6. Report from Regional Members
September 12, 1990

Mr. Ouyang Zhineng
Dr. K.C. Lun
Mr. Alfred Tang
Prof. Jos Willems
Dr. Patrick Nugawela

Dear Friends

I am writing this letter regarding Asia Pacific Regional Group of IMIA. If I understand correctly, a meeting to found this group was held at the time of MEDINFO 89 in Singapore, but no further follow up action has been taken. This problem was raised at the time of IMIA GA meeting in Glasgow by Mr. Ouyang and I was asked to investigate the situation.

I had a chance to go to Hong Kong at the end of August and talked with Dr. Alfred Tang, the representative to IMIA from Hong Kong, and Dr. Wong, who is now the president of Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics. Summarizing the information I got from various sources, the following is my observations and comments.

1. Generally speaking, the existence of a regional group can be justified, when the activities of the group are assured. Even if there is a regional group with a nice committee and a nice charter, if the group is sleeping, the group cannot be justified. Therefore, we have to explore the possibility of any medical informatics activities in the region. The formation of the committee and the charter can come later.

2. Dr. Tang, who is the secretary of the Asia Pacific Group says that he wrote three letters to Dr. P.K. Wong of Singapore, who is the president of the Group but he said he had not obtained any reply. I recommended Hong Kong people to send a copy to Dr. K.C. Lun always. In any case the copies of the letters should be sent to Dr. Lun as soon as possible to ask his help.

3. There will be the first conference of Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics in Hong Kong in November this year. Although this conference is planned as a domestic conference, it aroused a lot of interest in Asian regions and it seems many scientists will participate from various Asian countries. Hong Kong people think that this is a very good time to have another meeting of Asia Pacific Group. I agree with the idea of Hong Kong people that this is the only chance to have the follow up meeting, if they still want to set up the Asia Pacific Group.
4. I would like to encourage Hong Kong society to make their conference a substantial Asian Pacific regional group conference. To do that, they will not need any formal authority. They can just distribute the brochures as wide as possible. Hong Kong has a unique geographic merit, to which most of the Asian countries have equal access. Chinese people can also come very easily. Hong Kong is very good at organizing meetings with very good hotel facilities. I think that if Hong Kong society keeps organizing their conference annually, it will grow to a substantial Asian Pacific Conference. Then, the formal Asian Pacific Group (Association) will also grow automatically in parallel with the conference.

I hope that the above comments have some help to follow up the committee formed in Singapore.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Shigekoto KAIHARA, M.D.
IMIA Honorary Member
AGENDA
International Affairs Committee
Wed., November 7, 1990, 7am-8:30 am
Taft Room

Chair: Dr. Marion Ball

1. Introduction of new Executive Director, Gail Mutnik, and opportunity for Gail to make a few statements as the new Executive Director
   - Dr. Marion Ball

2. a) Status update on the AMIA Board
   b) Report on IMIA Newsletter initiatives and the role of the International Affairs Committee
   - Dr. Donald Lindberg

3. Yearbook Update
   - Dr. Jan van Bemmel

4. Status of the CME trip
   - Dr. Phil Manning

5. a) Discussion of the possibility of putting together a brochure for IMIA and help that can be solicited from our membership and/or committee
   b) Report on Glasgow meeting
   c) Status report on MedInfo 95
   - Dr. Tom Piemme

6. Role as Meeting Chair and what help is needed from the group to work on the meeting coming up in 1991.
   - Dr. Mike Ackerman

7. Ideas on how to involve membership in the out-of-town guest program, particularly for the IMIA Board meeting and the IMIA General Assembly in 1991
   - Dr. Richard Hsieh

8. Status report on where we stand with the Working Group initiatives
   - Dr. Marion Ball

9. New Business
   - Open Forum
MINUTES  
International Affairs Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, November 7, 1990  
Sheraton Washington Hotel, Taft Room

Contributors to the Meeting:  
Dr. Michael Ackerman, Dr. Marion Ball, Dr. Ramon Boom, Dr. Morris Collen, Dr. Charles Flagle, Dr. Richard Hsieh, Dr. Donald Lindberg, Dr. Salah Mandil, Ms. Gail Mutnik, Dr. Tom Piemme, Dr. Francesco Pincirol, Dr. Otto Rienhoff, Dr. Jean Raoul Scherrer, Dr. Jan van Bemmel.

