



## CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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It's great pleasure to learn that the Hand Society is celebrating its 10th birthday this year. I share the joy with other members of seeing it mature from its inception. Not only because I was with the society at its birth, but because it has made a healthy growth through the years resulting from the support of orthopaedics colleagues and allied health professionals.

I still remember vividly the first meeting at Pauline Chan Building 10 years ago when the 20 odd founding members sat together under friendly atmosphere. And the society was formed after the dinner. Dr. S.H. Yeung, the first Honorary Secretary, of course did most of the work behind the scene. As the most junior member present, I was excited but really did not know what was happening. Prof. P.C. Leung and Prof. S.P. Chow were the two great figures to establish the society. To my surprise, I learned that the society was formed mainly to cater for hosting the post-congress meeting of the third congress of IFSSH (Tokyo '86) in Hong Kong.

Through these 10 years, the society's main event is the annual workshop (now termed the annual meeting) which is really a whole week program for the guest speakers and scholars from Western-Pacific region and China. We started with the modest one-day meeting in Caritas Medical Centre (CMC) plus a special lecture on Saturday interhospital meeting. It grew to a 1-1/2 day program. Free paper sessions were added with contribution from local and abroad. Satellite symposia and cadaver dissections were organized. Live surgical demonstrations and technical workshops attracted many surgeons. Despite the changing social, economic and political atmo-

sphere, the attendance of the annual meeting steadily increase and out-grew the capacity of CMC's lecture theatre. Now with the more spacious Shaw's Theatre, people do not have to sit on the aisle anymore. But the biggest meeting was held in Regal Riverside Hotel when the Society organized the "Regional Program" in conjunction with IFSSH in 1994. The meeting saw the congregation of key persons of regional hand societies and resulted in the formation of the Asian Pacific Federation of Hand Societies.

There were irregular lectures by overseas speakers passing through Hong Kong and newsletters. Now it has developed into regular forum hosted by regional hospitals in turn. And the "Forum" published by the Society of which this special issue is on the history of the Hand Surgery in Hong Kong. Regular activities actually put a big strain on the manpower of the Council. That is why, wide support from all members is important.

If we take HKOA as an adult now, HKSSH probably is already adolescent, and with its problems. Firstly, the close parental guidance from the professors are diminishing. Secondly, the younger generation are maturing but still with a narrow base. We need more people to be involved to make it grow better. Finally, we are facing the same problem of Hong Kong as a whole, i.e. what is our position after the '97 reunion?

Nevertheless, I believe that our Society has grown from its modest birth to a healthy 10th anniversary. And there is good reason to believe that it will flourish into the next century--with support from its members and sister societies. Happy birthday !