

Message from Professor Shoichi Kokubun

Dear Friends,

Spring has come to Sendai.
Cherry trees have started to bloom.

“A Spring View” Du Fu (756 AD, Tang Dynasty) translated by Witter Bynner

*Though a country be sundered, hills and rivers endure
And spring comes green again to trees and grasses
Where petals have been shed like tears
And lonely birds have sung their grief*



For the following reasons, I would like to encourage Asian friends to come to Gifu for the Combined Congress.

1. Gifu without any damage by the earthquake is located more than 400 km away, far beyond Tokyo, from the nuclear power station in Fukushima.
2. Radioactive substance detected around the power station is stable or decreasing in amount these days.
3. Japanese spine and pediatric orthopaedic surgeons and their societies strongly support Prof. Shimizu, who wants to hold the congress as planned.
4. The Tohoku Shinkansen bullet train, which is blocked between Fukushima and Sendai, is scheduled to totally resume by the end of this month. Sendai Airport, which had only been closed, resumed two days ago. Therefore, participants from our region, Tohoku District, shall have no problem in transportation to go to Gifu in June.

I recall the 2nd Congress of IFPOS (International Federation of Paediatric Orthopaedic Societies) held in 2001 under my presidency.

The dates of the Congress were less than 2 months after the Sept/11 terrorist attacks. Despite the worldwide terror, more than 200 overseas friends attended the Congress to make it a great success.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Gifu in June!

Shoichi Kokubun
Past Chairman, Spine Section of the APOA
Professor Emeritus, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

Professor Po-Quang Chen



Dear Friends,

I encourage all of you to go to Gifu for this conference.

Gifu is far away from Fukushima and Sendai.

Like a chef who has prepared so much delicious food, hoping the guests will enjoy the party and dinner, Professor Shimizu and his team are waiting for us to arrive.

I remember some ten years ago, just after the 9/11 terrorist attack on New York, none of the invited foreign speakers attended the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Orthopaedic Meeting in Bali. I was the only speaker outside of ASEAN who came for the meeting. All of the Indonesian and ASEAN surgeons were happy and grateful to see me.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Gifu in June!

Professor Po-Quang Chen

Past Chairman, Spine Section of the APOA

Professor Emeritus, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital