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ISPOR Japan Chapter 3rd Annual Meeting in Tokyo

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On September 15, 2007, ISPOR Japan Chapter (IJPC) held the 3rd Annual Meeting in Tokyo, following up a unification of IJPC with the Society of Clinical Economics in April, 2007.

About 100 people gathered in the afternoon at the North Building Conference Hall, Mita Campus, Keio University, located at the center of Tokyo metropolitan area. In the morning of the same day, Keio University joined the ISPOR conference with a memorial International Symposium for having established, in April 2007, a new pharmacoeconomics research and education program funded by Japanese Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association.

It began with the Executive Committee meeting at noon followed by the general assembly and subsequent academic sessions.

At first, after Isao Kamae, President of IJPC, addressed welcome remarks, Katsushi Takehiro, Deputy Director, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) gave us invited speaking, "METI's efforts toward the development of guideline for economic evaluation of medical devices".

At the second, selected speakers reported on the ISPOR 12th Annual International Meeting, USA, according to their perspectives and interests. The speakers included Takayuki Okubo, Section Chief, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Takuro Shinbo, Director, International Medical Center of Japan, Shuichi Yajima, Manager, Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, and Isao Kamae, Professor, Keio University.

Invited international speakers joined the third session for the Symposium, "International trends surrounding the guideline for economic evaluation of health care". It was moderated by Naoki Ikegami, Professor, Keio University, and the panelists included Peter Littlejohns, Clinical and Public Health Director, NICE, UK, Kalipso Chalkidou,

associate director for R&D, NICE, UK, Eui Kyung Lee, Professor, Sookmyung Women's University, Korea, Member of ISPOR Asia Consortium Executive Committee, Korea, Wang YuJen, Director, ISPOR Taiwan Chapter Office, Taiwan. Through the discussions among the panelists and the questions and answers between the panelists and the audience, the members of IJPC learned a lot about the lessons from UK, Korea, and Taiwan when the guideline issue considered in Japan.

A poster presentation was another interesting highlight of the 3rd meeting as the premier for the IJPC Annual Meeting. Six research posters, which had been presented at the past ISPOR annual meetings in US and Europe those two years, appeared again to make the domestic members recognize the ISPOR activities better and also encourage submissions of their research to the ISPOR international meetings in the future.

About 50 participants came up together to the restaurant in campus for the reception in the evening, as always as held at the past Annual Meetings, to know each other, exchange ideas, and gather information on the trend of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research in Japan.