

Bangkok, Thailand, October 19-23, 2008



Message from ISH President

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the XXXII World Congress of the International Society of Hematology (ISH 2008) held in Bangkok, Thailand during October 19-23, 2008.

It is indeed a real honor for Thailand to host this prestigious international event. The Thai Society of Hematology has been working very hard to make ISH 2008 a great success to meet your expectation.

We will have the Miwa lecture to honor the late professor Shiro Miwa who served as the Secretary General of ISH-APD during 1991- 1996, and the Chairman of the Councils of ISH during 1996-2000. During his tenure as Chairman and APD Secretary-General; he had devoted his selfless service and had exercised effective leadership to promote our Society. Professor Miwa passed away suddenly from pneumonia on January 12, 2006 at the age of 80. Since ISH-APD is the host for the World Congress this year we think it is very appropriate to have the Miwa lecture to honor Professor Shiro Miwa. We shall miss him dearly.

We have prepared an excellent series of scientific programs that cover the whole spectrum of hematology from basic science to clinical practice. The education sessions will update the various hematological topics including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, stem cell transplantations, thrombotic disorders, pediatric disorders both benign and malignant, laboratory hematology as well as tropical hematology. Simultaneous sessions will cover all aspects of hematology, both benign and malignant.

We hope that in your spare time you can enjoy what Thailand has to offer including historic culture, beautiful beaches and world famous cuisines. I am sure you will enjoy the warm hospitality of Thai people.

We are sure that ISH 2008 will be an excellent opportunity to meet old friends, to meet new friends, and to make further collaborations. We will try to make this meeting the most fruitful scientific meeting while keeping our hospitality at our highest standard.

Members of the Organizing Committee, the Thai Society of Hematology look forward to welcoming you in Bangkok in October 2008.

Saengsuree Jootar, M.D.
ISH President



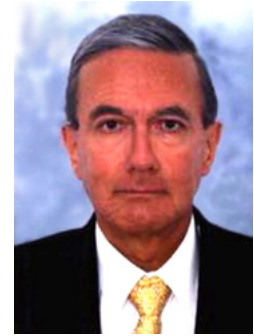
Message from APD Secretary-General

On behalf of the Asian-Pacific Division it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 32nd World Congress of the International Society of Hematology in Bangkok, Thailand. Six years have passed since the last World Congress (Seoul, Korea in 2002) was held in our region. With the leadership of Professor Saengsuree Jootar the Organizing Committee has prepared an excellent series of scientific programs that cover the whole spectrum of hematology from basic science to clinical practice. There are many exiting education programs, symposia and lectures on current status of the diagnosis and management of blood disorders. We have many oral and poster presentations in which you can directly interact with speakers. In addition, there are very attractive social programs in historic Bangkok and exotic surrounding islands and mountains. I am sure that you will have a chance to share the latest experiences and knowledge and to discover some of the many diverse aspects of Thai culture.

We now live in an era when lots of information is readily available through Internets even at home. Yet it can not be overstressed the fact that attending the meeting, obtaining the information directly and communicating each other are much more stimulating and rewarding than sitting in front of Internets. We now live in the borderless world where the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) became the only one superpower Congress. However, not every hematologist from Asian-Pacific region can afford to attend ASH and to make presentation. We also want to attend meetings where we have a chance to expose to different culture, history and geography. This is possible with the ISH Congress. which rotates among the three Divisions every 2 years. The aim of the ISH Congress is not to replicate mini-ASH, but our mission is to keep our identity and mutual cooperation, and to promote clinical and basic hematology in the world by exchanging our ideas and learning from each other. Needless to say, another important purpose of the international meeting is to renew the old friendships and to create the new ones.

Finally, but not the least, I would like to thank Professor Jootar and members of The Thai Society of Hematology who made this Congress possible. I really hope that you will enjoy the Bangkok Congress immensely.

