

## Prologue for the Symposium: “Cardiac Anesthesia — Status in Asian Countries”

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It is honor and pleasure to moderate the symposium “Cardiac Anesthesia—Status in Asian Countries” with Associate Professor Ashok Kumar from National University Hospital, Singapore. The symposium was organized by advises from professor Takao Saito, Tokushima University School of Medicine, Professor Masao Fugita, Tokyo Womens' Medical College, Professor Kinichi Shibutani, Westchester County Medical Center, and Professor Yasu Oka, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. It will not be possible for us to have this a symposium without the heartfelt support of Professor Teruo Kumazawa, the President. We would like to express our sinccere gratitude to Professor Kumazawa and members of his department for their great efforts for organizing the symposium.

It is wonderful for members of the society to invite our Asian friends from seven countries, and have an opportunity to know a status of cardiac anesthesia in their countries. We extend our sincere gratitude to Asian friends for joining in the symposium far away from the other side of the ocean.

This morning we decided to form a new society, Asian Society of Cardiothoracic Anesthesia (ASCA) in the founding committee meeting. We concluded that it was timely to establish a regional society of cardiothoracic anesthesia for enhancing the clinical, educational and research activities

of anesthesiologists and improving mutual understanding and communication with our medical and surgical colleagues in Asian Countries. We know that there are some societies for cardiothoracic anesthesiologists to participate such as the Society of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiologists (SCA) in the Unites States of America, and the European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiologists (EA-CTA) . However, it is not easy for Asian colleagues to join in such meeting either in USA or Europe. Accordingly, we surely need our regional society of cardiothoracic anesthesia in Asia. We will have the first meeting of ASCA in Singapore, 1995. It will be more convenient for us to held it at the time of the ninth Asean Congress of Anaesthesiologists (ACA).

I am confident that the attendees will be more informed the status of cardiothoracic anesthesia in different Asian countries through the symposium. This is a good start of our new society, ASCA. I am also sure that the presence of delegates from Asian countries here makes the 14th Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Circulation Control in Medicine international and more fruitful, indeed.

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