

Report from Secretary General, the 14th ICN

Since the 1981 consolidation of the 14th International Congress of Nutrition in Seoul, this hot issue was deeply rooted in minds of all members of Korean Nutrition Society for eight years up to 1989. As coming close to the opening date of the Congress, and the more detailed picture of the opening date of the Congress, and more detailed picture of the whole plan was established, there were overflowing of the enormous unsettled tasks of labor forces, finances, cooperation and collaborations from government and other organizations, and arrangement of facilities and space. However, the tremendous dedications from many contributors and members have made this Congress possible.

When I was on the stage in the Opening Ceremony, I felt my heart fluttering. At Closing Ceremony, however, with joy rather than with nervousness, I have never felt this much of joy and proudness of working with people in the field of nutrition.

Now I need to share my experience and to report to you the business of this Congress of nutrition. In the preparation of this Congress of Nutrition, we placed our top priority in offering outstanding scientific sessions. We invited with travel lodging and registration fee support 262 world renowned nutritional scientists and 6 plenary lectures, two awards (McCullum award, IUNS award). We made every effort to encourage the participation of students, young scientists and the scientists from the less developed countries to this Congress of Nutrition. Secondly in selecting our location of conference, we kept in mind the efficiency and the comforts of the participants. I hope you found it convenient to have the centralized conference site with a minimal distance and traffic between sites for the symposia, plenary session, workshop, and oral presentations and that for the posters. Of course we put sufficient brain power onto the social functions and displays to offer a relaxed atmosphere between the days, for the participants as well as for the associate members. I hope you noticed that the displays and social events were all evolved around food, clothing, housing as well as dance.

A. Participation

We had more than 2800 people participated in this Congress of Nutrition from 89 different countries from the six different continents. All these participants registered for one of the nine categories in this invited, regular, professional, associate, student, young scientist, undergraduate and graduate students: We were pleasantly surprised with the fact that more than 85% of the total participants registered, indeed, through the preregistration. Another interesting point is that a half of the participants was from underdeveloped countries and the other half was from the developed countries.

B. Programs offered

The scientific programs we offered were 7 plenary lectures, including two awards (one McCullum, the other IUNS), 251 Symposia presentations, 41 topics for workshop and 1136 free communication papers with total up near 2000 papers presented in this Congress. One third of the free communication was done through slide sessions. We also made an arrangement for USAID sponsored pre-congress workshop.

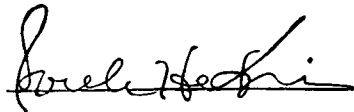
C. Budget

We estimate the total budget was approximately 1 million dollars. Of the total budget, only 21% came from the registration fee. The rest, 79% of the budget was raised internally in Korea. A half of the 79% budget was from our government, specifically from the offices of the president Rho of Korea, and from four Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, of Agriculture and Fishery, of Education and of Science and Technology, and Korea Science and Engineering. The other half of the 79% budget was from industries and other contributions. Fund-raising was, as you can imagine, one of the difficulties in organizing and executing this Congress.

D. Concluding comment

Retroactively, I found the planning and execution of this Congress were an enormous undertaking. My life in the past 4 years, frankly, evolved around this 14th Congress of Nutrition. I truly believe the success of this Congress was all due to your active participation and cooperation, whole-hearted support from the Korean government officials and industries for fund, tireless effort of members of Korean Nutrition Society, University faculty members and students with their multiple talents. Hundreds of other supportive staffs also worked together with us.

It was truly my privilege to work with all of you in scientific field for its advancement. This Congress indeed offered the ground to form human bondage among the six continents and within each continent. With this human network woven around globe, we deserve a celebration for making a stride toward the global harmony through nutrition. I think you all for giving me and my colleagues the once-in-a-life-time opportunity to host this wonderful international event.



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