

*History of WFUMB and AFSUMB  
by Hiroki Watanabe*

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*Nothing has really happened  
until it has been recorded*

*Wolf*



# History of WFUMB and AFSUMB

Hiroki Watanabe  
President, WFUMB; President, AFSUMB

The history and system of the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB), as well as the Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB), are described briefly. WFUMB combines six area federations throughout the world, and consists of approximately 50,000 members from 50 countries, while AFSUMB is the largest area federation affiliated with WFUMB, consisting of approximately 17,000 members from 12 countries in Asia. A further increase in the number of members and the number of affiliated societies is expected with the advancement of ultrasound technology and the distribution of machines.

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KEY WORDS: • administration • AFSUMB • history • WFUMB

## INTRODUCTION

The World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) is a federation organized by six area federations from around the world, consisting of approximately 50,000 members from 50 countries. The Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB) is the largest federation in WFUMB, consisting of approximately 17,000 members from 12 countries in Asia. A few new societies are expected to join the federation in 2001.

A quarter of a century for WFUMB, while one and a half decades for AFSUMB, have now elapsed since they were established. The pioneers concerned with setting them up are now retiring one by one, and the leadership is being taken over by members of younger generations. With the lapse of time, the process of how the organizations were established,

as well as the original aim and spirit of the federations, has not always been understood correctly, even by the young leaders. This is why the author wishes to contribute here a history of the federations from his point of view.

A large part of this review article has already been published in Japanese in the *Journal of Medical Ultrasonics*, the official organ of the Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine (JSUM) [1]. For the present occasion, the author has rewritten the paper in English at the request of *Journal of Medical Ultrasound (JMU)*, the official organ of AFSUMB.

## WORLD FEDERATION FOR ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY (WFUMB)

It is well known that diagnostic ultrasound (US) originated almost simultaneously in three areas in the world — the United States, Europe and Japan

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Presented in part at AFSUMB 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on October 25, 2001.  
Third Department of Basic Medicine, Meiji University of Oriental Medicine (Graduate School), Kyoto, Japan.  
Address correspondence and reprint requests to: Professor Hiroki Watanabe, Third Department of Basic Medicine,  
Meiji University of Oriental Medicine, Hiyoshi-cho, Funai-gun, Kyoto, Japan 629-0392.

— in the 1950s. Since each development started independently of the others, and there was no contact between them, it is hard to identify which was the real pioneer. This may be one of the reasons why no one involved in the field of US has yet won the Nobel prize, in spite of prizes having been won in the fields of computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging.

Under the circumstance of its origins, it was only natural that, at some stage, discussions on US at an international level would eventually be necessary, when results of developments made by the early pioneers were disclosed between them. The first World Congress of Ultrasonic Diagnostics in Medicine was organized in Vienna in 1969, by mutual agreement.

To understand the progress made at the first congress, we have to look at the state of the national organizing societies for US in the various countries at that time.

It is thought that the US society having the longest history may be the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) in the United States, of which the origin goes back to 1952. They are now preparing for the 50-year anniversary celebration in 2002. In the beginning, however, the society was organized for US therapeutic machines, while papers on US diagnosis appeared only after 1964.

The second oldest US society in the world is the JSUM, established in 1961. It focused mainly on diagnosis from the very beginning.

The first international organization for US was the *Societas Internationalis pro Diagnostica Ultrasonica in Ophthalmologia* (SIDUO). Although US in the field of ophthalmology has not been very active in recent years, this was the leading field in the early days. Its first congress was organized in 1964 in Berlin, and the third one in 1969 in Vienna. The above-mentioned first World Congress was actually formed as a part of this SIDUO III, and with the intensive support of SIDUO itself. The World Congress thus owed a debt to SIDUO; hence, this organization was included as a member society of WFUMB when WFUMB was formed later, in spite of the nature of SIDUO, which was not a geographic federation but rather a specialty group. The WFUMB Constitution, Article 4.3.2, states that: "Not more than one international specialty organization may become affiliated for any specialty". This sentence conflicts with the basic policy of WFUMB, consisting of geographic federations, but

is a remaining trace of the history with regard to SIDUO, which now has, in fact, almost dissolved.

It must be noted that participants in the World Congress in Vienna gathered not as national delegates, but as individuals. The idea was created among them, however, that a joint international organization, to consist of national or federational units, should be established as a matter of urgency because, even at that period, several national bodies had already been set up in the United States, Japan, Germany and Australia. Thus, a tentative plan was mooted that the detailed rules for the organization would be completed before the next World Congress to be held in Rotterdam 3 years later. Responding to this, the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB), made up of the national US societies in Europe, was established in 1969 and became the first geographic federation to be affiliated to WFUMB when it was later formed.

The planned organization was realized at the second World Congress in Rotterdam in 1973. Its official name was decided as the WFUMB, and the first General Assembly with the first congress was set for 3 years later in San Francisco. In addition, a basic concept of WFUMB, that it would unite each geographic federation to be established throughout the five continents of the world in the future, was also approved.

The first WFUMB Congress was successfully held in San Francisco in 1976 (WFUMB '76), hosted by AIUM and with the mutual cooperation of AIUM, EFSUMB, JSUM, the Australian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM), SIDUO and others. From then onwards, the organizational activities of geographic federations throughout the continents of the world accelerated. After EFSUMB, AFSUMB came on the stage in 1985, and this will be mentioned later. AIUM joined Canada to become the North American federation. The ASUM changed its name to the "Australasian Society", which was inclusive of Australia and New Zealand. In South America, the Latin-American Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (FLAUS) was formed, while in Africa, the Mediterranean and African Society for Ultrasound (MASU) was established, to which Italy and Turkey joined, in consideration of the unique situation in Africa with many developing countries. Thus, the WFUMB has advanced at present to an enormous scientific organization, covering the world with a network of

six geographic federations. The office and membership of each of them in 1998 are shown in Table 1.

All activities of WFUMB rely upon annual fees from the six affiliated geographic federations. The amount of this fee is US 1.5 dollars per member annually. A large majority of the federations collect an annual fee of US 3 dollars from each affiliated national society, of which half is transferred to WFUMB. Since the total membership of WFUMB is nearly 50,000, the total income of WFUMB per year is a little more than US 70,000 dollars, provided 100% of the fees are paid on time. Therefore, WFUMB is poor and "save money" has been its motto from the beginning. In recent years, WFUMB has been very much engaged in important projects like safety and education; thus, budgetary questions are always very pressing.

The administration of WFUMB is carried out by 17 members, including six officers (President, President-Elect, Vice-Presidents I and II, Secretary and Treasurer), six Councilors, three Co-opted Councilors, Immediate Past-President and Journal Editor. Co-opted Councilors and the Journal Editor have no voting rights. The administrators for the current term (2000-2003) are listed in Table 2.

Officers are elected in the General Assembly,

which is held at the congress every 3 years. However, voting is held by mail ballot from the affiliated federations prior to the General Assembly. The President-Elect is appointed as the next President without further voting. Vice-President I will take over the responsibilities of the President when he or she has an accident. Vice-President II will substitute for the Secretary or the Treasurer under the same circumstances.

With regard to Councilors, any federation having members totaling more than 10% of the entire membership of WFUMB can appoint one Councilor without voting. The other two Councilor positions are filled by voting among the small federations having less than 10% of the membership. However, voting has not been carried out in recent years, because the only federations corresponding to this rule are the ASUM and MASU. Co-opted Councilors are appointed by the President to rectify any imbalance among the elected members, in terms of their specialties or between federations. The administrators are thus appointed on the basis of each federation, but are requested to dedicate their activities only to the benefit of WFUMB itself, independently from their own federations. The term for the administrators is 3 years, except for the Journal Editor.

