

## OFFICIAL OPENING, 8th CONGRESS of C.M.A.A.O.

This was held at the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday April, 5th 1973.

Professor A.A. Sandosham's opening address:

Y.B.Tan Sri Lee Siok Yew, Menteri Kesihatan, Malaysia; Dr. T. Sachithanandan, President, MMA; Distinguished Guests; Delegates and Observers from the various National Associations; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasant duty as the President of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania to give thanks on behalf of the CMAAO and on my own behalf to a number of people we are deeply indebted to in connection with this Congress.

First and foremost, I wish to say how very happy we are that the Honourable Minister of Health Tan Sri Lee Siok Yew has shown such great interest in our organisation as to take time off, despite his multifarious duties and commitments, to come to declare open this 8th Congress of CMAAO. He has gone further and has graciously invited our delegates and observers and members of the MMA Council and officials to a Chinese dinner later this evening. I wish to say that we are indeed extremely grateful to him for his kindness.

We are grateful to the Malaysian Medical Association for hosting this 8th biennial Congress of CMAAO, and by dove-tailing our Congress Programme with that of their own Annual General Meeting, our foreign delegates and observers will have a better opportunity of meeting a good cross-section of the medical profession in Malaysia. We would like Dr. T. Sachi (as we call him) the MMA President to convey the sincere thanks of CMAAO to MMA Council and members.

We are grateful also to Datuk Dr. Keshmahinder Singh, the Chairman and the members of his Organising Committee for the hard work they have put in to make this Congress a success. Datuk Kesh (as we popularly call him) is also the Vice President of CMAAO, and has no doubt been chosen by MMA for this onerous task because of the successful Council meeting of the Commonwealth Medical Association which he organised here two years ago.

We are indebted to Datuk Dr. R.P. Pillay, who is being installed to-morrow as the President of the

Malaysian Medical Association, for his kind permission to hold our meetings in the premises of the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur of which he is the Director.

It goes without saying that in any international organisation of this nature, where much of the work between the meetings held every two years, the king pin is its Secretary/Treasurer and we are indeed greatly indebted to Dr. Ramon R. Angeles of the Philippines for maintaining correspondence with member associations, writing up the minutes and preparing the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts in readiness for this biennial Congress of CMAAO.

We are grateful to the National Medical Associations which have sent their representatives as delegates and/or observers to this Congress. We are particularly happy to see such a strong contingent from Japan headed by Vice-President Dr. Hiroshi Komigai, Dr. Taro Takemi the President having been forced to withdraw his name at the last moment, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris representing the Australian Medical Association who had to alter his itinerary at the last moment to accommodate us and Dr. Tong Soo Cho, the President of the Korean Medical Association for its strong participation. Unfortunately, Dr. C.C. Lee, President of the Taiwan Provincial Physicians' Association who was to have been here was unable to come owing to visa difficulty. Dr. Primitivo D. Chua, Council member to the Philippines Medical Association, Dr. Peter C.Y. Lee, President of the Hong Kong Medical Association, Dr. H. E. Monintja of the Indonesian Medical Association, Dr. Gwee Ah Leng of the Singapore Medical Association and Dr. Abul Quasem of Bangladesh Medical Association are also with us.

One of the perennial problems of CMAAO is her finance, and at the last Congress an appeal was made for the richer National Associations to make donations over and above the nominal membership fees. Our Secretary/Treasurer informs me that both Japan and Australia have made handsome contributions for which we are most grateful.

At these CMAAO Congresses it has been our practice to have a Scientific Session where medical topics of importance to this region are discussed and as the Chairman of the Scientific Session it gives me

great pleasure to welcome those delegates and observers who have kindly agreed to present papers for discussion. I feel sure that these presentations and the discussion that follow will be of great value to the member countries and to the region as a whole.

Of course, it goes without saying that in the organisation of such a Congress many more people have been involved in giving a helping hand than can be mentioned in a short introductory speech of welcome such as I have to deliver.

