

From New Delhi to Sampran via Bali

The WMA General Assembly was held in New Delhi, India, in October 2009. We enjoyed the strong colors and characters of Indian food and musical performances and dances in addition to the fireworks described in the previous JMAJ issue. Traditional Indian music shows highly refined modal and rhythmic patterns which also appear in many other forms of folk music and dance.

There were the blue sky and sea on the coast of Bali, Indonesia, where the 26th CMAAO Congress was held in November 2009. There were lively discussions about how to boost the activity of CMAAO in view of the increasing economical and geopolitical importance, as well as the expanding population, of the Asia and Oceania regions. Unfortunately we had very few occasions to experience the beautiful sea because we were all so busily engaged in these important discussions. At this time, it was decided to hold a special anti-smoking conference in Thailand.

The beautiful nature and vital natural lifestyle of Bali was rich with unique traditional culture as demonstrated by the island's characteristic music and dance. The unique features of Balinese music and dance have not only drawn continuous attention as folk performances but also captured the notice of so-called "avant garde" composers for their poly-rhythmic patterns and microtone expressions within the form of group improvisation. They also appear to express the spirited community attitude towards preserving a traditional lifestyle on the island.

They also seemed to resemble a certain fundamental model for maintaining community health and welfare. However, a larger model needs to be devised to enable the implementation of community health for modern lifestyles in both rural and urban areas.

The Bali music and dance performances viewed



The 1st International Summit on Tobacco Control in the Asia and Oceania Region (Sampran, Thailand, Feb. 2010)

in natural light amidst darkness provoked deep emotions; like surrealist masterpieces, they invited us into the hidden world of the daylight forgotten in our modern lives.

The 1st International Summit on Tobacco Control in the Asia and Oceania Region was held in Sampran, Thailand in February 2010. Sampran is located between New Delhi and Bali.

Here we again found a unique ethnic originality in music and dance that shared a familiar Asian flavor. The performances were held on the final day of the summit in the starry night. I remembered a few days ago that I was able to observe the Polar Star and the Southern Cross in the same sky, in their north and south positions, with the passage of time over a few hours, and realized that I had experienced a special moment in the right place, Sampran, just below the equator.

All in all, the trips provided a spectacular experience of the rich diversity of Asia.

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