

*History of AFSUMB
by Toshio Wagaí*

Ideas shape the course of History

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(An Interview taken at AFSUMB'92 News)

Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB) has been established in 1985. Thus AFSUMB is still young. I will introduce here briefly the process of its organization and the later development.

The proposal of the organization of world federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) was made at the first world Congress on Diagnostic Ultrasound which was held in Vienna, Austria in July, 1969, and I was appointed a member of the working committee which prepared the constitution and By-laws of WFUMB. According to the effort of the working committee, WFUMB was established with the decision of its constitution and By-laws at the 2nd World Congress on Diagnostic Ultrasound which was held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in July, 1983 by the affiliation of AIUM, EFSUMB, JSUM, ASUM and SIDUO. Although various International Congresses and symposiums in this field were held hitherto, the official international communication on the biomedical ultrasound was started by the organization of WFUMB. Dr Gilbert Baum (SIDUO, USA) was elected the first President of WFUMB and I was elected one of the officer.

The first WFUMB congress was held in San Francisco, USA in August, 1986 and I was elected the 2nd President of WFUMB at its general assembly. My job as the President of WFUMB was the preparation of the 2nd WFUMB congress in Japan and at the same time the most important job was the organization of the Asian Federation. WFUMB was formed principally by the affiliation of federation in each area of the world. At that time there was no federation of medical ultrasound in Asia.

I made an effort for the organization of Asian Federation at the 2nd meeting of WFUMB which was held in Miyazaki, Japan on July 1979. However at that time, in spite of excellent traditional research on medical ultrasound in Asian countries, the concern on the organization of Asian federation was not so high yet.

The 3rd WFUMB congress was held in Brighton, England in August 1982, I continued the efforts through consultation with representative doctors of China, Indonesia, India, Korea, Malaysia and others individually. However as Asian countries had their own traditional history and culture and had various political and economical problems, in spite of their, mutual fundamental agreement on the organization of Asian federation, there were no definite progress. On the other hand, western countries showed strong concern on the organization of Asian federation and proposed their strong support. But I believed that the Asian federation should be formed by the serious negotiations of Asian concerned. After that I continued the efforts through various International congresses in Europe, USA and Japan.

According to their kind cooperation, at the 4th WFUMB congress which was held in Sydney, Australia on July, 1985, the general principles of AFSUMB were decided by the representative doctors of Asian countries. Following that under the decision of the constitution and By-laws, AFSUMB was officially organized in Kobe, Japan on November, 1985 at the Annual meeting of JSUM by the affiliation of six national medical ultrasound societies i.e. China, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Japan. I was elected the first President of AFSUMB and the first AFSUMB congress was decided to be held in Tokyo, Japan in 1987.

The first AFSUMB congress was held in Tokyo on July, 1987. As the congress was held by the great and long efforts of Asian doctors over coming various political and economical problems in Asian countries, the great honor and delight of all participants concerned was

filled at the congress. On the other hand, as the Philosophy of AFSUMB congress was not exclusive, many doctors were invited from all over the world including the representative officers of WFUMB. Through their participation, the first congress of AFSUMB was successfully performed with the world-wide recognition of the existence and high academic level of ASFUMB.

The 2nd AFSUMB congress was held in Denpasar, Indonesia on July, 1989 two years later from the first congress. As the congress was held at the world famous Bali Island, there were so many participants. Furthermore it was so successful to have many participants from many Asian countries except the affiliated countries by the great efforts of Dr Willyarto Wibisono, President of AFSUMB. After this, the AFSUMB congress was decided to be held every three years related to the WFUMB congress.

Furthermore we accomplished our wish of the affiliation of AFSUMB to WFUMB in 1991. The 3rd AFSUMB congress is held this time in Seoul, Korea in August, 1992. The glorious success will be expected by the excellent arrangement of the organizing committee under the splendid leadership of Prof Chu-Wan Kim, President of AFSUMB.

The above is the brief history of AFSUMB. There were many difficult problems until the organization of AFSUMB was formed and I think we have to solve more difficult and serious problems based on the various political, economical and other matters in Asian countries even in future for the maintenance and further development of AFSUMB. But I believe AFSUMB will be able to solve these problems by the traditional intelligence of Asian people and will highly contribute to the health and welfare of Asian people which is almost half of the world population.