

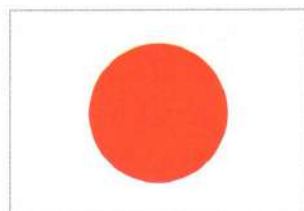
# Japan

25  
CHAPTER



**Founded 1957**

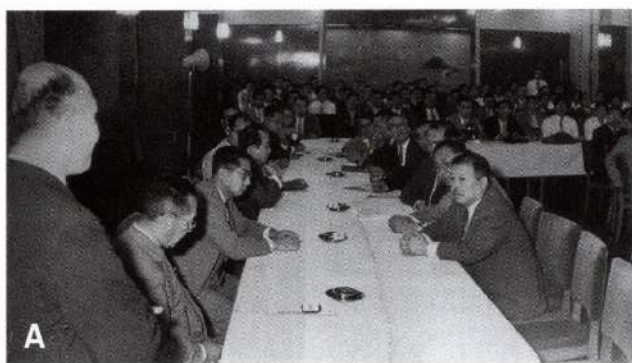
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In 1956, Dr. Harry Miller from Pennsylvania visited Japan. He brought the film of "Tendon Repair" edited by Dr. Mason, and the letter from Dr. Bunnell which encouraged the launching of the Hand Society in Japan. In 1957, the Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand (JSSH) was founded, and the secretariat was established at Kyushu University. The 1st Annual Meeting was held on July 7, 1957 in Kobe (President Prof. Amako). There were only fifty participants (*Fig. 1a*), who discussed 'Hand Contracture' and 'Tendon Repair'. The proceedings were published and entitled 'Basics of Hand Surgery'.

### Development of JSSH

With the effort of many senior hand pioneers (*Fig. 1b*), the JSSH has now grown to 3,386 regular members, approximately 18% of whom are



A



B

**FIG. 1** A. The 1<sup>st</sup> JSSH meeting in Kobe.  
B. Dr. Johnston and Dr. Tsuge in 1959.

plastic surgeons. The annual meeting is held regularly every year. The 50th Anniversary Meeting was held in Yamagata (Congress President Prof. Ogino) in April 2007. There were approximately 1,200 participants and 430 papers including poster presentations (Fig. 2). The last Anniversary Meeting (52nd) was held in Tokyo (Congress President Dr. Horiuchi) in April 2009. Nearly 1,600 participants and 480 papers including poster presentations were involved (Fig. 3).

As the Society grew, a stronger system was needed to manage it. In 1999, the Society presidency system began, and the central office of the JSSH was removed from Kyushu Univ. to His Brain Inc. in Nagoya. Prof. Tamai was elected the 1st President of JSSH in 2000 (Fig. 4). Now the central office of the JSSH has moved from His Brain Inc. to Congress Corporation



**FIG. 2** The 50<sup>th</sup> JSSH meeting in Yamagata.



**FIG. 3** Dr. Tamai & Dr. Iwamoto.

in Tokyo and Prof. Minami is the 4th President of JSSH. The JSSH organization has one vice president, 12 directors, and 200 councilors. The congress president, who is elected every year, is engaged in the management of the annual meeting. In 2006, the Qualified Hand Surgeon (QHS) system was started, and 450 surgeons were registered as QHS.

JSSH activities include not only the annual meeting, but also the publication of journals, continuous education of hand surgeons, and the promotion of the importance of hand surgery among the general public.

The journal of JSSH was first published in 1983,



**FIG. 4** Dr. Tamai, 1st President of JSSH, and Dr. Twanoto.



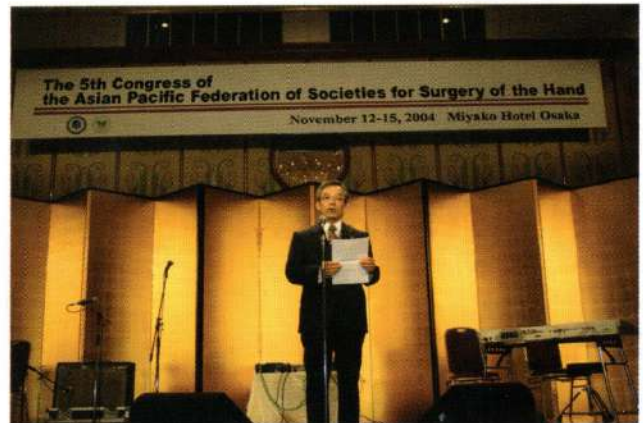
**FIG. 5** Journal of the JSSH.



**FIG. 6** **A.** President Prof. Tajima, 3rd IFSSH, Tokyo, 2005, **B.** Japanese hand surgery leaders at 3rd IFSSH Congress, 2005.

and it is now published 6 times a year (Fig. 4).

A newsletter is also published two or three times a year, while an instructional course in



**FIG. 7** Dr. Ikuta as President of 5th Congress of APFSSH, 2004.

hand surgery has been held twice a year. Dr. Ikuta is now working as chief editor of JHS Asian volume along with several councilors.

Organizing international meetings is also an important task for the JSSH. The 3rd International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) Congress in 1986 was the first big international meeting hosted by the JSSH (President Prof. Tajima) (Fig. 6). Since then, the JSSH has been active in the 2nd International Symposium on the Wrist in 1991 (President Prof. Miura), the 5th International Symposium on Congenital Differences of the Upper Limb in 2000 (President Prof. Ogino), and the 5th

Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) in 2004 (President Prof. Ikuta) (*Fig. 7*). Dr. Yamauchi was elected as President of the IFSSH in 1998. Dr. Tamai was also elected as President of APFSSH in 2000. Many senior Japanese Hand Surgeons have been elected as the "Pioneer of Hand Surgery" by IFSSH (*Fig. 8*).

We congratulate the development of hand societies, and hope for even stronger relationships between IFSSH and JSSH.



**FIG. 8** Dr. Yamauchi and Dr. Miura were elected as Pioneers of Hand Surgery in Istanbul, 2001.