

JAPAN

The Affiliate's new website was launched in October. The result is a multifunctional website that helps individuals to maximize the benefits of ISPE membership. While principally in the Japanese language, a level of English information will also be uploaded to the site.

In accordance with yearly practice, a mission of about 30 Affiliate members attended in November the 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, half of whom took the opportunity of their travel to the U.S. to visit a number of bio and pharmaceutical-related facilities such as Abgenix, Bayer, Genentech, Vical and Watson on the West Coast. Planning for the mission was supported by the San Francisco/Bay Area Chapter and the San Diego Chapter, for which the Affiliate is most grateful.

Meanwhile, further translation of key ISPE documents by the Affiliate's volunteers from the original English into the Japanese language is progressing well. The ERES GPG (Good Practice Guide) has been translated and published, and became available in December to ISPE members, as well as to non-members. Additionally, articles from Pharmaceutical Engineering are currently under translation, for later upload to the redesigned Affiliate website.

The Winter Meeting was held in December, and for the first time the Kansai region was selected, with the venue being located in Kobe City. ISPE's new International Chairman Gert Moelgaard was invited to speak on inputting a new strategy of challenge for the next 25 years. Moreover, the Affiliate took the occasion to further promote translated ISPE documents through sales at the dedicated booth. This simultaneously interpreted one-day event also included an evening networking reception, always a popular and pleasant way of rounding off the Meeting.

Lastly but very importantly, the Affiliate welcomes the establishment of the Asia Pacific Office in Singapore under David Goh, Helen van Oers, and their several colleagues, altogether a capable and linguistically proficient team. With the increasing role of the Asian region as a major ISPE hub, the Affiliate looks forward to seamless growth of the ISPE presence in the region and to initiatives by the Asia Pacific Office that will result in joint activities with other Asian affiliates.

For more information on the Japan Affiliate, please visit www.ispe.org or contact Ms. Natsumi Sahara, Office Manager, by e-mail: ispe-japan@iris.ocn.ne.jp or tel: 81-3-3818-6737. Alternatively, you may contact Shinichi Osada, Affiliate Secretary, by e-mail: shinichi.osada.bf@hitachi.com.