Once again in Japan we meet,
And I am privileged you all to greet,
And Masha my wife asked me to say
That she regrets unable to be here today.
And I, for one, shall never forget,
A meeting that I, for one, shall never forget.
In 1981 in Tokyo, the International Society for Laser Surgery met,
A meeting that I, for one, shall never forget,
To recommend the laser in your institution,
And you can therefore make a major contribution,
By it, to surgical trainees, to introduce,
And instructing them in its use

It was nearly forty years ago
That I first began to know,
What the potential of the CO₂ laser would be,
As a thermal scalpel for surgery.
The beam, being water absorbable and infra red,
When focused on biological tissue, would not burn but vaporize instead.
This was shown to be the case,
And appropriate experiments then took place.
It was found that one could make an incision
With the utmost of precision,
Without harming the residual tissue,
So that healing was not an issue.
It was also soon revealed,
That vessels were simultaneously sealed,
Making surgery haemostatic,
And, through non contact, less traumatic.
So, a suitable apparatus was then produced,
And the laser in clinical surgery was introduced.
One then found again and again,
The vast reduction in post operative pain.
And, since blood and lymphatic vessels are occluded,
Surgery through infected tissue is not excluded.
With a focused beam one can incise,
And, with a defocused one vaporize.
After a time, it received an outstanding reception,
And, with a defocused one vaporize.
When focused on biological tissue, would not burn but
The beam, being water absorbable and infra red,
As a thermal scalpel for surgery.

So, to the surgeons in this elegant hall,
I wish to appeal to you one and all,
To recommend the laser in your institution,
And you can therefore make a major contribution,
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It was nearly forty years ago
That I first began to know,
What the potential of the CO₂ laser would be,
And there are many towns in the Aseo Pacific
Where to pay a visit is terrific,
And so many of them were working stations,
In the course of my peregrinations.
Like New Delhi and Mumbai,
Goa and Chennai,
Bangkok and Changmai,
Beijing and Shanghai,
And Honolulu in Hawai.
Calcutta and Bangalore,
Hong Kong and Singapore
Changquing and Dalian,
Taipeh and Taichung in Taiwan,
In Korea, Seoul and Pusan,
And Tokyo and Yokohama in Japan
Katmandu we visited with joy,
And Hoh Chi Minh city and Hanoi.
In Australia we also made
Melbourne, Sidney and Adelaide.
Even though the towns in New Zealand do not rhyme,
We also visited them many a time.
We enjoyed those visits every bit,
Thanks to the laser, I must admit.
And now, I feel it incumbent upon me,
To mention those who are like family.
First, there’s Kazuhiko Atsumi and no other,
Who, to me, is like my brother,
And Narong Nimsakul, who is like my son,
And Toshio Ohshiro, another one.
And Chun-Jen Shih and Henry L,
And Ming Kao and Krishna Rau,
And Fong Poh Him and Jin Wang Kim,
And Jing Zhu and Tran Cong Duyet too,
And the late Tai-Kwun Lee and even me,
And, although not presidents, but even so,
Peter Hasan and Stephen Loh
And M.L. Pascu, and Ying Gu,
And Glen Calderhead, and Mary Dyson too
There are two who of course could never be passed by,
And they are Leonardo Longo and Yoshimi Asagai
And three more names must be put in,
And they are Kato, Parikh and Baruchin.
And I would be very remiss,
If Penny Smalley I would miss
Now, last but certainly not least,
There’s David Baxter from the very far east..
Finally, if there is someone whose name I omitted,
I assure you it’s an error I inadvertently committed.

To speak at this dinner is an honour indeed,
And the opportunity to do so, is what I need,
To express our appreciation for what Professor Asagai has done,
To make this meeting an exceptional one.
This dinner could not have been held in a finer venue,
And, in addition, there could not have been a better menu.
I was wondering what, at an international meeting,
Those at the President’s dinner would be eating,
Since it is Friday, the Catholics cannot eat meat,
And the Jews who keep kosher, are limited in what they eat.
The Moslems have limitations when they dine,
Because they can eat meat, but they cannot drink wine.
The Hindus are restricted in their diet,
Because, although others eat beef, they won’t even try it.
To say nothing of vegetarians,
Or even so called humanitarian,
And there also those who haven’t got teeth,
Either above or even beneath,
And to eat apples, for instance, they dare not venture,
Because it can result in the loss of the denture.
Now the atheists seem to be problem free,
And so do anorexics, it seems to me.
And so, Mr. President, although you cannot please all,
You don’t have to worry, because we’ll all have a ball
Since it’s wonderful for all of us to meet,
And I assure you that we’ll all have plenty to eat.
Now, my friends, let me propose a toast
To the President, Professor Asagai, our host,
So, let us raise our glasses and cry,
As is customary here – “campai”
In conclusion, while you are thinking what to eat,
Let me wish you bon appetite.

(At the presidential dinner of the 13th APALMS)

THE PRESIDENTIAL DINNER

Our President, Professor Asagai, who is a winner,
Is holding this Presidential dinner.
Some came their friends to meet,
And some came merely to eat,
But, for whatever reason you are there,
I beg of you with me to bear,
While I exploit my age,
To address you at this stage.

(At the welcome party of the 13th APALMS)

THE FAREWELL FUNCTION

Before we all disperse,237237
Let me address you again in verse.
To speak at a farewell function,
I usually have compunction,
And, the reason why,
Is that it’s hard to say goodbye.
But, I am sure I speak for all of you,
When I express our appreciation to,
Professor Asagai and his committee
For holding the APALMS meeting in Suwa City.
They couldn’t have chosen a better venue,
From the point of interest and also the view.
Suwa is one of the most beautiful places that exist,
And, if you’ve never been there, you don’t know what
you’ve missed.
The meeting succeeded beyond all measure,
And, to be able to attend it was a real pleasure.
So, what is left to me before saying goodbye.
Is to offer our congratulations to Professor Asagai,
And to thank him for all that he has done,
To make this society a leading one.

(At the farewell party of the 13th APALMS)