



Visit to the Japanese Pediatric Society Tokyo, November 17-20, 2006

Adenike Grange and Jane Schaller were guests of the Japanese Pediatric Society in November. Both were invited speakers at a conference on childhood HIV/AIDS which the Japanese Pediatric Society presented in cooperation with UNICEF Japan on November 19th. UNICEF Japan is one of the large UNICEF organizations from a donor country, and this was an important link. A full report of the conference on HIV/AIDS will be made by Yoshikato Eto, organizer of the conference. Most speakers were drawn from the Japanese pediatric and scientific communities, with presentations also from IPA and from UNICEF Japan. This conference, held on a Sunday, was well attended by an audience that stayed through the day until after 6pm. Congratulations to Professor Eto and his colleagues for this fine event!

At least two other Asian societies, the Indian Academy of Pediatrics and the Thai Pediatric Society, have also sponsored workshops and events related to childhood HIV/AIDS. These societies can help to guide IPA in defining action areas appropriate in the field of HIV/AIDS.

In addition, Nike and Jane met with the boards and officials of the Japanese Pediatric Society, and were informed of their main activities and interests. The Japanese Pediatric Society made a generous offer to devise a system to support colleagues from the developing world to attend the 25th ICP in Athens. This suggestion of pediatric societies providing support for colleagues from the developing world to attend our Athens congress is a welcome one indeed. Jane and Professor Eto also visited government ministries to speak about issues important to the Japanese Pediatric Society, and to child health to Japan.

We congratulate the Japanese Pediatric Society for its good work, and thank it for its graciousness in hosting us.

Recommendations for IPA:

- It is important for IPA officials and committee members to be in close touch with our members National Pediatric Societies. We should try to maximize these experiences.
- Good ideas come from our Member Societies. We must capture them and act on them.
- We should pursue the concept of sponsorship by pediatric societies for colleagues from the developing world to attend the 25th ICP.

Submitted by J Schaller, Executive Director
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