Editors:

Shimpei Tojo Tetsuya Nakayama

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Proceedings of the IX World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Tokyo, October 25-31, 1979

Editors:

Shoichi Sakamoto Shimpei Tojo Tetsuya Nakayama



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thus bringing to all humanity

true peace and happiness.

S. Safamoja Shoichi Sakamoto, M. D. Prostruk

Preface

Some 6,000 gynecologists and obstetricians took part in the 9th FIGO World Congress of October 1979. The largest academic gathering ever to be held in Tokyo, it achieved unprecedented results in academic and personal exchange.

A quarter of a century has passed since the founding of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) in Geneva: its first world congress was held in the same city in 1954, under the presidency of Dr. H. de Watteville. The International Gynecological Society was formed at the beginning of this century, but its activities had to be suspended twice, during World Wars I and II. After the end of hostilities, however, in 1950, gynecologists and obstetricians met in New York to propose the establishment of an International Federation. Owing in great part to the efforts of Drs. Adair, Garin Lajoie, Taylor, Van Tongeren, and H. de Watteville, the first world congress was held in Geneva and attended by representatives from 42 countries. No one could have imagined at the time that FIGO would grow to assume the importance it has today.

As the organizers of the Tokyo congress, we take great pleasure in presenting the publication of these Proceedings which contain the results of the reports and personal contacts made by leading scholars of some eighty member countries (more than 100 countries when observers are included).

The Tokyo congress was the first FIGO congress to be held in Asia. With the active participation of the WHO, discussions were held on how to transfer medical technology to developing countries. In keeping with the founding aims of FIGO, efforts must be redoubled in this direction.

Our discipline has now reached a stage where major breakthroughs are expected in the near future, thanks to progress made in research methods. Since it concerns itself with the science of reproduction, it begins where all studies on man begin. In view of the nature of the problems we encounter clinically, the advances made in our science give ground for concern whether we are not already trespassing on divine territory.

We are thankful for having been given this opportunity to provide a venue for scientists from all over the world to exchange views at a time when the ethics of science and scientists in the biological field have to be carefully re-examined.

Science is universal: times are past when scientists spoke of national boundaries. We must overcome all barriers, and, basing our way of thinking on the principles of biology, we must ask ourselves what true humanism is. Humility is the gate to knowledge.

It is hoped that, as clinicians, we will adhere to philosophy of involved humanism, even in the conduct of our basic research. We will be highly gratified if these Proceedings evoke in the minds of our readers the ideals and aspirations inspired by the congress during its planning and by the accomplishments at its successful conclusion.

Shoichi Sakamoto Shimpei Tojo Tetsuya Nakayama

March, 1980

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