Hidehiko Saito, M.D.
Secretary-General, APD-ISH



Message from Chair of Council, International Society of Hematology

It is indeed a privilege to write a presentation for the Education Program and Abstracts book of the 32nd World Congress of the International Society of Hematology (ISH) and I very much appreciate this opportunity. As the chair of the Council of the ISH, I feel duty-bound to make some remarks about the current role of the ISH in the practice of hematology in developing countries. The American Society of Hematology (ASH) and the European Hematology Association (EHA) have become the leading hematology societies in the world. Their growth, from an economic and numerical viewpoint, has been exponential; academic activities, albeit somewhat contaminated by the influence of drug companies, are unsurpassed.

However, these two hematological organizations have not focused enough on the practice of hematology in developing countries where more than two thirds of the inhabitants of the world reside. This is the scope and purpose of the ISH: our sphere of influence is substantially larger than theirs and our activities' impact will benefit a far larger number of patients, as always, the most important actors in all our endeavors.

It must be emphasized that the organization of academic meetings in developing countries does not equate in meetings of a poor scientific level. Wilfred TROTTER once said: "*In science, the primary duty of ideas is to be useful and interesting even more than to be true*". ISH meetings should also be useful in order to counteract the "*Matthew effect*": a verse in the biblical book of Matthew reads: "*Unto every one that hath shall be given... but from him that hath not, shall be taken away even that which he hath.*" This verse foretold the origin of "*the Matthew effect*" as described in a classic paper in Science by Robert K. MERTON; he noticed that in science, final credit for a discovery or new achievement tends to be ascribed to the most famous researcher associated with it, rather than to the most deserving. C.N. R. RAO notes that "*the Matthew effect*" is not uncommon even for work done in advanced countries, but it undeniably hurts academicians in developing countries much more because of the great difficulty entailed in pursuing high-caliber research under non-optimal conditions. More often than not, it takes many years of toil to complete a research project only to never obtain the expected recognition; this is most disappointing and frustrating. Hence, the ISH meetings should become a forum for scientific accomplishments conducted in developing countries.

I am certain that not many hematologists are aware of the fact that some of the seminal knowledge in hematology was actually generated in developing countries. These include the observation of the two types of hemophilia, the treatment of promyelocytic leukemia, the description of the Chédiak-Higashi leukocyte abnormality, the outpatient conduction of bone marrow transplantation, etc.

Finally, I must say some final words about the progressive magnitude of our Meetings. The number of attendants to the 2007 ASH meeting was 20,601, whereas the number of attendants to the EHA meeting was 6,672. These massive figures render human interchange quasi impossible during the meeting *per se*. International meetings should foster education, inspire and encourage critical evaluation, high quality presentations and, of course, recreation. Education means more than dishing out facts; it also involves skills, attitudes and personal contact with exchange of ideas; the number of attendants at our ISH Meetings unquestionably promotes these values.

Since the number of inhabitants in developing countries is growing at a far greater rate than in "developed" countries, I personally foresee a bright future for the ISH, particularly if we continue focusing on better patient care as the primary goal of this and all medical societies.

Guillermo J. Ruiz-Arguelles, M.D.
FACP, FRCP (Glasg) Chair of Council, International Society of Hematology



Editors' Message

This is the great honor and pleasure for us to organize the 32nd World Congress of the International Society of Hematology 2008 (ISH2008) in Bangkok, Thailand. One of the main purposes of the meeting is to give the opportunities for all medical personnel, particularly in developing countries, to reach the world-class and unrestricted hematology education. Firstly, and the most importantly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the altruism of the speakers of the congress and, especially, all the contributors as they have sacrificed their extremely precious time and efforts for the contents of this book. We believe that it will fulfill the anticipated educational objectives.

Due to the limit treasury and manpower, the scientific committee, itself, needs to involve in almost all the organizing processes of ISH2008. We would like to apologize for the mistakes that might have occurred as we are not the professional organizers for scientific congresses. Any complaints or comments are always welcome and we will try, as hard as we can, to correct errors and pass your valuable suggestions to the next hosts of the meeting.

We also would like to deeply thank all hard-working committee and staff and all the sponsors for their enormous assistances and supports making this conference possible. Finally, we greatly appreciate all the participants who are the key to the success of meeting and hope that you enjoy the scientific sessions with us on this special occasion.

Wichai Prayoonwiwat, M.D.
Chair Scientific Program Committee

Ponlapat Rojnuckarin, M.D., PhD
Co-Chair Scientific Program Committee