

Interim Report of the President of WMA

188th WMA Council Session

7-9 April 2011

Sydney, Australia

Dear Chair, Council members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be with you all at the 188th. WMA Council Meeting in this lovely city of Sydney. We are all aware that the world today is facing with several disasters both in Natural and man-made. For the natural disasters that occurred in Christchurch, Yunnan, Miyagi -Sendai, and lately in Myanmar and southern Thailand have been great agonizing catastrophes not only to locality but also affected the other regions and internationally. The effect of those disasters had done a great loss not only on the immediate term but also affect in long term health care. The loss does not affect only physically but also affect mentally as well. I would like to admire the New Zealand and the Japanese Medical Associations and their Governments that they have disclosed a fair data and information to public and the world and had tried all their effort to protect the health of the people. All these events are naturally produced and not preventable even though the hazard can be reduced by good collaborative actions and technology of warnings. I would like to ask you all at this meeting to show our respect to all those victims who had lost their lives in those disasters by standing in silence for a moment and pray for them if you wish.....thank you very much, please sit down.

Now, as I said, there were also man-made disasters which happened in many places in the world such as in Fukushima where the man-made power plants associated with the natural disaster have made a great concern among the inhabitants and surrounding areas where the leaking of the radiation had made the situation worse after the earthquake and tsunami and may be a long term health effects if the leakage cannot be controlled soon enough. The fighting around the Mediterranean region is also another cause of a great loss to property, premises and lives, not only the lives of soldiers or warriors but also the lives of innocent citizen and children. Many times at these events, our medical professionals were assaulted, kidnapped or being detained as hostages such as in Mexico, Iran, Bahrain and Libya. These are actually preventable and caused by human. The WMA had sent our statements to message our concerns.

Our medical Profession must be secured and well protected at all times, no matter in political conflicts or war, however, we, as the medical profession should not make ourselves take side or be part of the conflicts either.

I would like to admire all those physicians who have spent their lives and hard working time helping people and victims in both natural and man-made disasters for their great dedication and contribution to the medical profession.

During the past 5 months of my duty as the President of the WMA, I have done as I promised at the last Assembly in Vancouver to link our Medical Associations as friendly and more collaborative as much as we can.

On November 11-13, 2010, I visited Taiwan to join the auspicious ceremony of the Doctor's day and gave a talk on "Doctor's Pride and Responsibility" and also delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

On November 26-28, 2010, I visited Jiangyin, a city in main land China, to present a paper on Smoking Cessation Program in Thailand.

On December 29, 2010 – January 3, 2011, I visited Hong Kong to attend the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Medical Association and the New Year 2011.

On January 25-29, 2011, I attended the 2nd Global Forum in Human resources for health in Bangkok, WMA had a parallel session on Resilient Medical Profession.

On February 14-18, 2011, I attended the WHO-SEARO meeting on "Doctors- Patients Relationship" in New Delhi, India

On March 2-4, 2011, I attended the "CMAAO Adhoc committee meeting on Task Shifting and Strategy for Continuous Development of Medical Practice" in Tokyo

On March 16-18, 2011, I attended the WHO-SEARO Meeting on the "Partners for Health in South –East Asia" in New Delhi

And now I am here at the 188th Council Meeting in Sydney.

During the past 5 months, the connections of the Executive Committee were done through monthly conference calls with fruitful discussion.

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