**Table 1.** Affiliated federations and membership of WFUMB

Affiliated federation	1998 Office	1998 Membership
Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB)	Seoul, Korea	17,365
European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB)	London, UK	12,522
American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)	Laurel, MD, USA	7,005
Latin-American Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (FLAUS)	São Paulo, Brazil	4,840
Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM)	Willoughby, NSW, Australia	1,232
Mediterranean and African Society for Ultrasound (MASU)	Piacenza, Italy	511
	Total	43,475

**Table 2.** Current officers and councilors of WFUMB (2000–2003)

President	Hiroki Watanabe (Japan, AFSUMB)
President-Elect	Marvin C. Ziskin (USA, AIUM)
Vice-President I	Kittipong Vairojanavong (Thailand, AFSUMB)
Vice-President II	Hassan A. Gharbi (Tunisia, MASU)
Secretary	Søren Hancke (Denmark, EFSUMB)
Treasurer	Christopher RB Merrit (USA, AIUM)
Immediate Past-President	Harald Lutz (Germany, EFSUMB)
Administrative Councilors	Masunori Matsuzaki (Japan, AFSUMB) Michel Claudon (France, EFSUMB) Lawrence D. Platt (USA, AIUM) Luiz Antonio Bailão (Brazil, FLAUS) Robert Gill (Australia, ASUM) Elisabetta Buscarini (Italy, MASU)
Co-opted Councilors	Byung Ihn Choi (Korea, AFSUMB) Alfred Kurtz (USA, AIUM) Giovanni Cerri (Brazil, FLAUS)
Journal Editor	Peter NT Wells (UK, EFSUMB)

After the first event in San Francisco, WFUMB congresses have been smoothly and successfully organized in various cities around the world every 3 years. The venue, host society and name of the President of each congress are listed in Table 3. The next congress, WFUMB 2003, will be held in Montreal from June 1 to 6, 2003, as a joint convention with the AIUM Annual Meeting. Following WFUMB 2003, WFUMB 2006 will be hosted by the Korean Society of Medical Ultrasound (KSMU) in Seoul from October 21 to 25, 2006. According to the WFUMB Constitution, the WFUMB President and

the President of the congress shall be independent of the other. In the past, however, some WFUMB Presidents have organized congresses themselves. The names of the WFUMB Presidents at the time of each congress are also listed in Table 3.

#### ASIAN FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY (AFSUMB)

As mentioned above, the only geographic federation established at the beginning of WFUMB was the

**Table 3.** WFUMB Congresses

Congress	Venue	Host Society	Congress President	WFUMB President
WFUMB '76	San Francisco	AIUM	Gilbert Baum	Gilbert Baum (SIDUO/AIUM)
WFUMB '79	Miyazaki	JSUM	Toshio Wagai	Toshio Wagai (JSUM)
WFUMB '82	Brighton	BMUS	Patricia Morley	Hans Müller (SGUM)
WFUMB '85	Sydney	ASUM	George Kossoff	George Kossoff (ASUM)
WFUMB '88	Washington, DC	AIUM	Horace E. Thompson	Horace E. Thompson (AIUM)
WFUMB '91	Copenhagen	DUDS	Hans H. Holm	Francis Weill (SFAUMB)
WFUMB '94	Sapporo	JSUM	Morimichi Fukuda	Morimichi Fukuda (JSUM)
WFUMB '97	Buenos Aires	FLAUS	Alberto E. Belinsky	Barry B. Goldberg (AIUM)
WFUMB 2000	Firenze	SIUMB	Luigi Bolondi	Harald Lutz (DEGUM)
WFUMB 2003	Montreal	AIUM	Alfred Kurtz	Hiroki Watanabe (JSUM)
WFUMB 2006	Seoul	KSMU	Byung-Ihn Choi	Marvin C. Ziskin (AIUM)

EFSUMB. For that reason, there was an urgent requirement to organize geographic federations in other areas. In Asia at that time, US societies existed in Japan, China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and India. In particular, there were two or more societies in China and India. This later caused serious problems in AFSUMB.

Professor Toshio Wagai, one of the worldwide pioneers of US and who organized the second WFUMB Congress (WFUMB '79) in Miyazaki as the President of both WFUMB and the congress, began to construct AFSUMB with the above-mentioned national societies. He first presided over a closed meeting with representatives from those societies during the WFUMB '85 Congress in Sydney. Then, during the 47th Annual Meeting of JSUM held under the presidency of Dr. Hiroshi Yokoi in Kobe from November 20 to 22, 1985, he had a preparatory committee meeting to establish AFSUMB, inviting representatives from five foreign societies to be official guests of the meeting.

In Kobe, an intensive but cooperative discussion was held in order to draw up the constitution of AFSUMB under the leadership of Professor Morimichi Fukuda (the first AFSUMB Secretary and the seventh WFUMB President) and the first AFSUMB Administrative Council Meeting was opened to declare formally the establishment of AFSUMB. At the same time, it was decided that the first AFSUMB Congress (AFSUMB '87) would be associated with the 50th Memorial Annual Meeting of JSUM in Tokyo on June 24 to 26, 1987, under the presidency of Professor Hisaya Takeuchi (6th WFUMB Vice-President). Professor Wagai was appointed as the first AFSUMB President and the congress President, while Professor Fukuda and the author were the first AFSUMB Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Other members of the original

council were: Dr. Willyarto Wibisono (Indonesia, President-Elect), Professor Chu-Wan Kim (Korea, Vice-President), Dr. Jian-Fang Ren (China), Dr. Shing-Kwee Ong (Malaysia) and Dr. VR Singh (India). Many of these persons later went on to hold important positions in AFSUMB.

Thus, the AFSUMB Congresses started in Japan have been successfully held every 3 years, following the system of WFUMB, though the second congress (AFSUMB '89) was planned 2 years after the first one. The venue, host society and name of the President of each Congress are listed in Table 4. In the early years, there was a rotation with the effect that AFSUMB congress was set for the year following the WFUMB Congress, and the EFSUMB Congress was set for the year following AFSUMB. The rotation was abandoned a few years ago because EFSUMB now holds a congress once every year.

The administrative mechanism of AFSUMB is similar to that of WFUMB. The only difference is that the number of Co-opted Councilors is intended to be "several", instead of "two" as set in the WFUMB Constitution, in order to permit the attendance of representatives from any of the small societies at the table of the Administrative Council. Three large affiliated societies, namely, JSUM, Chinese Taipei Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (CTSUM) and KSMU make up more than 10% of the total membership; thus, they delegate one Councilor to the council. The current total number of officers and councilors of AFSUMB is 15. The administrators for the present term (1998-2001) are listed in Table 5.

