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The 12th Asian Conference of Nutrition

The 12th Asian Congress of Nutrition was held in Yokohama at the PACIFICO Yokohama Convention Complex from May 14 to 18, 2015. The topic was 'Nutrition and Food for Longevity: For the Well-Being of All'. Two members of the IUNS Council represented IUNS. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Professor Teruo Miyazawa, is now President of FANS (Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies) for the next four years and a member of the IUNS Council. Professor Helmut Heseker, Treasurer of IUNS, attended the congress and represented the IUNS President, Dr. Anna Lartey, presenting a message from her.
Professor Teruo Miyazawa, in his congress report, extended his cordial thanks to all the participants and the organizing committee, business corporations and foundations who supported it both physically and intellectually. The congress was the biggest ever on nutrition in Asia, with 4,162 participants from 52 countries, including Japan. Their initial purpose was to engage Japanese societies on food and nutrition and advance their research. Hosting ACN 2015 and inviting IUNS-ICN 2021 was a vital part of this purpose. Participants remarked how younger researchers were very active and how much they energized the congress. Professor Miyazawa was confident that they will lead the congress and research into a more global and brighter future. The Young Investigator Award, Urakami Foundation Travel Award, ACN 2015 Travel Award offered by IUNS, made a great contribution by subsidising 72 young researchers to attend. The congress programme was excellent, thanks to the programme committee and included the following lectures:

Professor Teruo Miyazawa of Tohoku University, Japan, gave the **Presidential Lecture** on Membrane Lipid Peroxidation in Human Nutrition and Aging

Plenary Lectures included:
- Leptin and the Regulation of Food Intake and Body Weight by Professor Jeffrey Friedman, Rockefeller University, USA
- Sciences of Nutrition and Functional Foods in Special Reference to Sensory Recognition by Professor Keiko Abe, The University of Tokyo, Japan

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- The Present Role of Industrial Food Processing in Food Systems and Its Implications for Controlling the Obesity Pandemic by Professor Carlos A. Monteiro, University of São Paulo, Brazil
- Multi-Stakeholders and Multi-Strategic Approaches for Food and Nutrition Security by Professor Kraisid Tontisirin, Mahidol University, Thailand
- Chemistry for Safeguarding Marine Resources from Natural Contaminants by Professor Takeshi Yasumoto, Tohoku University, Japan

The 13 Educational Lectures included:

- The Importance of Inter-Tissue Communication Mediated by NAMPT/NAD+/SIRT1 in Mammalian Aging/Longevity Control: Is Anti-Aging Intervention Realistic? by Professor Shin-ichiro Imai, Washington University School of Medicine, USA
- The Impact of Overweight and Obesity on Adolescence: Consequences on Metabolic Biomarkers by Professor Ascension Marcos, Institute of Food Science, Technology and Nutrition, Spain
- Nutrition and Health Promotion – From Molecular to Physiological Modulation by Professor Sue-Joan Chang, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
- Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for Southeast Asia: An Analysis of Key Messages by Professor E. Siong Tee, Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition Network, Malaysia
- Why Do Behavior Interventions Fail? Insights from Behavioral Economics by Professor Ichiro Kawachi, Harvard University, USA
- Food and Nutrition Security for Healthy Aging by Professor Mark L Wahlqvist, Zhejiang University, China
- Achieving Coherence for Addressing the Double Burden of Malnutrition: A Global Challenge by Dr. Chizuru Nishida, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO
- Obesity Epidemic in Asia: Issues and Challenges by Professor Mohd Ismail Noor, Taylor's University, Malaysia
- Nutrient Standards by Professor Hee Young Paik, Seoul National University, Korea
- The Early Life of Origins of Non-Communicable Diseases: An Overview of Recent Advances by Professor Graham C. Burdge, University of Southampton, UK
- There is an Obesity Metabolic Program in Muscle by Professor G. Lynis Dohm, East Carolina University, USA
- Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics: The New Paradigm for Optimizing Health and Preventing Diseases by Professor Michael Fenech, CSIRO Food and Nutrition Australia
- Type 2 Diabetes in Asians: Can Diet Make a Difference? Professor Jeyakumar Henry, Clinical Nutrition Research Centre, Singapore Institute of Clinical Sciences, A*STAR, Singapore

The FANS Members' Report at the conference was an innovation in the proceedings and was favourably received by the FANS members. The opening ceremony, welcome party, congress dinner, and closing ceremony were all excellent, including the thundering beats of traditional drums at the dinner and the flashback movie played at the closing ceremony. Professor Migazawa concluded his report by saying that he was so grateful for this opportunity to organize such an unforgettable, excellent and uniquely Japanese congress and that they would now begin preparing for ICN 2021. He will do his best working on issues related to food and nutrition in Asia for four years to come as the president of FANS.

At this conference FANS also expressed their commitment to supporting the promotion of nutritional sciences in Asia. Prior to the ACN 2015 it was recognized that due to financial reasons and other issues, there were countries and regions whose academic societies

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are affiliated with the FANS but whose representatives are sometimes unable to participate in the Asian Congress of Nutrition (ACN). Therefore, as part of a new initiative for this regular session, representatives of affiliated nutrition societies throughout Asia were invited to come together and hold country and regional reports. Given the common understanding among attendees of the unique nutrition issues facing each individual country or region, these reports presented an opportunity to formulate a plan of action for addressing these issues. The experiment was intended to contribute to the development of nutrition in not only Asia, but the world. Representatives from 17 nations and regions assembled and held in-depth discussions.
Furthermore, to emphasize the importance of providing assistance to young researchers who are the future of nutritional science research, a number of awards were established, specifically: the Young Investigator Award; the Urakami Foundation Travel Award; the ACN 2015 Travel Award; the Nutrition Investigator Award (supported by Nestlé Research); and the ICN 2021 Preparation Committee Award for Poster Presentation (hereafter, the Poster Award). The Young Investigator Award was established to promote the work of young researchers under 40 and is awarded to one of the oral presenters at the conference. There are two Travel Awards, both awarded to speakers from developing countries under the age of 40. The Nutrition Investigator Award is given to two researchers 40 or younger and two researchers 41 years of age or older. Finally, the Poster Award honours poster presenters: graduate students aiming for their doctorates – in general, two from each poster session.
The Award Selection Committee was chosen from members of the Program Committee and the General Affairs Committee. After committee members from each field performed an impartial primary review, a secondary review that took the nominees' ages and regions of origin into consideration was conducted, and the award recipients were then determined.

As a result, 18 winners were chosen out of the 461 applicants for the Young Investigator Award, and certificates of recognition and prizes (50,000 Yen) were awarded at the closing ceremony. The Urakami Foundation Travel Award honoured 21 young researchers from 12 countries – Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand – with 300,000 Yen each at the opening ceremony. The ACN 2015 Travel Award awarded 22 recipients from 15 countries with amounts ranging from 100,000 to 300,000 Yen (based on travel distance, with a total of 4.2 million Yen awarded).
For the Nutrition Investigator Award, two researchers out of 26 applicants in the 41-and-over field were chosen from Malaysia and Sri Lanka. In the 40-and-under field, of 232 candidates, two researchers from Thailand were chosen.
For the Poster Award, submissions were received when fulfilment of the application requirements was confirmed at the start of the day's poster session. The Award Selection Committee then held discussions during the session, and at the closing ceremony, nine presenters were awarded certificates of recognition and prizes (20,000 Yen each).

The organizing committee expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to assist so many researchers in this manner – particularly the young researchers who hold the future of Asian nutritional science in their hands – and owe it to the companies and organizations who have provided FANS with their support.