Reference has been made to some of them in the Acknowledgement paragraph in our Souvenir Programme, and I take this opportunity of expressing our thanks also to those names that have been inadvertently left out and all those others who have assisted us in one way or another to make this Congress a success. Even if I could enumerate them

all I shall not attempt to do so as I do not wish to bore you more than necessary. I am reminded of a clergyman who found it disconcerting, while in the midst of delivering his sermon, to see one of his congregation ostensibly getting up and walking out of the church. After the service the padre took the man's wife to task for her husband's unseemly behaviour. She replied, "I am sure my husband never meant to be rude, Reverend; it is just that he has a way of walking in his sleep!"

Before I conclude, I wish to once again thank our Minister of Health for the great interest he has taken in our organisation and for so graciously consenting to come and declare open the 8th Congress of the Confederation of the Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania held for the first time in Malaysia's capital city, Kuala Lumpur. Thank you.



#### OFFICIAL OPENING OF CMAAO CONGRESS

*The Hon'ble Minister of Health Yang Berhmat Tan Sri Lee Siok Yew being met on arrival by Professor A.A. Sandosham President of CMAAO, Datuk Dr. R.P. Pillay, Director, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur. Datuk Dr. Keshmahinder Singh, Chairman of Organising Committee and Dr. Ramon R. Angeles, Secretary-Treasurer of CMAAO.*

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF HEALTH,  
YANG BERHORMAT TAN SRI LEE SIOK YEW.

I am happy to inaugurate the 8th Biennial Congress of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania which is being hosted by the Malaysian Medical Association with the full support of the Malaysian Government.

The Malaysian Medical Association has done much to further the interests of the Medical profession in this country and has helped my Ministry in raising the general standard of health of the Malaysian peoples. I am glad that the MMA has established close and friendly relations with Medical Organisations outside this country. Two years ago the MMA hosted the Commonwealth Medical Association and today it is hosting the CMAAO. I understand you have previously held successful congresses in Japan, Philippines, Australia, Taiwan and Korea and I hope you will have an equally fruitful and enjoyable stay in Malaysia.

I notice that in addition to your business meetings you have organised a Scientific Session in which you will be pooling the knowledge and experiences you have gained in your respective countries on three problems of great importance to this part of the world, namely Brain-drain, Drug addiction and Environmental pollution. It is to be hoped that as a result of your presentations and

discussion that there will emerge some practical suggestions towards the solution of these problems. My Ministry will be glad to hear of the deliberations of your Scientific Session.

You are meeting in the premises of the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital at a time when my Ministry is in the process of rebuilding it and hope this will not inconvenience you unduly.

I see from your programme that you are holding your meetings concurrently with the Annual General Meeting of the MMA. As you are having joint social functions, it should give you an opportunity of meeting a representative cross-section of the medical fraternity in the country. In this way you will get a better insight into the medical problems of the country.

It is probable that some of you may stay on a bit longer after the Congress is over and travel around in the country and see some of the many tourist attractions that it has to offer.

Wishing you every success in your deliberations, it now gives me great pleasure in declaring open the 8th Congress of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania.

AWARD OF CERTIFICATES

Dr. Ramon R. Angeles, the Secretary/Treasurer of CMAAO called on the Hon'ble Minister of Health to make the following presentations:

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO:

1. Republic of Korea, Received by Dr. Kunwon Park.
2. Japan Medical Association, Received by Dr. Hiroshi Kumagai.
3. Australian Medical Association, Received by Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris.

CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE TO:

1. Korean Medical Association. Received by Dr. Tong Soo Cho.
2. Malaysian Medical Association. Received by Dr. T. Satchithanandan.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CERTIFICATES TO:

1. Dr. Cho Wan Myung (Korea).
2. Professor A.A. Sandosham (Malaysia).

Datuk Dr. Keshmahinder Singh, the Chairman of the Organising Committee proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Y.B. Tan Sri Lee Siok Yew.

The delegates and officials of CMAAO were kindly entertained to dinner by the Hon'ble Minister of Health, Tan Sri Lee Siok Yew.