AFSUMB has expanded year by year. First, Thailand joined. Shortly after the establishment of AFSUMB, the author was invited to Rajavithi Hospital in Bangkok for the opening ceremony of the newly constructed Stone Crushing Center. After

Table 4. AFSUMB Congresses

Congress	Venue	Host society	Congress President	AFSUMB President
AFSUMB '87	Tokyo	JSUM	Toshio Wagai	Toshio Wagai (JSUM)
AFSUMB '89	Bali	ISUM	Willyarto Wibisono	Willyarto Wibisono (ISUM)
AFSUMB '92	Seoul	KSMU	Chu-Wan Kim	Chu-Wan Kim (KSMU)
AFSUMB '95	Beijing	SUM-CMA	Jian-Fan Ren	Hiroki Watanabe (Acting)
AFSUMB '98	Taipei	CTSUM	Hsi-Yao Chen	Hsi-Yao Chen (CTSUM)
AFSUMB 2001	Kuala Lumpur	MSUM	S. Raman	Hiroki Watanabe (JSUM)
AFSUMB 2004	Utsunomiya	JSUM	Kouichi Itoh	Kittipong V. (MUST)

the ceremony, the author was introduced to a gynecologist in the hospital, Dr. Kittipong Vairojanavong, who had been intensively involved in US for many years. As no US society existed in Thailand at the time, I recommended that one be organized urgently. He followed up the suggestion and the newly established Medical Ultrasonic Society of Thailand (MUST) was affiliated to AFSUMB shortly thereafter. He is now dedicating himself to AFSUMB as President-Elect, and to WFUMB as Vice-President I.

The complicated relationship between China (mainland) and Taiwan had a marked influence on AFSUMB. It is a basic policy of AFSUMB, as well as of WFUMB, that only one society can represent one country. As mentioned already, China was one of the original members of AFSUMB. China is large and its local areas are rather independent from each other. Numbers of small US organizations were, accordingly, to be found in some prominent cities even at that time. Luckily, the society joining AFSUMB from China was the Society of Ultrasound in Medicine of Chinese Medical Association (SUM-CMA), of which the President was Dr. Jian-Fang Ren. This society belongs directly to the CMA, which is a part of the Chinese government. Therefore, its legitimacy was substantial, in spite of its having only a few hundred members. This selection is thought to have been for the best, even looking back

now. Because of the legitimacy, however, a serious problem was to occur later.

On the other hand, in Taiwan, the Society of Ultrasound in Medicine of Republic of China (SUMROC) was established in the beginning of the 1980s, collecting many members and acting vividly. The society was enthusiastic about becoming affiliated to AFSUMB. However, if this was to happen, it would mean acknowledging that two different countries existed in one China, a situation not politically acceptable to either China or Taiwan. AFSUMB entrusted the author, then serving as the Secretary of AFSUMB for that term, to find a solution to the matter.

Firstly, the author visited the CMA office in Beijing and met Mr. Fu Qun, Director of International Liaison, CMA, with Dr. Ren. Mr. Fu was a competent young officer and stated that CMA would be able to recognize the society in Taiwan, if it could be proved that the society was not a national organization but rather a local assembly based in one of the cities in China, following the precedents. The name of the society would be the simplest way to prove the case. He suggested three acceptable candidates for the name. Use of the word "Taiwan" or to imply that it was a national body was strictly prohibited.

The author transmitted this information to the Taiwan side, suggesting the possibility of changing the name of the society. Fortunately, they were

Table 5. Officers and councilors of AFSUMB from 1998 to 2001

President	Hiroki Watanabe (Japan, JSUM)
President-Elect	Kittipong Vairojanavong (Thailand, MUST)
Vice-President	Fon-Jou Hsieh (Taipei, CTSUM)
Immediate Past-President	Hsieh Yao Chen (Taipei, CTSUM)
Secretary	Byung-Ihn Choi (Korea, KSMU)
Treasurer	Shoichi Senda (Japan, JSUM)
Administrative Councilors	Yong Ho Auh (Korea, KSMU) Ravi Chandran (Malaysia, MSUM) Chen-Wen Chiang (Taipei, CTSUM) Masunori Matsuzaki (Japan, JSUM) Melani Satiawan (Indonesia, ISUM)
Co-opted Councilors	Kanu G Bala (Bangladesh, BSU) CV Vanjani (India, IFUMB) Jin Xi Zhang (China, SUM-CMA)
Journal Editor	Yoshihide Chiba (Japan, JSUM)

flexible enough for one of the suggested candidates, Chinese Taipei Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (CTSUM), to be accepted after negotiation with the government. It took almost a year to get this answer.

The author again visited Beijing with the answer to successfully confirm the agreement of the China side. In the AFSUMB Administrative Council Meeting in October of 1988, the matter was carried unanimously, under the understanding that this was an exceptional case, in which the basic policy of AFSUMB did not apply. CTSUM developed thereafter into a large society with approximately 6,000 members, and has contributed a lot to the federation. They organized AFSUMB '98 very successfully. Their journal, *JMU*, was recently approved as the AFSUMB official organ.

There was an implicit agreement among the AFSUMB Councilors that the host country of the AFSUMB '95 Congress would be China, following Japan, Indonesia and Korea. Dr. Ren was appointed as the President-Elect of AFSUMB in 1989 to be the President of the congress concurrently, according to the agreement. Shortly thereafter, the well-known "Tiananmen Square" incident occurred, in which the Chinese military killed many students who were demonstrating in front of the gate. In China, a reshuffle of important positions in the government is very usual in such cases. Mr. Fu was demoted, while Dr. Ren was not able to return to his home country from the United States, where he stayed temporarily, though the actual reason for this was unclear. In the beginning, Dr. Ren made a succession of attempts to communicate with CMA and tried to attend the administrative meetings of AFSUMB directly from the United States. However, he finally ceased to correspond with the AFSUMB office. This meant that AFSUMB, still being in the very early stages of organization, lost its next President and the next congress venue at the same time. We faced the most serious crisis in the history of AFSUMB.

As the first step in the contingency plan, Professor Wagai (Journal Editor for that term) made an urgent visit to Beijing to find out what was the new situation in the Chinese government, because he had many good friends in China. He confirmed that CMA still wished to organize AFSUMB '95, in spite of the changes in personnel. In order to try to repair the relationship with other countries that were severely disrupted by the incident, the Chinese government itself was strongly promoting such international

conventions at that time. The author (Secretary for that term) followed up on the matter by undertaking negotiations in Beijing with the new Director of CMA, Mr. Gu Dezhang, and arrived at the following solution: 1) Dr. Ren's name would be kept as Honorary President; 2) the Acting Presidency would be taken by Professor Zhi-Zhang Xu, who was a leading US researcher in Shanghai (and entirely politics-free); and 3) all practical management would be covered directly by CMA.

Mr. Gu was a typical able officer, who understood the situation very well and was able to see things through quickly. The author was impressed with the excellence of the Chinese officers who, like Mr. Gu, worked up front in the governmental offices, as well as Mr. Fu, mentioned previously.

The engagement was fully met and AFSUMB '95 was magnificently staged in a newly built convention center in Beijing, with more than 2,000 participants gathered from various parts of China. Above all, the splendid official banquet in the People's Grand Hall, reached by tens of buses rushing together without stopping by traffic control, was the highlight of the congress. The vacant AFSUMB Presidency was assumed by the author, Vice-President for that term, according to the constitution. Unfortunately, Dr. Ren could not even attend the congress.

The basic policy of AFSUMB, specifying just one society from each country, has caused difficulties on many occasions. One such occasion was the "Indian problem". The Indian society first affiliated to AFSUMB was "Ultrasonic Society of India" (USI), for which the representative was Dr. VR Singh. It later became clear that this society was, in fact, a private assembly in a technical institute in New Delhi and was without medical members, of which the size was not adequate to represent a country like India. Dr. Singh was a person with many difficulties, and he was released by the institute a few years later. Moreover, the society never paid its annual fees to AFSUMB. Regardless, the problem was revealed when it was learned that another Indian society called "Indian Society of Medical Ultrasound" (ISMU), a country-wide organization with many medical members and headquartered in Bombay, had already been formally accepted as a WFUMB-affiliated national body. Like JSUM before the organization of AFSUMB, many national bodies were independently affiliated to WFUMB in the past. If the "one society from one country" policy

had been strictly maintained, AFSUMB including USI could not be affiliated to WFUMB including ISMU.

