

CMAAO General Assembly in Yangon/ Myanmar 2015

The CMAAO General Assembly was held in Yangon this year. It was my first visit to Myanmar, and many people welcomed us cheerfully. Yangon is a huge city, and seemed like the center of Buddhism, retaining its ancient style with the beautiful Shwedagon Pagoda plated entirely in gold, which was especially impressive when it glowed with reflections of the deep orange sunset.

I was also welcomed with warm and gentle hospitality everywhere I went in the city.

Against this background, the CMAAO General Assembly was held with the participation of 14 member NMAs as well as two executives from the WMA, Dr. Ardis Hoven, Chair of Council and Dr. Otmar Kloiber, Secretary General.

The main topic of the Takemi Oration and the Symposium was food safety, which has become a very important issue in our region. It is important because the region has the world's largest population, and we physicians are obliged

to work to promote people's healthy longevity. In this context, the issue of food safety included discussions about environmental health, including alerts concerning air and water pollution. These issues were sincerely discussed, and we were able to eventually reach an agreement on a resolution concerning such challenges.

After the successful meeting in Yangon, we visited the Japanese cemetery, which is located one-hour from Yangon by car. Many of the graves seemed to be the graves of Japanese people and their families who decided to remain in this heart-warming country after World War II. It was a chance to deeply reflect on past history.

After this journey, I sincerely hope that the wellbeing of the people and their health system will be further promoted in Myanmar.

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Shwedagon Pagoda at sunset