

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

of the Chinese Medical Association



The Chinese Medical Association (CMA) celebrated its centenary on 14 December 2015 in Beijing. SMA was honoured to be invited to witness the event, which was held in the Great Hall of the People, facing Tiananmen Square. The outgoing President of CMA and former Health Minister, Dr Chen Zhu, gave an account of the association's activities and programmes during his five-year term as president. This was followed by a wide-ranging speech by Deputy Prime Minister Liu Yandong, describing in detail the many challenges the healthcare sector in China faces and some of the strategic steps needed to address these challenges. She also recognised the many historic contributions by CMA towards the improvement of public health in China. This was followed by a ceremony in which 30 eminent physicians were presented with a special award by CMA to commemorate its 100th year.

The occasion was also an opportunity for us to catch up with an old friend of SMA, Prof Zhong Nanshan, who was the former President of CMA and the

unofficial SARS hero of China. Prof Zhong was also the SMA lecturer in 2008 who delivered "Preparing for the Next Flu Epidemic: 5 Years after SARS... Lessons Learnt".

On 15 December 2015, CMA elected its new office bearers for a five-year term and Dr Ma Xiaowei was elected as President. He is also the Deputy Director of the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFP) of the People's Republic of China (the Health Ministry was merged with the Family Planning Commission to form the expanded NHFP about two years ago).

In the afternoon, SMA representatives met with the delegation of CMA, headed by the newly-elected Vice President, Dr Su Zhi. The two associations then discussed potential areas for future cooperation and exchanged gifts.

On a personal note, there was a palpable sense of nostalgia on my part as it was my third time attending anniversary celebrations of the CMA. The first was 20 years ago when I attended the 80th anniversary as a young council member, together with the then President, first Vice President and Honorary Secretary of the SMA. How time flies! ♦



PROFILE



TEXT BY

DR WONG CHIANG YIN

SMA Council Member

Dr Wong Chiang Yin is a public health specialist. He has been in the SMA council for more than 20 years and was the President of SMA from 2006 to 2009. His professional interests include hospital administration, health policy and regulation. He has been around long enough to know that very bad things can happen in healthcare as a result of good intentions.

Legend

1. Catching up with Prof Zhong Nanshan, former president of CMA and SMA Lecturer 2008
2. Exchange of gifts with Vice President of CMA – Dr Su Zhi

Photos by Chinese Medical Association