Therefore, the author, who was the Secretary of AFSUMB for that term, had to become involved in the matter. In the summer of 1990, he visited New Delhi and Bombay with a proposal that both societies would be joined in an organization to be called "Indian Federation for Societies of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology" (IFSUMB), which could be affiliated to AFSUMB as a national body from India. ISMU accepted the proposal immediately, while USI initially presented some difficulties and then failed to follow up with correspondence thereafter. Ultimately, what happened was that ISMU only changed its name to IFSUMB. Nevertheless, AFSUMB, which had somehow resolved both the "China-Taiwan problem" and the "Indian problem", was officially affiliated to WFUMB on January 1, 1992, as the largest federation in that body.

The "Pakistan problem" was much more complicated. From this country, two different societies having the same name, "Ultrasound Society of Pakistan" (USP), requested to be affiliated to AFSUMB almost simultaneously. One of them was a group led by Dr. Musarat Hasan in Karachi, while the other was a group led by Professor Saad Rana

in Islamabad. Moreover, both groups had received formal recognition from the Pakistan government in the same way. AFSUMB had no alternative but to watch and wait. The problem was finally automatically solved due to the inactivity of the Islamabad group nearly 10 years later. USP, with Dr. Hasan as its President, recently joined AFSUMB.

The situation in the Philippines was an example contradicting another basic policy of AFSUMB, as well as WFUMB, that: "An affiliated society should not consist of only one specialty". The "Ultrasound Society of Philippines", which first made an application for affiliation to AFSUMB, was a section of a radiology society, in which membership was restricted to radiologists. Another society, the "Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Clinical Medicine" (PSUCM), which included different specialties, was therefore affiliated, although the majority of its leaders were gynecologists.

At present, the 12 US societies shown in Table 6 are affiliated with AFSUMB. In addition, other national bodies from Mongolia, Cambodia and Vietnam, for example, are now being discussed in terms of potential affiliation. It is thus expected that the number of countries in Asia who are represented in AFSUMB will increase in the near future.

**Table 6.** Affiliated societies and membership of AFSUMB

Affiliated society	Office	1999 Members
Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine (JSUM)	Tokyo	10,136
Chinese Taipei Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (CTSUM)	Taipei	4,811
Korean Society of Medical Ultrasound (KSMU)	Seoul	1,050
Society of Ultrasound in Medicine of Chinese Medical Association (SUMCHA)	Beijing	293
Medical Ultrasound Society of Singapore (MUS)	Singapore	205
Medical Ultrasonic Society of Thailand (MUST)	Bangkok	180
Malaysian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (MSUM)	Kuala Lumpur	165
Indonesian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (ISUM)	Jakarta	140
Indian Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (IFUMB)	Mumbai	120
Ultrasound Society of Pakistan (USP)	Karachi	102
Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography (BSU)	Dhaka	100
Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Clinical Medicine (PSUCM)	Manila	50
	Total	17,352

#### CONCLUSION

Although there are many international medical organizations, the author is not aware of any organization other than WFUMB with a design plan on such a grand scale that the whole world is covered by six area federations, each consisting of many national bodies. Drawing up a design is easy, but it is astonishing that this design has already been realized and is very active.

It is being revealed, however, that there is a dissociation of needs for the federations among the various countries, with the increase in the number of affiliated societies. The main interest is in the exchange of information on new technologies in the developed countries, while an

urgent need for machines and education is noticed in the developing countries. The current most important task for WFUMB and AFSUMB must be how to respond to these varied demands appropriately and in time.

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# Twenty-two Years of AFSUMB

Hiroki Watanabe, M.D.

Principal, Kyoto Central Nursing School  
Honorary Professor, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine  
and Meiji University of Oriental Medicine  
Past-President, WFUMB and AFSUMB

# Pioneer Societies for Ultrasound

- AIUM (American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine) 1952
- JSUM (Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine) 1961
- SIDUO (Societas Internationalis pro Diagnostica Ultrasonica in Ophthalmologia) 1964
- World Congress of Ultrasonic Diagnostics in Medicine = SIDUO III (Wien) 1969
- 2nd World Congress (Rotterdam) 1973

# How AFSUMB was organized

- **First World Congress of Ultrasonic diagnostics in Medicine (Vienna, 1969).**

Even in this time, some national bodies had been created in USA, Japan, Germany and Australia.

————→ Concept of “world federation”.

- **EFSUMB was established in 1969.**

As one of the geographic federation according to the concept.

- **Second World Congress (Rotterdam, 1973).**

The establishment of WFUMB was declared in this Congress.

- **First WFUMB Congress (San Francisco, 1976).**
- Demand for other geographic federations.

## Societies Joined the First WFUMB Congress in San Francisco (1976)

- AIUM (American Institute) = **Host society**
- EFSUMB (European Federation)
- JSUM (Japan Society)
- ASUM (Australian Society)
- SIDUO (Ophthalmologic Society)
- Others (Individuals)

## Ultrasound Societies in Asia in the Early 1980s

- JSUM (Japan Society)
- SUMCMA (Beijing, China)
- KSMU (Korean Society)
- ISUM (Indonesian Society)
- MSUM (Malaysian Society)
- USI (New Dehli, India)
  - / ISMU (Mumbai, India)
- **SUMROC (Taipei, Taiwan)**

# Preparatory Meetings for Organizing AFSUMB

- 1 st Preparatory Meeting (Sydney, 1985)
  - Organizing Preparatory Committee.
- 2nd Preparatory Meeting (Kobe, 1985)
  - AFSUMB Constitution.
  - Ad hoc Administrative Council Meeting.
  - Establishment of AFSUMB.
  - 1st Congress in Tokyo

with JSUM 50th Memorial Congress in 1987

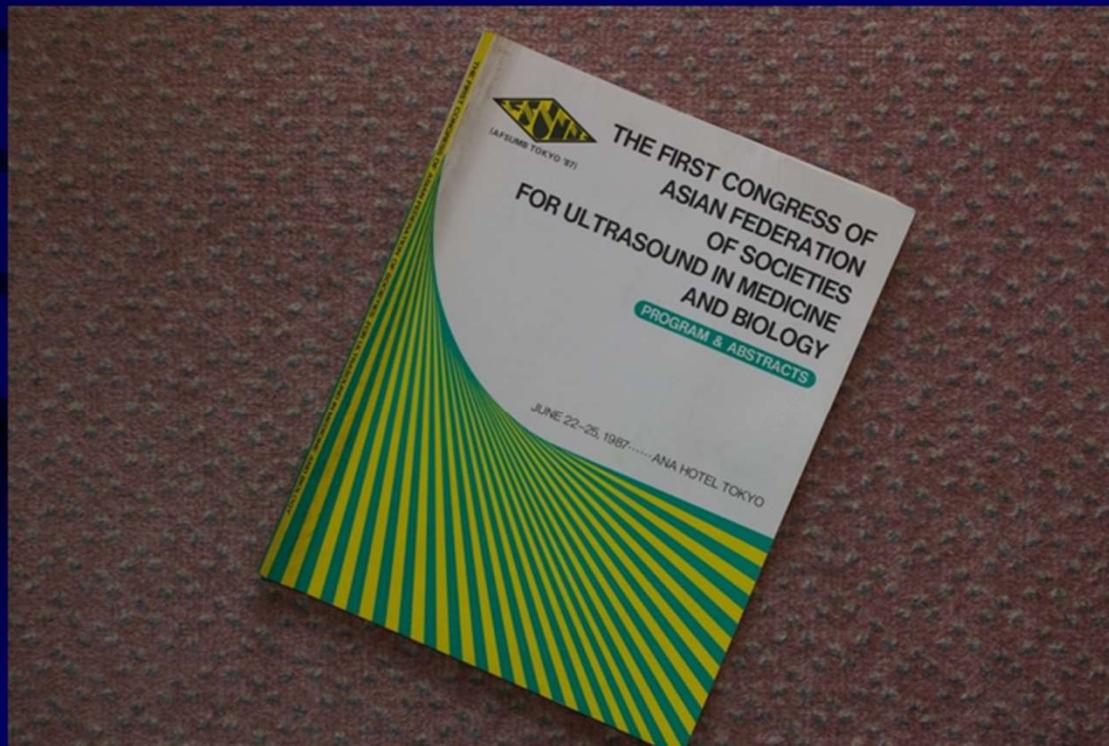
## Ad hoc AFSUMB Administrators (1985-1987)

