

### The 90th Anniversary Celebration of the Medical Association of Thailand (MAT)

I was invited to the commemorative symposium in Bangkok to celebrate the 90th Anniversary Celebration of the Medical Association of Thailand (MAT) in October 2011. When I revisited the scenery of the old city of Bangkok, the city seemed to be even more vital, with new cars driving through the city streets. On the other hand with the increasing demand of the people for motor vehicles, traffic jams seemed to be more serious, necessitating urban traffic rules.

The main theme of the symposium was disaster medicine, and I was asked to give a lecture about the relief activities of the JMA in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster through Japan Medical Association Teams (JMATs). There was also a presentation by MAT about the recent flood in Thailand. I was kindly introduced to Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Srirasmi during the course of the ceremony.

The ceremonial banquet was held in a Chinese restaurant on the riverside, where we could enjoy delicious cooked dishes and traditional music and dancing about the legendary myth of Rāmāyana which exists in India, Thailand, and Indonesia. The same story is depicted on the wall of the Emerald Temple adjacent to the Royal Palace. There seems to be some resonance between the backgrounds of traditional cultures which have developed individually in the Asian region.

We visited the ancient capital of Ayutthaya with its impressive castle ruins before departing for Japan. I observed the masterly craftsmanship needed to build the various large architectural structures, mostly with brick and stone, in accordance with the large-scale design and harmonization of the environment, surrounded by water and green plants. There was already a certain amount of flooding in the area and the roads to the ancient city were limited.

After Thailand, we traveled to the WMA



The 90th Anniversary Celebration held at the MAT hall

General Assembly in Montevideo/Uruguay, the opposite side of the earth from the Asian region, meeting up with the members of MAT again. Dr. Wonchat Subhachaturas became the Immediate-past President of WMA during this general assembly.

We had an uneventful trip back to Japan, although there was the problem of volcanic ash from Chili when we departed from the airport in Montevideo.

We have worried about the news of the upcoming flood from northern part including Ayutthaya along the river to the capital city Bangkok of Thailand. It was reported that the Japanese authorities are dispatched for their special support to Thailand, who helped Japan at its disaster on 3.11 with earthquake and tsunami with nuclear trouble.

For all people of the world that suffer from natural disaster such as earthquakes and floods, I do hope for their quick recovery with successful management of hygiene issues and infections.

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