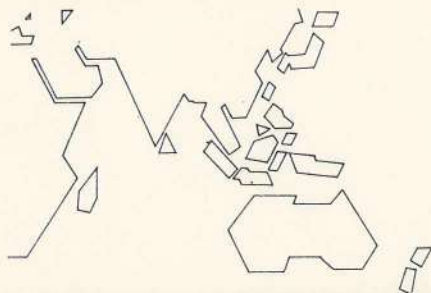


AMDA NEWSLETTER

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AMDA MEETING, 12 - 14 August, 1988 A REPORT



Participants of AMDA Meeting from five member countries

The executive committee meeting and the 5th conference of AMDA was held in Thailand with the participation of five member countries viz. India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

In the two days meeting several topics of importance were discussed and decided. In the beginning day there

was an elaborate exchange of views about the exchange programme for AMDA members. Following main topics were decided:

A. 10th anniversary celebrations of AMSA - AMDA. Theme for the convention was decided to be " Primary Health Care and Asian Medical Problems" with the subthemes: PHC and the medical problems of the refugees; PHC and the Asian rural health problem; PHC and the medical problems of the labor. All correspondences to be given to Dr. Tohda, RC, AMDA-Japan.

B. Preparation of a pamphlet with a purpose to compile accurate and updated information about AMDA and its members in the local chapters. This is of value to promote the purpose and activities of AMDA.

C. Issues on the constitution were discussed and ratified.

D. The corresponding duties and projects were assigned to the following countries:

1. Directory - Malaysia
2. Finance - Philippines
3. Exchange Program - India
4. Information - Thailand
5. Newsletter - Thailand
6. AMDA/AMSA 1989 conference - Japan

E. Income generating project - Each AMDA local chapter will formulate fund raising projects which may seek support from AMDA Japan for financial assistance.

It was also decided that the 7th AMDA conference would be held in 1990 in India, AMDA - India being the host.

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My AMDA experience

by Antonio " Tofi " Sison

M.D.

member, AMDA-Philippines

It was at the right scheme of things when I began the process of getting involved with AMDA. Perhaps it was the unique position of the stars in our galaxy which gave cosmic impetus for me to integrate into AMDA consciousness. After all, nothing in the universe happens by accident.

In my last year of residency in Psychiatry with researches to finish, conferences to attend, cases to present, patients to follow up, socials to go to, dog shows and seminars to plan, antiques to collect, why would I want to invest time and energy with AMDA ?

My present uncensored, gut level response would be... because I see the potential of the organization, starting from the noble premise of altruism through friendship and understanding and developing this concept into International conferences, health programs for the poor, exchange programs and friendships among countries.

My world view was expanding and I felt the AMDA direction was similar to the direction I wanted to go. It was my trust in this feeling, that I joined core group members, Kenneth Hartigan Go, Pancho Flores, Alvin Mojica to the 1988 AMDA conference in Bangkok, not really fully understanding the organizational structure, the short and long range goals and how I fit in.

Being together with other delegates from Japan, Malaysia, India, Philippines and Thailand as host, was an enlightening experience. I realized how similar cultural values and attitudes were in the Asian region, as well as, appreciate the unique differences in language, attitudes and cultural expectations. It was an opportunity to spread goodwill and friendship to our neighbors across the sea.

<<< Dr. Antonio Sison, "Tofi" for his friends, is seen in the far left seat, during the Tea-Time, in AMDA meeting held in Thailand.

It was in understanding myself more that I was able to change stereotypes I had and to be able to communicate thoughts and feelings across some language limitations.



After a while, the spontaneous laughter, the hot & spicy Thai food, the catchy Thai music, the glorious sights and sounds of Bangkok, the warm Thai hospitality made everyone comfortable and happy ready to tackle the agenda of the convention with the panoramic view of Pattaya around us.

Personally, I was impressed by the booming Thai economy as evidenced by the construction boom the influx of investors and tourists. Part of the reason I feel is the very strong sense of nationalism among the Thai people who came from different ethnic backgrounds. All of the Thai citizens think, feel and speak Thai. And it is because of this strong sense of Thai identity, supported by the unique government system, the Royal Thai Family, the Buddhist religion, the stable political climate which precipitated the emergence of economic progress.

At the same time I ponder on what I could do in my capacity to help my country rise to its economic, artistic and spiritual potential. The Bangkok experience showed me that I have to develop a more solid sense of being Filipino to be able to be effective.

The Asian mind works with the Asian subtle sense of propriety, respect and etiquette. I realized that the strategic way of expressing is as important

as the message you would like to impart. There is a time for laughter, talk and silence.

Back in Manila, I had to integrate back into my residency and while writing this, a thought entered my mind. I was right about AMDA, wasn't I? Hope to see you in Kobe, Japan next year!

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Chairman of AMSA visits Japan

The overall chairman of 3rd executive committee of Asian Medical Students' Association (AMSA, 1988-1989), Mr. Chang Chau-Kay, visited Japan in the first week of September.

Mr. Chang Chau-Kay who is a student of Kaohsiung Medical College briefed about the outcome of 9th AMSC which was held in Taiwan, R.O.C. during his talk with Dr. Shigeru Suganami, President of AMDA-International, at Okayama.

In the 9th Asian Medical Students' Conference it was decided to, hereafter, have regional coordinators in each member country who will be the person-in-charge for correspondence of AMSA affairs between two consecutive AMSCs. Nine regional coordinators were elected, one from each member country.



<<< Standing from left to right are Mr. Iwanaga, Dr. Krishna, Mr. Chang Chau-Kay (David), Dr. Shigeru Suganami and Dr. Mrs. Suganami.

Amendments were made in the 3rd revised constitution. 3rd executive committee was selected for 1988-89, and Mr. Yoshihiro Takashima (Japan) was selected as the chairman for the 10th AMSC to be held in Japan in 1989 with the suggested themes as:

a) Traditional Medicine b) Infectious Disease and c) Preventive Medicine.

An emblem for AMSA is on the way of being developed. The host for 11th AMSC is decided to be Indonesia. The special feature of 9th AMSC was that panel discussions were carried out on topics: Primary Health Care; Aging; Medical ethics; Medical insurance; Computerized medicine; Post graduate education. An official declaration is prepared out on the outcome of the discussion. It is also decided to bring out bimonthly AMSA news letter here after to strengthen the relations and disseminate the informations.

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