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SOUTH EAST ASIAN/WESTERN PACIFIC
REGIONAL MEETING OF PHARMACOLOGISTS
ADDRESS BY DR LEE CHIAW MENG,
PRESIDENT, SINGAPORE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Tue. 11 May 76

1 Mr President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the National Academy of Science to Singapore and to this regional meeting of pharmacologists. We are honoured that Singapore was chosen to be the venue for this international meeting.

2 Singapore pharmacologists are presently a small group. Their role is nonetheless important and it will, I trust, increase in the future. As of now, most pharmacologists in Singapore are associated with the university, their function is primarily the education of health professionals or research into problems associated with the nation's health and well-being. For a small country as Singapore it is unlikely there will be much scope for major expansion of pharmacology into other fields. Nevertheless, even within that limitation, there are many directions for future expansion and development which demand attention and for which the germinal buds for growth already exist amongst Singapore's pharmacologists.

3 The first is the essential role of pharmacologists in the biological and clinical evaluation of drugs and in the monitoring of their effects that the full implementation of the recent Medicines Act will require.

4 The second direction for expansion is in Clinical Pharmacology. As medicine becomes more sophisticated, with the ever increasing use of drug therapy, so increasingly urgent becomes the need for clinical pharmacological studies on the responses to drugs by our local population. This is particularly so, as both physiological characteristics and environmental adaptation are different for those who live in the more temperate parts of the world where new drug introductions are usually made.

5 Another point for development, one where Singapore may be able to contribute to regional effort, is biological toxicology. A recent example of this kind of work is the monitoring of the toxicity in seafood that arises from explosive growths of marine algae which cause the "Red Tide" phenomena.

6 On these and other matters, pharmacologists in Singapore look forward over the next three days to presenting their work, learning of what is being done by others and discussing other developments. I am sure your meeting will be a successful one. On behalf of the Singapore National Academy of Science, I send our best wishes for your activities and deliberations in the full and varied programme you have before you.