organization. Together the College and the Academy are making unique contributions to the teaching of cardiopulmonary medicine and surgery. The world indeed is our classroom.

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A Brief History of the Asia-Pacific Congress on Diseases of the Chest

The Asia-Pacific Congress on Diseases of the Chest (APCDC) of the American College of Chest Physicians was organized in Japan 17 years ago, and its first conference was held July 2-4, 1969 in Kyoto, Japan. The first conference was sponsored by the Japan chapter of the ACCP with assistance from other ACCP chapters in the Asia-Pacific area and ACCP headquarters in Chicago, in cooperation with the Japan Society of Chest Diseases and the Japanese Society for Tuberculosis.

I should like to relate the circumstances that led to the idea of holding such a congress in Japan.

For some time, chest physicians in the Asian countries, including the chapters of the ACCP in Taiwan and in Korea, had been requesting the formation in the Asian area of a Society of Chest Diseases on an international scale, but due to various difficulties, such an organization could not immediately be realized.

In January of 1967, Prof. Sze-Piao Yang, M.D., F.C.C.P., of National Taiwan University, who represented the Taiwan chapter of the ACCP, wrote to the Japan chapter of the ACCP on behalf of the above-mentioned countries, calling for the formation of such a society and for the first congress to be held in Japan in 1969. He made the request on the following grounds. The International Congress on Diseases of the Chest, sponsored by the ACCP, was being held every other year in various countries around the world, but there were many who, for financial reasons, were forced to abandon their desire to attend. If, however, such a congress could be held regularly in the Asian area, it might become possible to mobilize a considerable number of doctors, due to the comparatively low travel costs. There were, moreover, certain problems which many Asian countries had in common, such as tuberculosis and parasitic diseases, which needed to be discussed thoroughly.

For these reasons, it was highly desirable to hold a congress on an international scale in the Asian countries every other year, preferably in years when other worldwide international congresses were not being held, with each Asian country hosting the congress in turn.

The request of Prof. Yang was carefully considered at both the officers' and general meetings of the Japan Chapter of the ACCP. In the discussions, it was decided to give the idea full support and the date of the first congress was set for July 1969 in Kyoto, Japan. At that time I was recommended to serve as president of the 1st APCDC.

Prior to this, the Japan Chapter of the ACCP had sought the advice of the Council on International Affairs at the ACCP headquarters (Chairman: Prof. Andrew L. Banyai) in Chicago, and received the hearty approval of Mr. Murray Kornfeld, the Executive Director. He suggested that the 1st APCDC be held as the Asia-Pacific Congress in Japan in 1969.

Out of respect to his suggestion, we decided on the designation "Asia-Pacific Congress on Diseases of the Chest (APCDC)," and to include countries from a wider area than originally planned. Later, we also obtained the approval of the ACCP councils on Asian Affairs and Pan-Pacific Affairs, and the cooperation of the Japan Society of Chest Diseases, which would hold its 9th General Meeting (President: Chuzo Nagaishi, M.D.) in the same building at the same time (July 2-4, 1969) as the first APCDC.

Prior to this, the 44th General Meeting of the Japanese Society for Tuberculosis (President: Masakazu Naito, M.D.) had already been scheduled for June 30-July 1, 1969 at the same Kyoto Municipal Conference Hall. We consulted with them and discussed ways of coordinating our activities.

During these years, Japanese universities were wracked by campus unrest, and it was at the peak of this period that the first APCDC was held. Our university, Kyoto University, was no exception. Several Japanese medical conferences were interrupted by student riots.

One day, late in the afternoon when I was preparing to leave my office, I was astonished to see a large notice pinned on the gate of Kyoto University's School of Medicine. It said, 'Destroy the 1st APCDC, the foremost symbol of Japan's imperialism and invasion overseas!!—The All-Campus Joint Struggle Committee.' This student-power organization (called Zenkyoto in Japanese) threatened to disrupt the 1st APCDC, and I held a series of discussions with members of the organization up until the congress opened, asking them what they meant by "imperialism and invasion" and exploring their viewpoint on a number of other issues. Ultimately, we were fortunate that the congress was held successfully and concluded without interruption.

