

Message of gratitude

First, I would like to express a sincere gratitude for the success of 1st SMISS AP meeting. This success was really attributed to over 450 registered participants, about 90 general paper presentations, and many invited speakers' efforts from US and all Asia-Pacific area.

The SMISS AP was established as 1st international section of US SMISS in Nov, 2019. We organized eight directors and a total of thirty-six faculty members from all Asia-Pacific countries. This 1st SMISS AP meeting was initially planned as on-site combined meeting with Korean Spinal Neurosurgical Society (KSNS) in Incheon, Korea, however, due to the pandemic status of COVID-19, we had to switch the meeting as complete virtual fashion. Although we were disappointed with this situation initially, however, the strong passion for the success by local Korean organizing staffs and many contributions by US SMISS staffs led to this 1st meeting as a memorable one forever.

After getting through the 1st difficulties of starting, we, SMISS AP will be moving forward to next steps. We organized various internal committees of education, research, fellowship, and MIST surgery. Chairpersons and core members were organized and already moved to different activities. We, SMISS AP will be collaborating with US SMISS and many domestic societies in each Asia-Pacific country, thereby serving for better education and patient-care with use of a state-of-the-art MIS surgical technologies and research. Our future activities will be updated in US SMISS web site serially and we strongly welcome your participation to above world-wide activities. We require your contributions!

Finally, I am expressing a deepest gratitude to all contributors for this memorial 1st SMISS AP meeting again. We will see you again at 2022 2nd SMISS meeting in Osaka, Japan!

President of SMISS AP

Yoshihisa Kotani, M.D.

Professor

Kansai Medical University Medical Center

Osaka, Japan

