, I am sure that this conference will improve on the success of the two earlier meetings and that we shall see even greater audience participation this time.

One of the highlights of the Movement Disorders programs in the Asian and Oceanian region is the Asian Scientific Symposium on Parkinson's disease and Restless Legs Syndrome organized by Prof. Yoshikuni Mizuno in Japan. It is an educational program with invited lectures and keen discussions. It is very well attended by neurologists, not only from Japan but from other neighboring regions as well. I had the pleasure of attending the last symposium which was recently held in Tokyo on 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July 2009. It was attended by 533 participants which included 462 from Japan and 71 from 18 other countries.

An important activity of the MDS-AOS is the development of educational programs in various regions of Asia and Oceania. I would like to place on record the commendable work done by the AOS Education Committee headed by Shu-Leong Ho and Louis Tan. In 2008, successful educational courses were held in Nanchang (China) and Varanasi (India), and in 2009 in Bandung (Indonesia), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam). I am confident that the new educational team led by Louis Tan and Ryosuke Takahashi will continue the good work and further enhance the value of these programs. Already there is an upcoming course in Ludhiana (India). Hopefully we shall have similar courses in the Middle East, Bangladesh and other countries in the near future. I would urge our Society members to take the lead and organize such programs in their respective regions.

There is also considerable excitement over an upcoming Movement Disorder educational program in Cebu City, Philippines in November 2009. This course will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Philippine Neurological Association. The delegates attending this meeting will have the advantage of participating in the Movement Disorder course as well. In addition, Prof. Philip Thompson, MDS President, will be delivering an oration at this meeting as a part of the MDS Ambassador Program.

Since its inception, the MDS-AOS has made good progress yet a lot more remains to be done. My team and I look forward to continued cooperation from all members to achieve the objectives of our Society.

Bhim Singhal MD, FRCP  
Chairman, MDS-AOS



*Prof. Yoshikuni Mizuno with faculty members of the PD & Restless Legs symposium in the restaurant garden.*