Twenty-seven countries and territories were represented at the 1st APCDC, with a total of 756 partici-
pamts from Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Canada, Ceylon, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Macao, Mexico, the Philippines, Pakistan, Peru, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the USA, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

The conference had only one official language—English. This was unprecedented for international congresses at the time, but it is what I proposed and what I finally decided to do. As the congress was for the Asia-Pacific area, there was no particular opposition to my proposal, and since then, it has become a custom for the APCDC which has been maintained. I also unexpectedly received a letter from (the late) Mr. Murray Kornfeld praising the decision to use English as the only official language.

In addition, on the occasion of the 1st APCDC, I did not raise the flags of all the participating nations. Instead, only two flags were raised—the flag of the APCDC and that of Japan, the host country. The matter of flags sometimes leads to contention and difficulties, even if no ill will is intended, so I decided that raising only the two flags would be the best way to avoid any problems.

Kyoto is the ancient capital of Japan, and one of its most famous industries is weaving. One of the most traditional weaving methods is Tsuzure Ori, which is used to weave a strong, beautiful material for women's Obi, the traditional sash or belt that goes around a kimono. As I knew the President of the weaving company personally, I asked him to manufacture a large flag for the APCDC. Even in 1969, it cost the equivalent of about $1,500.

Since then, it has become customary at the closing ceremony of the APCDC for the acting President to hand the flag over to the next President. By using only this APCDC flag and the flag of the host country, future Presidents can avoid problems with national flags, and it also means that any country will be able to participate in the APCDC in the future.

After the 1st APCDC, congresses have been hosted every other year by the following countries:


The 9th APCDC is scheduled to be held in Sydney, Australia in August 1985, under the presidency of W. Laurence Simpson.

Attendance at the APCDC has been growing steadily with each congress due to efforts of the host countries, the ACCP (IACPS) headquarters and the Asia-Pacific Council. The 8th APCDC, which was held in Tokyo, Japan in July 1983, was highly successful and can be regarded as a good example of what the APCDC will be like in the future. It was an international congress in both scale and content, thanks to the efforts of the Japanese officers, headed by President Osamu Kitamoto and Secretary General Tadashi Inoue, the officers of IACPS headquarters, including Drs. Alfred Soffer, Arthur Olsen, and W. Gerald Rainer, and the Councillors of the Asia Pacific Council.

The establishment of the Asia-Pacific Congress on Diseases of the Chest in 1969 was followed within a few years by the establishment of the European Congress on Diseases of the Chest and the Pan-American Congress on Diseases of the Chest. Each is held every other year, and as a result of these congresses, the frequency of the World Congress on Diseases of the Chest, which formerly was every other year, was changed to once every four years. The official name of the worldwide congress was also changed to the World Congress on Diseases of the Chest starting with the 13th Congress, which was held in Kyoto, Japan in 1978. This was done to distinguish it from the three Regional International Congresses.

Further growth and development of these congresses is expected through cooperation and the maintenance of close contact. As is well-known, communication between the World Congress and the three Regional International Congresses is carried out through the Bulletin of the IACPS of the ACCP.

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Intermittent Flow Oxygen Devices
Technically Feasible, but Rarely Used

In the current issue of Chest (see page 667), another intermittent flow device is described for oxygen delivery only during inspiration. All of the described devices have used less oxygen to achieve adequate arterial oxygenation than the continuous flow nasal cannulae which are used in most hospitals. Intermittent flow may be triggered by chest movement, by nasal thermistor temperature, by fluidic principles, or by negative and positive pressure valves. In addition, a partial re-breathing system has been created which fits inside a bulky cannula and stores oxygen delivered during expiration for use in the next inspiration (Oxymizer, Chad Therapeutics, Inc, Woodland Hills, California). I believe that the case has been