Asia: Future of Urology in Asia

Asia-1
Perspective role of the Urological Association of Asia (UAA) in the next decade

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The UAA celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, 2010. This was along with the 10th Asian Congress of Urology (ACU) in Taipei hosted by Dr. Allen Chiu, President of the UAA. At the 77th meeting of the JUA in 1989 in Osaka, Japan, the concept of the UAA was discussed and this resulted in its establishment the next year in Fukuoka, Japan, with the first ACU hosted by Prof. Kumazawa. The first Secretary General was Prof. Osamu Yoshida (Japan), followed by Prof. K.T. Foo (Singapore) and then Prof. Masaru Murai (Japan). During the 20 years after its foundation, our association has grown steadily. Despite differences in economies, languages and geography among the Asian countries, the UAA has become a well-established association of 20 member nations, with one affiliated nation.

The prime objective of the UAA is to promote cooperation, education and exchange among urologists in Asian countries for the benefit of patients in this region. Considering the role it has to play, the UAA will enter another stage in the coming decade. Through research, we need to seek out new information in Asia and convey the message that it brings to the world. Based on our own data, we have to develop an Asian consensus and guidelines for the treatment of common urological diseases. In this presentation, I will show the history of the UAA, and present a vision for the perspective role of our association in the coming decade.

Asia-2
Asia, to be an opinion leader in global village

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In the twenty-first century, more than ever, urology is going through such a period of transition as the general population in Asia is growing and getting older. To influence and promote future developments for urology in Asia, multilateral strategies should be implemented to guarantee the advancements of the urology and to accommodate the inevitable changes associated with growing public health demand and the need for educating our young urologists. Urology in Asia is now faced with many challenges where we need to organize International Strategic and Planning Office to collaborate and develop various proposals and programs to reflect the ever growing needs of our young and old patients as well as training young urologists and private practitioners through constructive educational and clinical training programs to provide consistent standard of care for our patients in Asia.

A group of distinguished members from various urological communities in Asia should come together and have open consultation to discuss various pertinent topics that are relevant to improving the standard of care to our patients and developing educational and clinical training programs. Suggested general topics for discussion would include optimizing sub-specialization in urology, training and credentialing in urology, promoting health care policy, educating general population, evaluation and the adoption of new technology, expanding domains of urology despite increasing encroachments of other specialties, maintaining continuous pools of future potential urologists and others.