Introduction of New Executive Director of AMIA  
The International Affairs Committee was called to order at 7:05 am and the Committee introduced the new Executive Director of AMIA, Gail Mutnik, to the members present.

Yearbook Update  
The first order of business was a report from Dr. Jan van Bemmel on the Yearbook activities. He gave a brief history and it is hoped that at the IMIA Board meeting in March a detailed plan will be available to make possible the first edition to be completed by MedInfo 92. Both Dr. van Bemmel and Dr. Rienhoff are actively pursuing alternatives on costs, etc.

IMIA Newsletter Update and Informatician Fellowship Suggestion  
Dr. Lindberg reported on the IMIA Newsletter activities and the fact that we are arranging for all of our AMIA members to have as a membership benefit a copy of the Newsletter. Dr. Lindberg also made a suggestion that we followup on a suggestion he received from Dr. Robert Braude, looking into possible fellowships for informaticians to come to the U.S. and to look at exploring a similar relationship such as that which the Medical Library Association has with the Cunningham Fellowship. The President will followup on this suggestion and give a report at the next meeting as to the outcome of this suggestion.

CME Trip  
A report was given on behalf of Dr. Manning's CME trip to which some lively discussion was added. The Chairman was directed to contact Dr. Manning and to ask him to coordinate this very exciting activity with other meetings that are being planned before and after the upcoming MedInfo 92. This action will be taken by the Chair.

Cross Registration for Meetings  
Dr. Ackerman next reported on the question of cross registration between and among meetings and Dr. Scherrer offered his advice as to how IFIP handles this matter. The
conclusion was reached that no special registrations will be taken and that this precedent is not one that currently exists.

**Out-of-Town Guest Program**
The next item of discussion dealt with Dr. Richard Hsieh who reported on the inadvisability of putting our foreign visitors in private homes. He would suggest a reasonable hotel as an alternative. This out-of-town guest program will be pursued further.

**Working Group Initiatives**
The Committee discussed the Working Groups' initiatives which are a very important aspect of the International Affairs Committee and a report by Patt Jacobs, Chairman of the Professional Specialty Groups for AMIA was shared with the group, indicating that the various chairmen, PSG 1 in Education match up with Working Group 1; PSG2 in Nursing Informatics PSG2 match up with Working Group 8; PSG20 in Hospital Medical Information Systems match up with Working Group 10; and PSG4 Dental Informatics match up with Working Group 11. Patt will be working with the other Working Groups as well to find individuals who would be willing to serve as representatives to the IMIA Working Groups. We are encouraging more Working Group activity through IMIA and hopefully we will be able to match up more of the PSGs which are appended for the minutes.

**Upcoming IMIA Board Meeting and General Assembly Meeting**
A request was made to include in the minutes the exact dates for the upcoming Board Meeting and General Assembly meeting to be held in connection with the next SCAMC meeting and they are November 15 and 16, 1991. An active social program will be arranged by the International Affairs Committee and a meeting is being set up between Gail Mutnik and the Chairman to arrange for appropriate entertainment and meeting plans.

The meeting was promptly adjourned at 8:30 am and all participants were thanked for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion J. Ball
Chairman, International Affairs Committee

Attachment
AMIA PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY PROGRAM

PSG CHAIRS

PSG-1  EDUCATION/INTERACTIVE VIDEO IN MEDICAL EDUCATION
       Alan Renard, Ph.D.

PSG-2  NURSING INFORMATICS
       Donna Inez, R.N., Ed.M.
       Judy Ozboit, R.N., Ph.D.

PSG-4  DENTAL INFORMATICS
       Richard Adelson, D.D.S.
       John Zimmerman, D.D.S.

PSG-6  COMPUTERIZED MEDICAL RECORD
       Paul A. Flacco, M.D.
       Margret K. Amatayakul, M.B.A., R.R.A.

PSG-8  HEALTH EVALUATION TECHNOLOGY
       Harold Timken
       Gordon Black

PSG-14 AUTOMATED ENCODING - ELECTRONIC HEALTHCARE
       Elmer Gabrieli, M.D.

PSG-20 HOSPITAL/MEDICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
       Raymond Talucci, M.D.

PSG-22 MEDICAL IMAGING SYSTEMS
       Melvyn Greberman, M.D., M.P.H.
       Alan Rowberg, M.D.

PSG-25 CLINICAL COMPUTING
       Charles Safran, M.D.

PSG-37 ANESTHESIOLOGY/Critical Care Medicine
       Igal Nevo, M.D.