

APRIL EXCO MEETING NEWS

New Mission Statement

A brainstorming session examining the assets and challenges of IFSHT developed our new mission statement: *“To provide global networking and educational opportunities to develop and enhance the practice of hand therapy.”* All discussions and decisions at the EXCO meeting were in support of this statement.

Communication

IFSHT communicates through e-mail, our website, the News Flash twice a year, and this *IFSHT Update*, which is published in both the American and British *Journals of Hand Therapy* and sent to all Member Delegates.

Currently all communication is in English which excludes many hand therapists. In an effort to reach more therapists, IFSHT will initially seek a translator for the Spanish speaking members.

The website format is changing to be more user friendly, allowing easier updates of society information. A new area of the website will house IFSHT official documents and EXCO communication.

Finances

IFSHT as a global organization cannot survive on membership dues alone. To assure the future of IFSHT, a profit sharing formula has been submitted to IFSSH for the IFSHT share of joint congresses. EXCO will also initiate a dialogue with our commercial members to evaluate our ongoing relationship.

Membership

A new membership category of correspond-

ing member was discussed (for regional Hand Therapy Societies) and will be recommended at the 2010 Triennial Congress. To identify potential new members, IFSHT will endeavor to correspond with therapists in countries who have IFSSH membership but do not yet belong to IFSHT.

APFSHT MEETS IN HONG KONG

Approximately 75 therapists attended the 3rd Congress of the Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Hand Therapists (APFSHT) in Hong Kong on February 14-16, 2008. Countries represented were Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mainland China, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan. The congress, hosted by the Hong Kong Society for Hand Therapy, was held at the waterside Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center concurrently with the 7th Congress of the Asian Pacific



Korean Hand Therapists Entertain APFSHT Attendees with Song and Dance
(Each country attending entertained the banquet attendees with a song native to their country)



2007-2008 APFSHT Meeting

L to R: **Vice President:** Bo-Kyung Song, Korea; Felicity Thorley, Australia; Asha Karunatilake, Sri Lanka (unseen); **President:** Tomoko Kondo, Japan; **Secretary:** Josephine Wong, Hong Kong; **Past-President & Hong Kong representative:** Cecilia Li, Hong Kong

Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH).

In addition to a session of free papers and joint sessions with the surgeons, four symposium sessions examined the following topics:

1. Hand Therapy: From Education to Practice
2. Management of Hand Burns
3. Biomechanics & Splintage in the Hand and Wrist
4. Ergonomic Consideration, Pain Management and Work.

Incoming officers of APFSHT are:

President: Rosemary Prosser, Australia

President-Elect: Josephine Wong, Hong Kong

Vice President: Lay Lay Tan, Singapore

Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Chang, Taiwan

The 4th congress of APFSHT will be held jointly with the 8th Congress of APFSSH in Taiwan on November 13-15, 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: Listing of upcoming courses sponsored by member countries does not indicate IFSHT endorsement.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sept 12-13, 2008	National CSHT Conference	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	www.csht.org
Sept 15-18, 2008	Hand Therapy Congress (with 46th Hand Surgery Congress)	Trapani, Erice Sicily, Italy	www.chirurgiamano2008trapani.it or zangbzan@tin.it (Tracy Fairplay)
Oct 5-6, 2008	BAHT Annual Conference	Cardiff, United Kingdom	www.hand-therapy.co.uk
Oct 16-18, 2008	German Society of Hand Therapists (with German Society for Surgery of the Hand)	Hamburg, Germany	www.daht.de
Oct 23-26, 2008	ASHT Annual Meeting	Boston, MA, USA	www.asht.org
Oct/Nov 2008	AHTA Annual Meeting	Melbourne, Australia	www.ahta.com.au
Oct 30-Nov 1, 2008	XI Congreso Argentino de Terapia de la Mano	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.aacm.org.ar/capitulo/
Dec (2nd week) 2008	SFRM (with French Society for Surgery of the Hand)	Paris, France	www.reeducation-main.com