- President: Toshio Wagai (Japan)
- President-Elect: Willyarto Wibisono (Indonesia)
- Vice-President: Chu-Wan Kim (Korea)
- Secretary: Morimichi Fukuda (Japan)
- Treasurer: Hiroki Watanabe (Japan)
- Councillors: Jian-Fang Ren (China)  
Shing-Kwee Ong (Malaysia)  
V.R. Singh (India)

# First AFSUMB Congress

June 22-25, 1987, Tokyo

AFSUMB & Congress President : T.Wagai





# THE 1st CONGRESS OF ASIAN FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY

JUNE 22 - 25, 1987 TOKYO





THE 25th ANNIVERSARY AND 50TH MEETING OF JAPAN SOCIETY OF  
ULTRASONICS IN MEDICINE  
THE 1st CONGRESS OF ASIAN FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR  
ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY







## The most difficult political problem for AFSUMB

### “Beijing-Taipei Matter” (1986-88)

- Society of Ultrasound in Medicine of Chinese Medical Association (SUMCMA, Beijing)  
belongs to CMA (a National Board)
- Society of Ultrasound in Medicine of **Republic of China** (SUMROC, Taipei, 1980s) →

Two different countries existed in one China

↓  
**Chinese Taipei** Society of Ultrasound in Medicine

# 2nd and 3rd AFSUMB Congress

July, 1989, Bali and August, 1992, Seoul

AFSUMB & Congress President : W.S.Wibisono and C.W.Kim

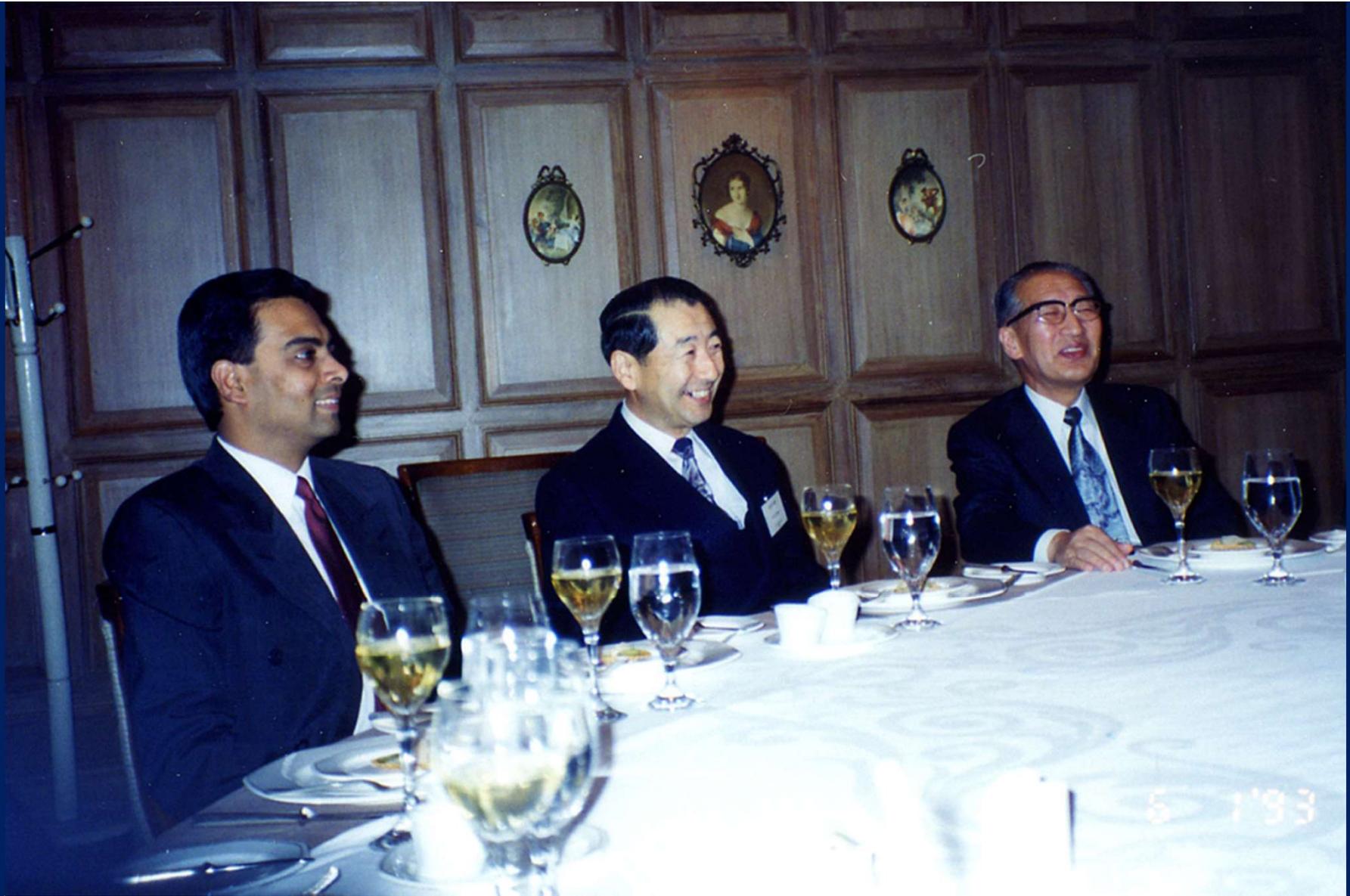


## The worst days of AFSUMB

### “Tian-Men Square Matter” (1989-95)

- Scheduled host country of AFSUMB '95 : China
  - Dr. Ren : President-Elect in 1989
- Tian-men Square Accident (June,1989)
  - Chinese military killed many students demonstrating.
  - Dr. Ren could not return to China from USA.
  - **AFSUMB lost the President and the Congress venue.**
- Negotiation with Chinese Medical Association
  - Dr. Ren → Honorary President of the Congress
  - Dr. Xu → Acting President of the Congress





