

CMAAO Mid-term Council Meeting in Macau

As Secretary General of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO), I attended the 48th CMAAO Mid-term Council Meeting held in Macau in November 2012. CMAAO President Min-Bin Lee of the Taiwan Medical Association and the other participants from CMAAO member associations were welcomed by Lei Lon Chin, Health Commissioner of Macau Special Administrative Region, and Leong Lok Wa, a Deputy to the National People's Congress, as well as Macau Medical Association President Cheong Lai Ma and all the attendees from the Macau Medical Association.

In the opening ceremony, I first of all expressed my sincere gratitude for the heartfelt arrangements made and welcome given by the Macau Medical Association as host of this meeting. I also pointed out the importance of maintaining mutual interrelations and communication between member associations in Asia and Oceania—a region of the world where growth is occurring especially rapidly. Even in the age of information systems and the Internet, face-to-face communication is the best means of exchanging not only the latest medical information but also fruitful ideas regarding a broad range of issues, including national and regional health management. I am reminded of this each time I attend an international meeting.

Patients expect us physicians to provide them with the best-quality care possible. CMAAO activities are based in humanitarianism and are intended to contribute to healthcare, health management, and health systems for all the people in each region. In addition to this, we believe that our humanitarian activities need to be continued and carried out, even and especially in difficult times of political, economic, or any other social turbulence.

During the meeting there were positive discussions regarding strengthening the functions



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of CMAAO. For example, as decided at the previous General Assembly held in Taiwan, the general assemblies are to be held every year instead of every two years, beginning in 2013. This will speed up decision-making and enable swift responses to urgent issues.

Discussions were also held on strengthening the existing five committees: Bylaws Committee (led by Singapore), Finance Committee (led by Hong Kong), Membership Committee (led by Taiwan), Resolution Committee (led by Taiwan), and the Nomination Committee (led by Japan). In order to achieve even greater transparency in financial disclosure, the Finance Committee will conduct quarterly checks in addition to issuing an annual report; and in order to equalize and share better communication and information, it was proposed that ICT (information and communication technology) be utilized more.

Throughout the meeting we all enjoyed the earnest discussions on each of the topics and proposals to enrich CMAAO activities while savoring the delicious Macau-style Chinese cuisine.

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