



Dear Dr Choi,

I was most pleased to receive your letter of 6 December 1976. Your election as President of the Asian Association of Occupational Health was no doubt a priviledge to that Association in view of your outstanding international contribution to the Occupa-ti onal Health Course.

I fully realise the needs of the Asian countries to develop their occupational health programmes and the important role the Asian Association can undertake in promoting technical development in this field and field investigations. I have no doubt that under your capable leadership the Association will be able to realite its message in this field.

Your kind invitation for my suggestions is highly appreciated. One of the important suggestions is to activate the technical committees that were established during the 8th Asian Conference on Occupational Health last September in Tokyo. There is one Committee on Training in Occupational Health, another one on Occupational Health Services and a third on Relations with International Organizations. We would be most willing to communicate to you WHO's proposals on training methods and objectives on Occupational Health for developing countries and the development of occupational health manpower as well as the philosophy and guidelines produced in promoting occupational health services. I have therefore asked the staff members of our Office to provice you with the different technical publications from time to time which could be sent in adequate numbers for dissemination to the members of your Association. You will receive some of our latest internal documents on Occupational Health that came as a



result of scientific meetings in 1976 and we will make an additional supply of more documents. Please let me know when you have a chance of looking at these papers the ones from which you need additional copies for distribution.

One more suggestion is to try and covene a Regional meeting on one of the particular subjects entrusted to the aechnical committees of the Association. This idea should be explored with the Chairmen of these committees and the possibilities of holding one or more meetings to produce guidelines on occupational health in developing countries may be arranged in 1977 or 1978.

We will soon have to embark on a programme of promoting research and development of Occupational Health Centres in different ragions of the world. We believe that your Association can play an important role towards the development of these Centres [in some of the Asian countries with a view to studying and planning of regional programmes on Occupational Health.

I will be most pleased following discussions with the WHO Regional Offices in the Western Pacific and South East Asia to communicate with you. the outcome.

We also have in mind the possibility of providing a limited amount of funds to the Occupational Health Department with which you are associated. These funds could be used in carrying out different research activities and whenever necessary convening of scientific meetings. I will confirm with you our plans as soon as the financial situation for 1977 has been finaliced.

May I take this opportunity in wishing you a happy New Year and also every success in your enterprise.

With best personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

Dr M.A. El Batawi Chief Medical Officer Office of Occupational Health