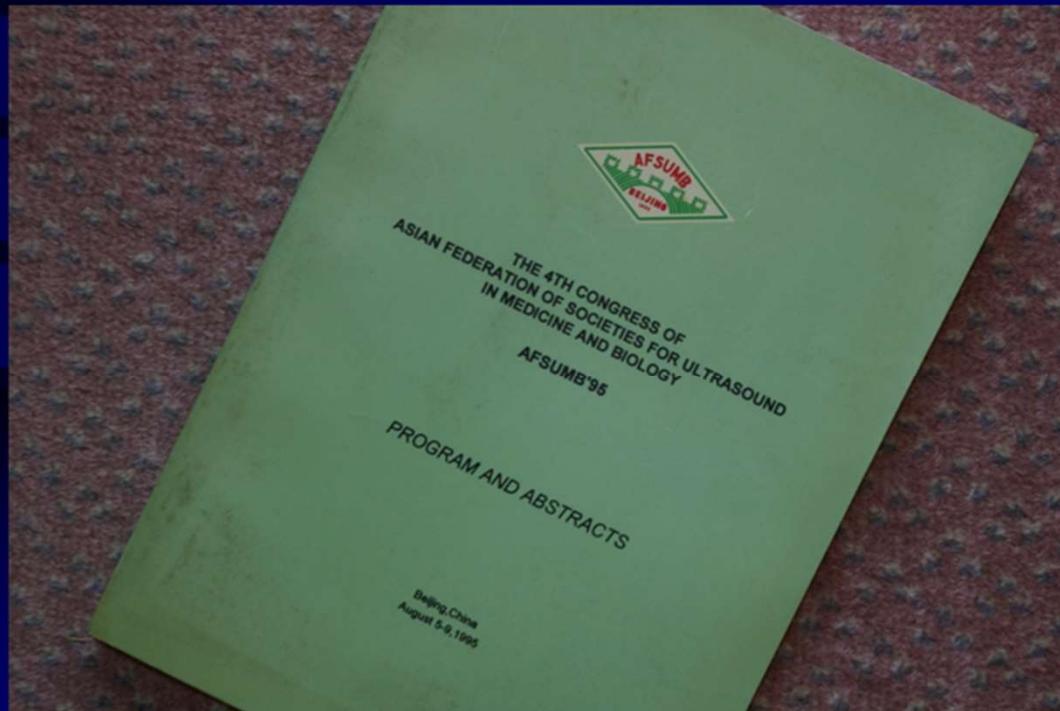


# 4th AFSUMB Congress

August 5-9, 1995, Beijing

AFSUMB Acting President (Vice-President) : H. Watanabe

Congress President : J.F. Ren    Congress Acting President : Z.Z. Xu







## AFSUMB Congresses

Congress	Venue	Congress President	AFSUMB President
• AFSUMB'87	Tokyo	T. Wagai	T. Wagai
• AFSUMB'89	Bali	W. Wibisono	W. Wibisono
• AFSUMB'92	Seoul	C.W. Kim	C.W. Kim
• AFSUMB'95	Beijing	J.F. Ren	H.Watanabe (Acting)
• AFSUMB'98	Taipei	H.Y. Chen	H.Y. Chen
• AFSUMB 2001	Kuala Lumpur	S. Raman	H. Watanabe
• AFSUMB 2004	Utsunomiya	K. Itoh	K.Vairojanavong
• AFSUMB 2007	Bangkok	W.Bhothisuwan	B.I. Choi

## Present Officers and Councillors of AFSUMB (1998-2001)

- President: Hiroki Watanabe (Japan)
- President-Elect: Kittipong Vairojanavong (Thailand)
- Vice-President: Fon-Jou Hsieh (Taipei)
- Immediate Past-President: Hsieh-Yao Chen (Taipei)
- Secretary: Byung-Ihn Choi (Korea)
- Treasurer: Shoichi Senda (Japan)
- Councillors:
  - Yong Ho Auh (Korea), Ravi Chandran (Malaysia), Chen-Wen Chiang (Taipei),  
Masunori Matsuzaki (Japan), Melani Satiewan (Indonesia)
- Co-opted Councillors:
  - Kanu G. Bala (Bangladesh), C.V. Vanjani (India), Jin Xi Zhang (China)
- Journal Editor: Yoshihide Chiba (Japan)

## “Indian Matter”

- Ultrasonic society of India (USI, New Dehli)
    - Affiliated to AFSUMB
  - Indian society of Medical Ultrasound (ISMU, Bombay)
    - Affiliated to WFUMB
- ↓
- Indian **Federation** for Societies of Ultrasound in Medicine and biology (IFUMB)

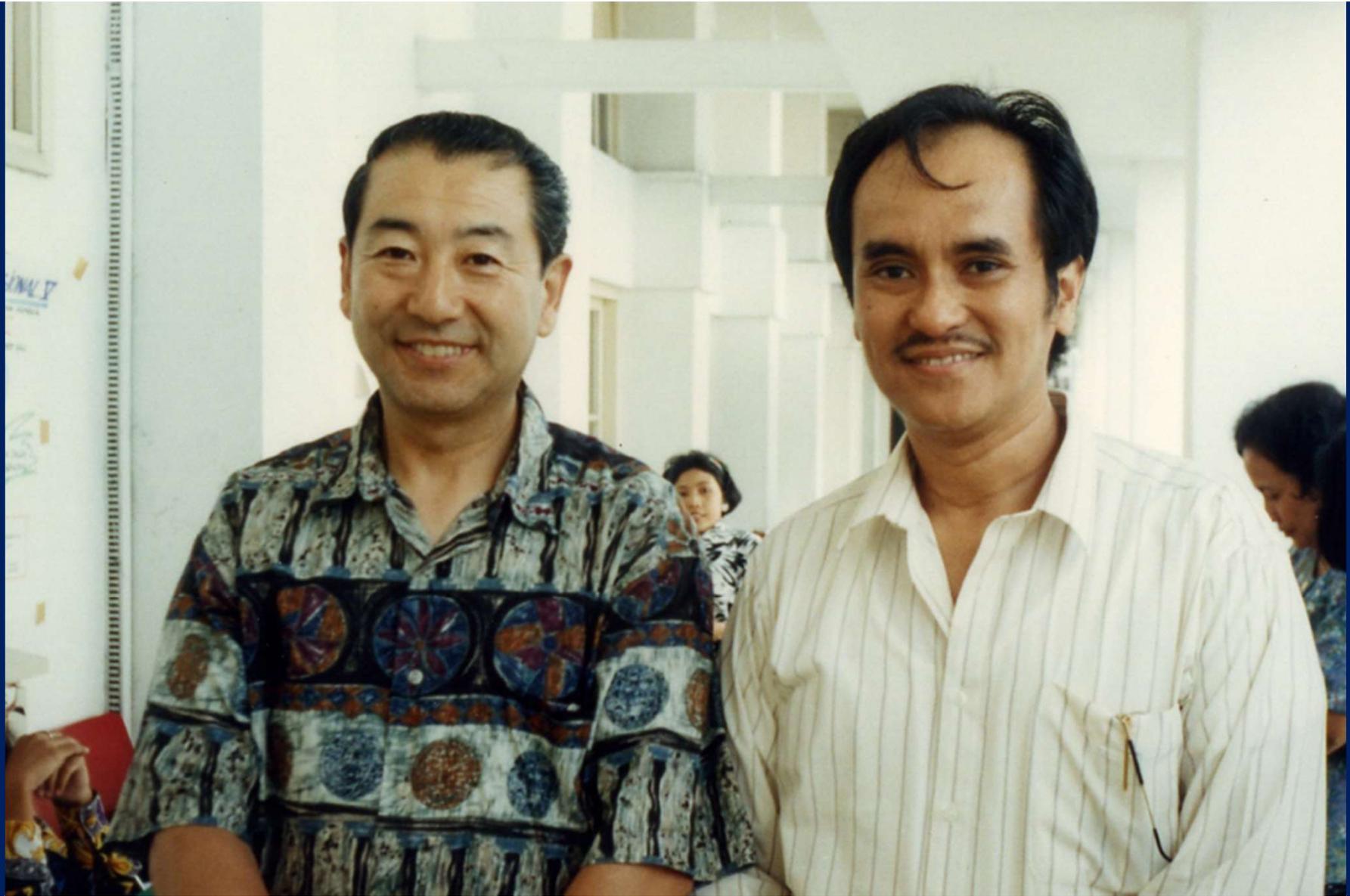
## “Pakistan Matter”

