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BANGKOK HEART INSTITUTE

2 Soi Soonvijai 7
New Petchburi Road
Bangkok 10310
Tel: 318-0066 Fax: (662) 318-1546
Telex 22448 BGH. TH.

September 1, 1992



Dear Colleagues,

At an informal meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand in March of this year the *Asian Cardiovascular Exchange Group* or ACE Group was formed. Joining me as founding members were the following regional cardiac surgeons:

Drs. Yahya Awang (Malaysia), David Cheung (Hong Kong), Bum-Koo Cho (Korea), Tarmizi Hakim (Indonesia), Chuen-Neng Lee and Huat-Seong Saw (Singapore), Prinya Sakiyalak (Thailand), and Naresh Trehan (India).

The objectives of the Group as outlined at our meeting are as follows:

- Conduct multi-center clinical trials and joint research projects within the Group.
- Train new surgeons through an exchange of residents and fellows.
- Hold cardiovascular exchange programs or workshops in cardiac surgery.
- Publish the *Asian Cardiovascular & Thoracic Annals*.

These objectives, when accomplished, will surely bring about closer cooperation and a better understanding among physicians and surgeons in Asia who share similar patient populations. Our Editorial Board welcomes your contributions of original papers whether on clinical work, basic research, or review articles; surgical techniques, case reports, or simply letters to the editor. We would appreciate your help and support for this endeavor so please let us hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Kampol Prachuabmoh, MD, FACS

Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Mahidol University
Director, Bangkok Heart Institute

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