

Evian in May 2010

The WMA Midterm Council Meeting was held in Evian from 20–22 May 2010.

Though our flights were somewhat threatened by volcanic explosions under Eyjafjallajökull glacier in Iceland, fortunately there was no cancellation at all, anyway. Most of participants could join the meeting, including Dr. Snadel, the President of Icelandic Medical Association and the former president of WMA, so almost all the flights in the world seemed to be less troubled at that moment.

The weather was pleasant in Evian, which was rather fortunate after one long month of rainy, cold period in the Lake Léman area, according to the local folks.

There are several themes that brought hot discussions in the meeting, especially with regard to the prescription and the teamwork issues between physicians and pharmacists. In the end, those issues were partially settled and moved forward to the General Assembly in Vancouver in this coming autumn. They are the remnant but quite important field in the task shifting issues surrounding the contemporary medicine. We physicians have achieved considerable progress in medicine with the support of various human resources. On the other hand, shortage or maldistribution of necessary physicians and other human resources still exist in some parts of the world as well as in certain areas of medicine, mainly due to migration across the national borders which is frequently observed in recent years. Such migration seems to be one of global aspects at the people's level occurring for various reasons that involve multiple factors, e.g. economical reason, geopolitical backgrounds and in cases of natural disasters or local conflicts and wars, if one is to look at recent trends.

During our stay, delicate and quite artistic songs of thrushes entertained us. We could also



Dr. Haranaka, JMA President at the *source Cachat* (Evian, France)

enjoy good air and the world famous Evian water directly from the fountain at the source in town we walked to every morning. I even tried hydrotherapy with the fresh Evian water at the spa facility located next door from the hotel we stayed—a gorgeous experience for my skin.

There were also fresh Abondance cheeses and Savoie wines, which showed remarkably synchronized harmony. The final touch was the highly spirited orchestra performance of music by Dvorak and Brahms conducted by German conductor Justus Franz. With especially skilled members, the maestro succeeded in eliciting the thick and vital sound of the pieces in the middle European atmosphere in the wooden hall. I, at that very moment, felt that we should seek to find a harmonized way to reach a general agreement on the aforementioned issues, which we presumably will be able to do just that, in Vancouver.

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