

# REPORT ON 20<sup>TH</sup> IFOS WORLD CONGRESS, 1–5 JUNE 2013, SEOUL, KOREA

W. Wiktor Jdrzejczak, Piotr H. Skarzynski, Henryk Skarzynski

World Hearing Center, Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing, Warsaw/Kajetany, Poland

The 20<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies (IFOS) took place in South Korea on 1–5 June 2013 at the COEX Convention and Exhibition Center, a four-storey building with four exhibition halls and 48 meeting rooms. By way of contrast, across the street is the Bongeunsa Buddhist temple originally founded in 794 A.D.

From the first meeting of the Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies in 1928, the reputation and size of the IFOS Congress has continued to grow, and they have become the largest and most anticipated meeting in the field of otorhinolaryngology. The IFOS umbrella includes 50,000 otorhinolaryngologists from 120 countries. IFOS congresses occur every 4 years, the previous one being in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



The COEX Convention and Exhibition Center



The opening of the IFOS Congress 2013

The congress was opened by Chong Sun Kim, President of IFOS Seoul 2013, with additional welcome messages from Paulo Pontes, IFOS President, and Milan Profant, IFOS General Secretary. This year's congress was supported by the Korean Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (KORL-HNS) and the Korean Society of Otorhinolaryngologic Clinicians (KOSOC). The opening lecture covered the world history of oto-rhino-laryngology from the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC to the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium AD and was given by Mohamed Nasser Kotby (Egypt). He started his presentation by quoting from Imhotep who first recorded, on papyrus, how to treat the ear, nose, and throat. He also mentioned others like the Persian physician al-Razi and concluded by describing European progress in otorhinolaryngology.

This year's congress was attended by nearly 6,000 specialists from all over the globe. With over 500 sessions covering nearly every aspect of otorhinolaryngology, there were 66 keynote lectures, 24 round tables, 76 instructional courses, and 13 satellite symposia. Keynote lectures included "Expanding the steady state approach to longer latency



The Bongeunsa Buddhist temple

potentials" by John Durrant (USA), "Robotic surgeries in otology and neuro-otology" by Olivier Sterkers (France), "Identification of genetic mutations underlying stuttering" by Changsoo Kang (Republic of Korea), and "The importance of Conebeam CT for the preoperative work-up of conductive and mixed hearing loss with intact tympanic membrane" by Erwin Offeciers (Belgium). Most of the keynote lectures were devoted to surgical techniques and treatment of specific ear, nose, and throat disorders.

The scientific committee of the congress invited the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing (IPPH) in Poland to organize an international thematic panel. The panel focused on the partial deafness treatment program, which began with the world's first such operation carried out by Henryk Skarzynski at IPPH in 2002. Reflecting wide recognition of the work by the scientific community, the panel session was attended by prominent scientists from Australia, the United States, Austria, and Slovakia. Six centers from around the world contributed to the panel: Harvard Medical School (USA), University of Minnesota (USA), Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions (USA),

the University of Utah (USA), Nara Medical University (Japan), and the Institute Georges Portmann (France).

IPPH also gained other important recognition when, for the first time, the Polish Scientific Society of Hearing Disorders, Voice and Language Communication was asked to organize a thematic panel on the status and prospects for developing hearing screening in school age children. The panel, chaired by Prof. Henryk Skarzynski, was attended by scientists from Japan, the Philippines, China, Russia, and elsewhere. By entrusting organization of the panel to IPPH, the international community, through the Society,

was expressing recognition for the Institute's achievements during the first Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, under which the EU Council adopted conclusions on the early detection and treatment of communication disorders in children, including the use of e-health and other innovative solutions.

At the closing of the congress it was announced that Chong Sun Kim had been unanimously elected President of IFOS, and that Paris will host the next IFOS World Congress in 2017.