

Foreword

The Workshop on Epilepsy Surgery in Asia was held in the National Epilepsy Center, Shizuoka, Japan on March 8- 10, 2006 under the auspices Asian Epilepsy Academy (ASEPA) of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). The organizer, Dr. Yushi Inoue and his colleagues were honored and pleased that this venture was dedicated to Dr. Tadahiro Mihara, the Senior Neurological Surgeon of our Center, who retired in March 2006. Dr Mihara has contributed for the past quarter century towards developing a new era of epilepsy surgery in Japan.

Thirty-six participants attended the Workshop from every corner of Asia. Twenty four participants were neurosurgeons. The countries represented were: China (14), Nepal (4), Hong Kong (3), India (3), Indonesia (3), Malaysia (3), Korea (2), Philippines (2), Mongolia (1), and Thailand (1). The ILAE chapters of each country defrayed the participants' traveling costs, while all other expenses were covered through the ILAE budget sponsored by UCB Japan.

There were 21 faculty members, 2 from overseas, Dr. Byung In Lee from Korea, and Dr. Tai-Tong Wong from Taiwan. Three were from other parts of Japan, Dr Akio Ikeda of Kyoto, Dr. Shigeki Kameyama of Niigata and Dr. Taisuke Otsuki of Tokyo on their own expertise. Sixteen faculty members including 5 neurosurgeons were from the Epilepsy Center, Shizuoka. Each presenter had one to three 30-minute presentations.

The 3-days workshop dealt with all clinical aspects of epilepsy surgery, including concepts and history, medical intractability, psychosocial indications, progressive neuropathology in Rasmussen syndrome, and a general introduction of pre-surgical evaluation. On day one, electro-clinical semiology of childhood and adult epilepsies, interictal and ictal EEGs, technical issues of long-term monitoring, intracranial EEG evaluations, CT, MRI, SPECT and PET were discussed. On day two, intracranial electrode placement, Wada and other neuropsychological tests, cortical mapping and evoked potential studies were presented. On day-three, surgical procedures of temporal and neo-cortical lobe resection, surgery for catastrophic epilepsy, callosotomy, post-surgical complications, surgical outcome of seizures, neuropsychology and psychiatry, vocational rehabilitation and medical management after surgery were described. On the afternoon of the second day, a live amygdalo-hippocampectomy operation by Dr. Mihara was shown, with discussion by Dr. Baba of the Shizuoka Center. Throughout the 3-days workshop it became obvious that more exchanges and communications among participants in the region is needed, this include interpretation of the patients' semiology, EEGs, neuroimaging, and outcome of surgery. It was agreed that such exchanges can be done through the Internet.

On the afternoon of the second day, there was a session on epilepsy surgery programs in the various Asian countries. The strengths and weaknesses of each program were discussed. This supplementary volume of *Neurology Asia* is the proceedings of the workshop on the state of epilepsy surgery development in Asia. We greatly appreciate the kind cooperation of the authors who prepared the manuscript in spite of their busy schedule. We hope it be useful to our colleagues in Asia who did not attend the Workshop.

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