- Ultrasound Society of Pakistan (USP, Karachi)
- Ultrasound Society of Pakistan (USP, Islamabad)
  - Islamabad group became inactive 10 years later
  - Karachi group was affiliated to AFSUMB/WFUMB

## “Philippines Matter”

- Ultrasound Society of Philippines (Manila)
  - Membership was restricted to only radiologists
- Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Clinical Medicine (PSUCM, Manila)
  - Different specialties →

Affiliated to AFSUMB / WFUMB



Prof. Hiroki Watanabe

Plenary speech before 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TSUM (October 19, 2014)

### From SUMROC to CTSUM

#### — A brief history of politics in ultrasound —

① First of all, I congratulate your society for its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I thank you very much for your favor to me to be invited to this memorable convention. It is my great honor to give this lecture as a plenary speaker.

② I have been engaged with the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB), as well as with the Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB) for many years as various kinds of officer. Owing to responsibility for these positions, I particularly concerned with affiliation matters of your society to international organizations from 1986 to 1991. In this special occasion, I would like to talk on this somewhat very delicate events happened in a certain duration in your history, from the viewpoint of the moderator.

③ The story starts from October, 1986. On that time, I was invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> SUMROC convention as a guest speaker. This was my first visiting to Taiwan.

④ Late Professor Hsi Yao Chen, who was the Founding President of SUMROC, was the key person of the story. When I arrived in the previous tiny airport of Taipei, Prof. Chen kindly picked me up by himself and took me to the hotel by his car. Since I was quite ignorant who was he and what was his position, we made a chat on common topics in English for an hour. Then, when the car was arriving at the hotel, he suddenly spoke to me in very fluent and informal Japanese: "Tokorodene, Sensei!" (By the way, Professor!). Can you imagine how I was surprised at the time? Although I had heard that many senior Taiwanese spoke Japanese well, it was only a superficial knowledge. Moreover, I had had no experience to talk in Japanese in foreign countries before!

His Japanese belonged to that spoken in high society in the northern area of Tokyo before the war and sounded to me as if my late grandparents talked.

Modern Japanese language has changed a lot and has been polluted by various dirty expressions in these TV era. I recognized how classic Japanese was beautiful, making conversation with him.

By the way, it was a serious question for me why Professor Chen used English when we first met, instead of far much easier Japanese to the both. In a later occasion, I told one of my American friends this story. She pointed out to me: "You were tested!"

⑤ I was deeply impressed by Taiwan. On my diary, I described as follows: What I received in my first visit to Taiwan was an emotion that this country must be special, never mixed up with other countries. I felt that a classic Japanese culture was still breathing here, for example, in a row of houses and streets or in people's routine actions. I really hoped to contribute something to this country.

Professor Chen told me that SUMROC wished to be affiliated to AFSUMB and, if it was difficult from political problems, at least some presentation of papers would like to be possible in the Federation Congress.

⑥ To clarify the international situation in the field of medical ultrasound at that period, I have to explain how WFUMB and AFSUMB were organized.

⑦ The oldest ultrasound society in the world is the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), of which origin goes back to 1952. The second one is the Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine (JSUM), established in 1961.

The World Congress of Ultrasonic Diagnostics in Medicine, held in Vienna in 1969, is thought to be the first event for ultrasound at inter-national level. This was organized as a part of the third meeting of SIDUO, which was a special ultrasound society for ophthalmology, started in 1964. Then among individuals gathered in this Congress, an idea was created that a joint international organization, to consist of national or federational units, should be organized as a matter of urgency. Responding to this idea, the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB) was established in 1969.

The planned organization was realized at the second World Congress in Rotterdam in 1973. Its official name was decided as the WFUMB and its

first congress was set for 3 years later in San Francisco.

⑧ The first WFUMB Congress was successfully held in San Francisco in 1976, hosted by AIUM and with the mutual cooperation of other four already existed organizations. From then onwards, the organizational activities of geographic federations throughout the continents of the world accelerated. The first candidate was AFSUMB.

⑨ In Asia in the early 1980s, ultrasound societies existed, or were being organized, in some countries shown on the slide. Prof. Toshio Wagai, one of the worldwide pioneers of ultrasound and who organized the second WFUMB Congress in Miyazaki in 1979 as the WFUMB President, began to construct AFSUMB with the 6 national societies in Japan, China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and India. SUMROC was established in 1984 but the news had not arrived in Prof. Wagai's office. Preparatory meetings for organizing AFSUMB were held twice in Sydney and Kobe in 1985.

⑩ The first AFSUMB Congress took place in Tokyo in June, 1987, in association with the 50<sup>th</sup> Memorial Annual Meeting of JSUM. In this picture, Late Prof. Horace Thompson, who was the WFUMB President, made a congratulatory address in the opening ceremony.

My first visiting to Taiwan was 8 months before the AFSUMB opening. Prof. Chen already knew this scenario very well. So, right now I suspect that the main purpose of his invitation to me might provably be to check me as one of candidates for the moderator between SUMROC and AFSUMB.

⑪ Those ages of the 1970s and the 1980s were particularly difficult decades for politics between Taiwan and the Mainland China. Anything against the policy of "One China" was contradicted by the both sides. In such situation, I decided to begin my small battle against politics, responding to Prof. Chen's expectation.

⑫ Here you can see my letter to Prof. Chen on December 15, 1986, two months after my returning. It was described that: In an international meeting in Kyoto in November, I incidentally met with Prof. Jian-Fang Ren, President of the society in the Mainland, China (SUMCMA), and we

discussed the matter of affiliation of SUMROC to AFSUMB. Recently he wrote me on the matter, proposing 4 candidates for the name of your society, since the term "ROC" was not recognized by the government. If you can change the name to one of them, your society will be accepted to AFSUMB without any problem.

⑬ The proposed 4 names by Prof. Ren are shown in the red square in his letter on December 12, 1986. However, those names were rejected by the letter from Prof. Chen on December 25, 1986, because the term "Taiwan" meant "Taiwan section in China", which spoiled the standpoint of ROC.

⑭ In parallel with this movement, Prof. Chen consulted with the Ministry of Foreign Ministry, Taiwan, and proposed three candidates of the name, which are shown in the red square in his letter to me on December 12, 1986. However, those names were rejected by the letter from Prof. Ren on January 15, 1987, describing that all the names could not be accepted since they became confused at "two China". Anyway, Prof. Ren was another key person of the story.

⑮ Prof. Wagai, who had been appointed as the Founder President of AFSUMB, wrote to me on January 16, 1987, complaining that although he received a telephone call from Prof. Chen, it was difficult for Taiwan society to be affiliated to AFSUMB with full members for some duration. Prof. Wagai had a good connection with ultrasound people in Mainland China and was worried about their feeling against Taiwan.

