



The Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association that began life in 1962 as the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association has entered a new and vital phase of its development. I am honoured to be its President and will do my utmost to protect its core values and advance its aims. The WPOA was formed in the era of Asian development. The practice of orthopaedic surgery was just coming to grips with the twin scourges of musculoskeletal tuberculosis and poliomyelitis, diseases which threatened the future of an Asian Pacific zone that was just beginning to recover from the ravages of war and internal conflict. Understanding of biomechanics was rudimentary and the age of joint replacement, effective spinal instrumentation and reliable fracture fixation

was just in its infancy.

Against this backdrop a group of orthopaedic surgeons met in Hong Kong and formed the WPOA with the intention of sharing their experiences and skills not just amongst themselves but also with other orthopaedic surgeons in the region. Many meetings and workshops were organised at university level and great friendships were forged. The WPOA thus became the main body linking surgeons from lands and systems which were diverse but shared common problems.

From these auspicious beginnings we have grown to become the APOA which encompasses lands stretching from Japan to New Zealand and Turkey. Our membership has leapt from under 3000 to well over 25,000 with the advent of the Federation model and the numbers will continue to grow exponentially. This represents both a golden opportunity and a great challenge. The Council of the APOA will need to leverage on the extended reach provided by the Federation model to provide a more services for both chapter and federation members. The challenge is to forge new friendships and create even more opportunities to share experiences. In order to do this our existing bonds must be strengthened and made more open to welcome others. It is only by sharing that we may continue to flourish. The digital age has made this task easier but nevertheless, it is a mammoth undertaking. I would quake at the enormity of the task if I did not know that I had the support of the highly talented and committed Executive committee we have assembled and the efficiency of the Kuala Lumpur based secretariat.

Please join us in our journey towards a united Asia so that we may provide even better services to our patients and communities.

David Siew-Kit Choon
President APOA 2016-2018