The 14th International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE 2010) in Kyoto

KAZUWA NAKAO

Chairman, Organizing Committee (OC), ICE 2010
The Board of Directors, The Japan Endocrine Society (JES)
Professor, Department of Medicine and Clinical Science, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Director, Translational Research Center and EBM Research Center, Kyoto 606-8507, Japan

The 14th International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE 2010, March 26-30, 2010, Kyoto, Japan) successfully came to a close with the cherry blossoms in full bloom (with snow). We had more than 5,000 participants from 65 countries and regions around the world.

The opening ceremony of ICE 2010 was graced with the presence of their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Mr. Tatsuo Kawabata and others. It is the second time for the Japan Endocrine Society (JES) to hold the International Congress of Endocrinology since the 8th International Congress of Endocrinology (Chairman, LOC of ICE 1988, Professor Hiroo Imura).

The program of ICE 2010 comprised 11 plenary lectures by leading scientists including Nobel Prize and Lasker Award winners, JES Meister Award Lecture, two Panel Discussions entitled “Future of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism” and “Future of Basic Endocrinology and Metabolism” by distinguished scientists and clinician/scientists, 32 Meet-the-Professor sessions, 104 Symposia, 12 JES-Sponsored Symposia and a Public Forum. Each plenary lecture attracted a large audience and greatly inspired all of us scientifically. In the Panel Discussions, panelists discussed the future and mission of endocrinology with focuses on clinical research and basic research. In the Public Forum, whose title is “Hormone as a key to better growth, health and longevity,” we had about 600 (the maximum seating capacity of the hall) citizen participants. I had a talk with Mr. Nobuharu Asahara, Beijing Olympic Games bronze medalist of 400-meter relay, on hormones and sports, and his “Hormone Training.” Mr. Asahara introduced how he had managed his body as an “aged” Olympic athlete of 36 years old and I explained the role and mechanism of hormones in his “Hormone Training” which I had analyzed. The Japanese leading endocrinologists gave the participants scientific and practical lectures in layman’s terms.

The program also included a number of Luncheon and Evening Seminars, Oral Hot Topics, Oral Sessions and Poster Sessions. In the Poster Sessions with chairpersons, heated discussions were held among participants from different countries or different scientific backgrounds. Before and after ICE 2010, 13 Official Satellite Symposia were held throughout Japan, from Sendai, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Nara to Kyoto.

ICE 2010 was the first new style ICE under the new statutes of the International Society of Endocrinology (ISE). As the first host society, we, the Japan Endocrine Society, made our utmost efforts to organize one of the most attractive congresses of endocrinology and metabolism ever in the spirit of both science and international exchange. During the above-described lectures, symposia and seminars, the best and the brightest in the field of endocrinology and metabolism from all over the world held heated debates and searched for the direction, future and mission of Endocrinology and Metabolism in this century.

Kyoto is the birthplace of the Japan Endocrine Society, which was founded by Dr. Kanji Tsuji, Professor of Medicine, Kyoto University in 1925. We are glad that we were able to make ICE 2010 a good opportunity for all the participants to experience academic learning and scientific inquiry and discussion at the highest level in the field of endocrinology and metabolism in the cradle of the Japan Endocrine Society. We hope that all the participants will make their experience in ICE 2010 meaningful in future diagnosis and treatment of endocrine and metabolic disorders, and future research.
and education.

Thanks to development of information technology, now is the time when scientists who live even on the opposite side of the globe can contact each other and exchange their opinions and information without any difficulty. However, I believe that nothing gives us a more inspiring and stimulating experience than presenting a study result and discussing the presentation face to face with researchers from all over the world. It would be our ultimate pleasure to know that ICE 2010 indeed brought about such an experience in the participants.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the speakers who accepted our invitation and gave us excellent and suggestive lectures; the chairpersons for their cooperation; and the members of the Organizing Committee and Program Organizing Committee (Chairman, Professor Shigeaki Kato) for their long-term contributions and efforts. We also wish to thank again all the participants from all over the world.

The next (15th) International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE 2012) will be held in Florence, Italy in 2012. We look forward to seeing you again then.

References

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Program & Abstracts of 14th International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE 2010), *Endocr J*: 57 Suppl 2, 2010