

**WPA-TPS NewsletteReport of  
JSTP+WPATPS+WACP Joint  
Meeting in Kamakura, Japan;  
April 2007**

**Fumitaka Noda, M.D.  
Chair of JSTP+WPATPS+WACP Joint  
Meeting in Kamakura, Japan**

Everybody who visits Japan hopes to have an opportunity to see Mt Fuji. However, from spring through summer, Mt.Fuji can be moody. She often hides behind the deep clouds and rarely shows her beautiful features.



From April 27 to 29, 2007, a joint meeting of the Japanese Society of Transcultural Psychiatry/JSTP (chaired by Dr. Fumitaka Noda), World Psychiatric Association-Transcultural Psychiatry Section/WPA-TPS (chaired by Dr. Ronald Wintrob) and World Association of Cultural Psychiatry/WACP (chaired by Dr. Wen-Shing Tseng) was held at the Shonan International Conference Center. The Center is spread across the top of a hill, a few miles from Kamakura, from which vantage point visitors can have a panoramic view of Mt. Fuji, across Sagami Bay... if the weather is ideal.



And for three days during the Joint Meeting, we were just blessed by God ( or at least it seemed so ). The weather was so fine and mild and the air so crystal-clear, that every conference participant could enjoy a gorgeous view of Mt.Fuji from the hilltop of Shonan Village, which, as an additional bonus, was covered in fully blossoming azaleas. The scene from the hilltop was breathtaking; as the accompanying photos show.

Table 1; Participants at the Kamakura Joint Meeting

ANDORRA	2	NETHERLAND	1
AUSTRALIA	3	NEW ZEALAND	4
BELGIUM	2	PERU	1
CANADA	14	PHILIPPINES	1
CHINA	4	SPAIN	2
FINLAND	1	SWEDEN	1
FRANCE	3	SWITZERLAND	1
GERMANY	1	UNITED KINGDOM	4
JAPAN	127	USA	25
KOREA	9	Total	208
LITHUANIA	1		
NEPAL	1		

As you see in Table 1, there were more than 200 participants at the Kamakura Joint Meeting, from all over the world. They were attracted to Kamakura for this conference at an ideal time of year in Japan, and to the main conference theme of “the new era of transcultural psychiatry: advancing collaboration of East and West”.

The scientific program of the Joint Meeting included three plenary symposia, four special lectures, three film sessions, 28 topic symposia and 21 poster presentations. Those sessions covered various aspects of the conference theme, such as multiculturalism, the psychological and social trauma of war , post-conflict reconciliation, psychiatric emergencies, alcohol dependence and abuse, cultural psychiatry issues in Asian countries, and also in Latin American countries,, womens issues, HIV and gender, social work, religion, globalization, psychotherapy, media issues and healing techniques.

Each of the three sponsoring organizations presented one plenary session.

WPA-TPS organized the first plenary symposium; “Toward multiculturalism: is biculturalism possible?”. The symposium was chaired by Dr.

Wintrob and included presentations by Drs. Kamaldeep Bhui from the UK, .Bennegadi from France, John De Figueiredo from U.S.A and Wen-Shing Tseng from U.S.A, each of whom gave compelling accounts of their personal and professional life experiences of biculturalism and multiculturalism. The second plenary symposium; “Culture-related specific psychiatric syndromes: Asian examples” was organized by WACP and chaired by Dr. Sung Kil Ming from Korea and Dr.Tseng. Presentations were made by Drs. Ming and Tseng and by Dr. Katsuragawa from Japan. The third plenary symposium; “Trauma and culture” was developed by JSTP. The symposium was chaired by myself and Dr.Keisuke Tsuji from Japan. Presentations were made by by Drs.Watanabe from Japan, Ederveen from the Netherlands, Kinzie from U.S.A. and Ohyama from Japan.

Two special lectures were given by Canadian speakers with close connections to Asia.. Mr. Tatsuo Kage discussed a subject few conference participants were familiar with; “Redress for the wartime incarceration of Japanese Canadians: intergenerational conflict and cooperation” that gave the audience new awareness of the intense humiliation and psychological turmoil caused by the internment of Canadian citizens of Japanese background, and of legal immigrants to Canada from Japan, during the years of the Second World War. Dr. Soma Ganesan proposed a new aspect of cross cultural psychiatric formulation through his presentation.

The conference’s keynote speaker, Dr.Masashi Nishizonon of Japan, gave a presentation on “Globalization and the meaning of psychiatry”, in which he introduced the history and new movement of transcultural psychiatry in Japan and suggested how it could contribute to the advancement of global transcultural mental health.

Another unusual and fascinating lecture was given for conference participants, and made available to the public as an open forum. The speaker was Bishop Daishin Adachi, of the Engakuji Zen temple in Kamakura. He talked about the concrete application of concepts of Zen Buddhism by describing them as “ a Cosmos of kokoro (mind)”. The conference hall was filled to capacity for Bishop Adachi’s presentation.

In the numerous topic symposia, there was a wide range of cultural psychiatry concerns addressed by the presentations, generating active exchanges of ideas in the discussion periods that followed symposium presentations. Participants told us that they were very satisfied with the quality and breadth of symposium topics and individual presentations.



The exceptional setting of Shonan Village and its resort ambience, the fine weather and the panoramic views, and the pleasures of talking with old friends and colleagues from many countries were great enticements to conference participants to stay at the Village. At the same time, the cultural attractions of historic Kamakura, with its many monuments, shrines, temples and gardens, were only a few miles away; so many people took advantage of that proximity and visited Kamakura too.

At the gala dinner, a group from Hayama offered a performance of traditional drumming, giving the audience a glimpse of traditional Japanese arts and culture.





well as with positive memories of their visit to Japan and warm feelings of friendship. That was what our local organizing committee and I , as chair of this joint meeting, aimed at.

You can review some of the content of the conference and see many of the beautiful photos of the three day event on the Internet conference site,at;<http://www.shonanvillage.co.jp/wpatcp.htm> from July through next June.

With warmest regards,

Fumitaka Noda, M.D.

The farewell party was held at a marina in Hayama harbor. Participants enjoyed the abundant seafood buffet and were taken for a powerboat cruise on Sagami Bay. Our Maori colleagues from New Zealand performed several beautiful Maori songs for participants. Towards the closing of this very enjoyable event, the sun was setting over the ocean and behind Mt Fuji in a spectacular performance of nature . The sky changed steadily from blue to red, and then, as the sun set, to violet and then to silhouette. The scene was something special, that we will all remember.



I hope everybody returned to his/her home town from the Kamakura conference with re-invigorated inspiration to continue their interest and activity in cultural aspects of psychiatry., as