⑯ On the same time I received a letter from Prof. Morimichi Fukuda, Secretary of AFSUMB, on February 2, 1987. He sympathized about my unfruitful effort to moderate between Taiwan and Mainland China and remarked on his suspicion that Taiwan might be separated from the affiliation to WFUMB, in consideration of each population. In this way, general recognition inside AFSUMB leaders was not so favorable to the Taiwan side in those days.

⑰ On the other hand, the similar dispute was being done on the affiliation of Taiwan to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). After the Second

World War, two Olympic Committees were set in each Mainland and Taiwan independently in 1954 but the Mainland Committee withdrew from IOC in 1958. However, in 1976, the Taiwan Committee also withdrew from IOC, because delegates from Taiwan were called as "Formosa". Then, after careful negotiations for more than several years, the Taiwan team returned the Olympic game by the name of "Chinese Taipei" in 1984. This tactics was applied widely in different areas as "Olympic form".

⑮ While the first AFSUMB Congress was held in June, 1987, in Tokyo, so often I made a chat with Prof. Ren, the President of the Mainland society. Occasionally the topic covered the Olympic game in the next year in Seoul, then it extended to the possibility whether the "Olympic form" could be applied to dissolve our common problem.

On the last day of the Congress, I received suddenly a phone call in my hotel room from Prof. Ren. He proposed two candidates for the name including the "Olympic form" and added his opinion that a high possibility could be expected for the Mainland government to agree to this idea.

Following to his suggestion, I wrote two official letters with the same content, one to Prof. Ren and another to Prof. Chen on July 16, 1987, with a proposal of those two names.

⑯ In my letter to Prof. Wagai on September 11, 1987, I complained about too late response from the both side for near two months.

But two weeks later, I received a telephone call from Prof. Chen and was informed that the Taiwan government accepted one of the two names, that was, "Chinese Taipei Society of Ultrasound in Medicine". Immediately I wrote a letter to Prof. Ren to let him know the news and to urge response from the Mainland side.

⑰ Prior to the arrival of my letter, however, Prof. Ren had sent a letter to me. The answer was also "Yes". The government of the Mainland side accepted either of the two names I proposed, since the principle of "There is only a China and Taiwan is a part of China" had been recognized.

In this way, the problem of the name of Taiwan society was resolved. Late Prof. Horace Thompson, the President of WFUMB in that period, kindly congratulated the successful resolution on the matter in his letter on

November 11. Tomy hoped additionally that, reflecting the then complicated political situation, the differences between China and Taiwan could be resolved, at least in the ultrasound field by this mechanism.

21 In November, 1987, I visited Beijing to discuss with the staff of the China Medical Association on the affiliation of the Taiwan society. In the meeting, they confirmed that the matter of naming was solved and welcomed the affiliation of CTSUM to AFSUMB. The AFSUMB Board would accept that the both societies were the representatives of only a China.

22 Here, false names and a correct name are shown, which appeared throughout the mediation process. Each of the names had had each special meanings. From my viewpoint at this moment, however, I have no idea how differ between them.

For this time, invited to the Congress, I knew that the name of your society again changed recently to the "Taiwan Society of Ultrasound in Medicine". This sounds very normal and healthy. I am very glad to learn that you have escaped from the trap of politics.

23 Thus we cleared the matter of naming but the next matter was the affiliation of the Taiwan society to AFSUMB.

24 Previously in February, 1987, Prof. Chen gave me a letter. He quoted an example in the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), namely, FIGO made an amendment of the Constitution to accept a society in Mainland China in addition to Taiwan, as an exceptional circumstances. He recommended that AFSUMB could follow this system. Then he added that if you showed a favorable complexion to the COMMUNISTS (中共) from the beginning, they might always say "No".

Prof. Chen was a tough negotiator. Sometimes I felt that the Mainland side was much flexible than him.

25 Prof. Chen's recommendation was surely against the original and basic policy of WFUMB, as well as AFSUMB, that only one society could represent one country. In WFUMB By-laws, it had been defined clearly that "Not more than one such group or society in a country may become affiliated".

The policy had been applied very strictly, especially in the early stage of WFUMB, therefore AFSUMB also followed it.

This definition had often raised difficult matters in AFSUMB. In India, in Pakistan, as well as in Philippines, so many times we faced to this dilemma and made our best effort to solve them by different ways suitable for each case.

26 In a letter from Prof. Wagai to me on October 15, 1987, he congratulated to get a consent to the naming but worried about the conflict with the "One society from one country" policy. For that reason, he proposed that Taiwan would be an associate member and for the representative to be an observer, for a while.

27 As to Prof. Wagai's anxiety, I had already made a trick in the AFSUMB Constitution, when it was launched in 1985. I was one of the three Constitution Committee members at the time. In the meeting, I insisted to insert two words: "in principle", into the statement on the "One society from one country" policy in the original WFUMB By-laws, of which we almost copied to draw up the AFSUMB Constitution. Here a rough manuscript of AFSUMB By-laws, rewritten from the WFUMB original, is shown. The two words are added (indicate).

Owing to that trick, the affiliation of CTSUM was carried after serious discussion, in the AFSUMB Administrative Council Meeting on January 27, 1988 in Bali, under the understanding that this was an out of principle case, in which the basic policy of AFSUMB did not apply.

28 The next step was how to affiliate AFSUMB, which included two societies from one country, to WFUMB.

29 In my letter on May 6, 1988, I informed to Prof. Chen that the affiliation of CTSUM was carried unanimously by mail ballot of the AFSUMB General Assembly just completed. Then I complained that the next action was the affiliation of AFSUMB to WFUMB. For this matter, I visited Dr. George Kossoff, Immediate Past President, WFUMB, in Atlanta, to ask his opinion. George told me that it might be very difficult for both CTSUM and SUMCMA to be affiliated to WFUMB simultaneously, because an amendment of the

WFUMB Constitution would be obligatory.

30 Following to George's advice, I pushed WFUMB leaders. Very luckily, WFUMB faced to amend the Constitution at the time, for changing its basis from national units to federation units. We got a success to insert a statement that "Normally, and except by resolution of the General Assembly in respect of a particular situation" into the definition of membership of newly amended WFUMB Constitution. Our case of "Two representatives of only a China" just corresponded to an abnormal particular situation.

In the WFUMB General Assembly held on October 19, 1988, in Washington, DC, the amendment of Constitution was carried unanimously.

Then the affiliation of AFSUMB to WFUMB was officially accepted in the WFUMB General Assembly held on September 3, 1991, in Copenhagen.

31 Late Dr. David Robinson, Secretary, WFUMB, wrote me in his letter of November 21, 1991, on the matter of affiliation of AFSUMB to WFUMB. Dave pointed out that the matter was urgent, that both WFUMB and AFSUMB Constitutions allowed duplicate membership under "abnormal" circumstances, and that Ballot had been carried. AFSUMB took up its affiliation to WFUMB by the date of January 1, 1992.

In such a manner, my small battle against politics finished in a happy end with warm cooperation by so many friends, colleagues and officers.

32 The first AFSUMB Congress in China was held in Beijing in August, 1995. Unfortunately, however, Prof. Jian-Fan Ren, who was another key person of the story, could not attend the Congress, because he had been expelled from the Mainland government after the "Tian-an-men Gate" incident happened in April, 1989. In spite of his absence, the Congress was organized perfectly by the China Medical Association with thousands attendants from everywhere in China.

The following AFSUMB Congress was held very successfully in October, 1998, in Taipei, under the presidencyship of Prof. Chen. In 2017, three years later than now, WFUMB Congress will come to Taipei. I congratulate your society again, for its international leadership achieved by your own effort for many years.

Thank you very much for your attention.