

### 8TH CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

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In accordance with the practice of the host country printing the proceedings of the biennial congress of CMAAO in its national medical journal, we have set aside this number of the Medical Journal of Malaysia for this purpose. We apologise to our regular contributors that those articles that have been accepted for publication have been unavoidably held over temporarily.

The C.M.A.A.O. had its beginnings when the idea of organising an international body composed of national medical associations in Southeast Asia was mooted at the 43rd Annual Convention of the Philippines Medical Association held in Manila in April 1950. It was felt that many Asian countries shared common health problems which could be more readily solved by pooling the experiences gained in each of these countries and by increased international cooperation and understanding.

Subsequently a series of meetings were held in Manila with representatives and delegates from some of the countries involved, and in 1954, the Asian Confederation of Medical Associations was organised with headquarters in Manila and its Constitution and Bye-laws were drafted. These were approved in April, 1956 when its name was changed to Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (C.M.A.A.O.) and its first set of Officers were elected. Starting in 1959, seven biennial Congresses have been held hosted by the national medical associations of Japan, Philippines, Australia, Taiwan and South Korea.

Last year, the Malaysian Medical Association

had the privilege and honour of acting as hosts to the 8th Congress of C.M.A.A.O., the proceedings of which are now printed in this issue of our Journal.

Among the problems that C.M.A.A.O. has encountered has been the long distances that have to be covered by delegates and observers attending the Congresses involving considerable time and money. The Council composed of the Officers and Councilors, is also expected to meet once between meetings of the Congress. This year the Council met in Hong Kong. An appeal was made for donations from the more affluent national associations to supplement the nominal subscription charged for membership to help meet the running cost of the C.M.A.A.O. and we are glad that Japan and Australia have responded generously.

The present list of member associations includes those of Australia, Burma, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. More can be expected when the political situation improves in Indo-China and West Asia.

The next Congress is to be held in Manila in April 1975 hosted by the Philippines Medical Association, the central theme being "Health care delivery systems in the C.M.A.A.O. member-nations". The delegates and observers will also participate in the scientific sessions of the 68th Annual Convention of the Philippines Medical Association. According to the Constitution each member Association can send two official delegates, two alternate delegates and any number of observers.