

EDITORIAL**Asian Oceanian Association of Neurology: Past, Present, Future**

Four and a half decades ago, Dr. Charles M. Posner, a World Federation of Neurology representative toured the Asian and Oceanian countries and challenged its neurologists to form an association that would promote and foster the advancement and exchange of neuro-scientific information within the region. In response, Dr. Shigeo Okinaka invited the region's neurologists to a planning meeting in Tokyo, Japan which subsequently resulted to the birth of the Asian and Oceanian Association of Neurology (AOAN) on June 26, 1961. The main objectives of the association according to the AOAN Statutes, as stated in Article 2, are to promote and foster on an international scale the advancement, the exchange and diffusion of information and ideas relating to the nervous system and encourage scientific researches in neurological problems. Article 3 likewise states the hosting of the Asian and Oceanian Congress of Neurology (AOCN) once every four years.

On September 14, 1962, the Board of the Association was chosen and it was composed of representatives from Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of China (Taiwan) and Thailand. The AOCN inaugural was held in Nippon Teshi Center on October 7-10, 1962 under the leadership of Prof. Okinaka. Since then, various countries have hosted the AOCN. The 2nd congress was held in Melbourne, Australia, the 3rd took place in Bombay, India, the 4th in Bangkok, Thailand, followed by the 5th in Manila, Philippines, 6th in Taiwan, 7th in Bali, Indonesia, 8th in Tokyo, Japan, the 9th in Seoul, Korea, 10th in Manila, Philippines, 11th in Singapore and now the 12th in New Delhi.

Membership to the AOAN also has increased over the years from the initial nine member countries to the present seventeen. Current members are Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Mongolia and now, most recently, Vietnam.

With the AOAN mission statement in promoting the development of clinical neurology and neurological science throughout the Asian and Oceanian Region and assist, as required, in the development of training programs and research efforts in member and potential member nations of the region, the programs for the past year was to develop the AOAN Young Neurologist academy with our very own Dr. Jed Noel A. Ong as our representative for the academy. The AFN-AOAN E-learning day: Advancing Stroke Care in Asia was held last November 18, 2023 9AM-5:15PM, described as a transformative e-learning webinar across the Asian region featuring a rich programme with distinguished luminaries from WFN, AOAN, APSO (Asia Pacific

Stroke Organization), WFNR (World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation), and WSO (World Stroke Organization).

The next 19th AOCN will be held along with the 65th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Neurology with the theme : Hub of Neurology in Asia and Oceania chaired by Professor Tatsushi Toda and will be held at from May 29- June 1st, 2024 at the Tokyo International Forum, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo Japan.



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Referenced from: <https://www.aoaneurology.org/history.html>
<https://www.aoaneurology.org/aoan-young-neurologist-academy.html>