

JAPAN

Under the theme "Innovation for Diversity and Consistency" and led by Kenzo Toyoshima (SSP), the Affiliate's 9th Annual Meeting was held on April 22 and 23 at Tower Hall Funabori, in Tokyo, featuring perspectives from Japan's regulators, the US FDA, and Europe. Registrations reached over 300, with 27 speakers booked from Japan and overseas, although volcanic ash prevented four Europe-based speakers from travelling at all, and only Rolf Werner (Boehringer Ingelheim) reached Japan from Germany when the skies temporarily cleared!

As a countermeasure, materials and sound were obtained from absent speakers and shown/played back to the audience. Meanwhile, Roger Nosal (Pfizer) covered for John Berridge (ISPE) in giving the PQLI presentation, and two European panelists were replaced by COP members. The success of the Meeting in the face of Nature's sudden challenges was due largely to the hard work of local ISPE staff and organizers, as well as the COP members' teamwork.

Day 1 Keynote Addresses examined the regulatory pharmaceutical situations in the US, Europe and Japan, and were followed by Special Lectures given by US and European industry, and Japanese academe. The Networking Reception concluded the day's program, together with 18 table Top exhibits, and live music was provided by a band made up of volunteers from the Affiliate.

Day 2's Workshop 1 focused on PQLI issues; Workshop 2 covered the "Strategy of Global Companies" for the supply/globalization of investigational products; Workshop 3 was directed at operational excellence and high performance plants; while Workshop 4 considered risk management and risk assessment issues, and featured a Q&A booth arranged by Japan Industrial Safety & Health Association. Following the Keynote Sessions, simultaneous interpretation was also provided at three of the Workshops.

The Meeting also provided speaker Leslie Bloom (Pfizer), Roger Nosal, Yukio Hiyama (National Institute of Health Sciences) and Shigeru Hayashi (Pfizer) the opportunity to meet with Japan PQLI members for updating purposes. On the following day, together with NIHS and PMDA registrants at the Annual Meeting, they met with the Affiliate's regulatory specialists.

For more information on the Japan Affiliate and its activities, please visit www.ispe.org or contact Natsumi Sahara, Office Manager, at ispe-japan@iris.ocn.ne.jp or tel: 81-3-3818-6737. Alternatively, contact Shigeru Nakamura, Head of Secretariat, at shigeru.nakamura@shimz.co.jp.