

Case Study

28th International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection

The 28th International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection (ICC 2013) was held from 5th (Wed.) to 8th (Sat.) June 2013, at PACIFICO Yokohama. Following the meeting, Dr. Tetsuro Matsumoto, Congress Chair of the Organizing Committee, sent comments on the success of the Congress.

1. After being held in Tokyo in 1969 and Kyoto in 1985, the International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection was again held in Japan this year, the first time in 28 years. What was the significance of holding this event in Japan and its results?

This event was sponsored jointly by four organizations, the International Society of Chemotherapy for Infection and Cancer (ISC), the Asia-Pacific Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infection, the Japanese Society of Chemotherapy, and the Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases, so it brought together a large number of researchers working in the field of infectious disease and turned out to be an extremely lively conference. With over 4,000 registered participants, attendance was very large. Beyond serving as a venue for infectious disease researchers to disseminate and share information - as it was expected to - I think the conference was immensely meaningful for having provided young Japanese researchers and students with an opportunity to experience an international conference.



2. This conference, in Yokohama, appears to have been a prime opportunity to disseminate to the world information on ways to address new strains of influenza, new drug-resistant bacteria, and other infectious diseases, as well as the latest results of Japanese research on chemotherapy approaches for infectious diseases and cancer. What were some of the most impressive moments and aspects of the conference?

The most impressive aspect of the congress was that the ISC's highest recognition, the Hamao Umezawa Memorial Award, was presented to a Japanese researcher, Dr. Keiichi Hiramatsu, who then gave a beautiful acceptance speech. In his speech, Dr. Hiramatsu discussed the results of his many years of research on MRSA and the possibilities that his work could lead to the development of a new type of drug in the near future.

In addition, various symposiums based on proposals by ISC working groups and its affiliated scientific societies formed the main body of the conference program, addressing a broad array of important themes in the area of infectious disease. All of the symposiums were equally engaging. Most included Japanese speakers or moderators and all were excellent opportunities to share information. A program jointly sponsored with Japanese scientific societies was held on the second day of the conference and featured a very lively discussion. Researchers from Japan and abroad expressed praise and appreciation for what was generally regarded as a very meaningful conference.



3. What were your impressions of the support system offered by the City of Yokohama and the YCVB?

What kinds of things were helpful to you as organizer of the Congress? Could you please tell us of any expectations you may have for Yokohama as a meetings destination in the future?

From the very beginning, we received assistance with putting together a bid proposal and arrangements for letters from local government leaders. The grant for holding the event, the in-kind support program by the YCVB, the temporary tourism information desk, and other forms of assistance were all extremely helpful.

For the future, we are looking forward to assistance in providing advice of a more administrative nature to professors and others with no experience in attracting and hosting international conferences.



4. Many of the Congress' participants from overseas may have visited Yokohama for the first time. What were their impressions about the city?

Yokohama has good airport access, and I understand that many participants enjoyed themselves quite well during times away from the Congress because of the city's generally open atmosphere. Furthermore, adding to the fact that Yokohama has gone to great lengths to welcome international visitors as a cosmopolitan city, its Chinatown district, the largest in Japan, was very popular among Asian congress participants. In addition, the weather was good, and participants liked the city's coastal location.

