

**DR KAMAL K MIDHA, Message
Korean Pharmaceutical Association
2008**

Honourable and distinguished guests,

As President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), it is with respect and admiration that I pay tribute to the work of the Pharmaceutical Society of Korea. Your Society has fostered scientific inquiry and exchange among members from several countries and from diverse areas of pharmaceutical sciences. The Pharmaceutical Society of Korea is an active FIP member organisation. Your country, through the Korean Pharmaceutical Association has played a vital role for many years in supporting and contributing to the aims of the Federation in our global commitment to advancing Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to the benefit of people worldwide: patient-focused and medicines centred healthcare, making a difference in global well-being.

This conference is a public testament to the commitment of colleagues in the Republic of Korea to be at the forefront of new drug development. On your conference agenda, you have given centre stage to the value of building a better world, of striving to ensure that the hard work and dedication to Pharmaceutical Sciences leads to improved human health and well-being.

Globally we are facing formidable challenges. These challenges include widespread poverty and so much needless suffering, very uneven access to essential medicines and in some places no access at all, and the continued presence of diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS for which we have available, effective drugs, and cancer and cardiovascular disease that we still seek to control. Through innovation and determination, you in Korea, dear colleagues, are contributing to significant efforts to address and meet these issues. Generic medicines have been manufactured and brought to the global marketplace to improve human health. One example, highlighted by the World Health Organisation, is the manufacturing of a more cost-effective Hepatitis B vaccine which has been used in Korea and exported to other parts of the world. In addition, South Korean companies have established partnerships as an ideal and effective way to become more involved in R&D of novel drugs. An instance is the work of manufacturing engineers from Korea who have contributed, with global partners, to the Medicines for Malaria Venture. Through this public/private partnership, a new cost-effective malaria drug has been developed. It is now being tested in 15 countries, and by 2009 it could be licensed for use in humans. Other advances in product discovery and development have also come to fruition in areas such as cancer, leading to a third generation platinum-complex oncology drug now being added to the therapeutic arsenal. These innovations and partnerships bring encouragement and foster hope for all of us – patients, professional Pharmacy Practitioners and Pharmaceutical Scientists.

In 2008, we also mark 30 years since the Declaration of Alma-Ata on “health for all”. This International Conference launched a drive for primary health care around the world. In the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Health has shown high commitment to ensuring public involvement in and provision for high quality healthcare. The contributions of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacy Practice must aim to support these and other initiatives leading to strong and effective healthcare systems in which the pharmacist is integral to the healthcare team.

The world has gained a better understanding of the values and strengths of Asia through the words of UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon. “Asia is a region where modesty is a virtue. ...with quiet determination in action to get things done without so much fanfare. This may be the key to Asia’s success.” Being “...modest in our words, but not in our performance.” What wisdom!

FIP looks forward to many years of continuing collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Society of Korea in which our organisations will come together and work together to promote and fulfil the healthcare needs of the global community. On behalf of FIP, I extend to you our sincerest congratulations for your past achievements and our highest expectations that this and future assembly of the Pharmaceutical Society of Korea will serve as a beacon illuminating and leading the way towards better global human health.

With best regards,
Kamal Midha, C.M., Ph.D., D.Sc.
President, FIP