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## **The Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO): History and Activities**

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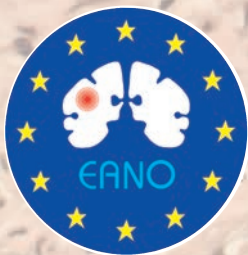
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THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF  
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# The Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO): History and Activities

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The memorable first meeting of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO) was held in Kumamoto, Japan, in November 2002. It was a big product by the earnest request from the organizing committee of the first meeting of the WFNO (World Federation for Neuro-oncology) in October 2001.

The first ASNO meeting was organized by brain tumour societies or neuro-oncology societies in 5 countries (Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Turkey) and featured 142 presentations.

The meeting was held every year until the fourth one to distribute “neuro-oncology” among Asian countries, and from fifth meeting it was held every 2 years. The second meeting was held in Seoul, Korea, in 2003, the third was in Shanghai, China, in 2004, the fourth took place in Taipei, Taiwan, in 2005, and the fifth in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2007, with the number of participating countries gradually increasing. We welcomed scientists, physicians, and people in various fields from Malaysia, Singapore, Hong-Kong, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, and other countries.

Consistently from the start, the main subject matter of ASNO has been focused on diagnosis, treatment, pathology, and biology of malignant brain tumours, especially malignant gliomas. A major aim of ASNO meetings is, of course, to discuss the recent advances in the treatment and biology of malignant brain tumours. Another aim is to offer participants understandings of standard “neuro-oncology” and information concerning “what is now ongoing in the world”. These advanced or educational lectures were made not only by ASNO members but also by invited guests from the USA and European countries, and they greatly stimulated participants, resulting in increasing interest for neuro-oncology in their own countries.

The highlight at the dawn of ASNO was the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting jointly with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology in Yokohama, Japan, in 2009. The number of participants from ASNO (414) was the largest compared to that from EANO (158) and SNO (100). Even excluding the participants from Japan, the host country, there were 176 participants from 13 Asian countries, including Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

After the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, we decided to hold the meeting every year again because many Asian countries wanted to have the ASNO meeting in their own countries. It has a great impact to have the ASNO meeting in countries where the national neuro-oncology society has not enough power to distribute the standard understanding of neuro-oncology to every corner of the country. Next year, in 2013, the 10<sup>th</sup> ASNO meeting will be held in India; it will be the first meeting outside the 5 founding countries.

ASNO has been a virtual society without bylaws or membership fees. Asia is extremely wide between its eastern border (Japan) and its western border (Turkey), and between its northern border (Kazakhstan or Mongolia) and its southern border (Indonesia). Asia comprises 50 countries. We have to travel farther to attend the ASNO meetings compared to EANO or SNO members to attend their respective society meetings. Asian countries are facing different political, economical, and medical situations. Actually, only 19 of 50 Asian countries have participated in past meetings. An ASNO meeting containing all Asian countries still remains in the far distance.

In 2012, a neuro-oncology group from Australia joined ASNO and some newly participating countries have raised their hands to host the meetings after 2014. Taking this opportunity, we started to construct the basic structure of ASNO, including bylaws.

ASNO is expected to promote neuro-oncology in all Asian countries and to build up a close and friendly connection with EANO and SNO to contribute to the development of neuro-oncology.

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