STATEMENT BY DR EDDIE T. CHAN,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL
COLLEGES, ACADEMIES AND ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS OF GENERAL
PRACTITIONERS/FAMILY PHYSICIANS (WONCA)

Mr Chairman, Dr Lee Shiu-hung, Director of Health, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of WHO, Dr S.T. Han, Regional Director for the WHO Western Pacific, Honourable Representatives, distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies & Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (WONCA), and as the Regional Vice-President of the Asia-Pacific Region and liaison person to WHO. I would like to congratulate the success of the WHO 43rd Session Regional Committee Meeting of the Western Pacific.

Since the formal admission of WONCA into official NGO Status by the Executive Board of WHO in 1984, WONCA has entered into various collaboration with WHO, including the recent work on international classification of diseases, and the role of General Practitioner in mental health. Other areas of future collaboration are also identified. These includes Health Information Systems, Health Manpower Development and Training and the Role of Family Physicians in increasing the Social Relevance of Medical Education.

I am pleased to know that the Regional Office of WHO (Western Pacific) has a high priority for development of human resources for health which includes sponsoring continuing education and providing fellowships.

I am happy to announce that in February 1993, there will be a WONCA Regional Conference for Asia-Pacific Countries to be held in Manila, hosted by the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians. The theme of the Conference is "Family Medicine Agenda in the 21st Century". This Conference is in support of the WHO strategy on the implementation of health-for-all by the year 2000 by motivating primary care doctors to be active in pursuit of this important goal.

In addition, there will be an Asia-Pacific Working Party on Family Medicine Education for doctors before the conference in the form of seminar-workshop. It's main objective is to formulate common content and core curriculum for the training of primary care doctors in the Asia-Pacific Region and means of assessment of their skill and competence.

I hope the WHO Regional Office (Western-Pacific) will acknowledge and support these activities. WONCA is most willing to have wider collaboration with WHO to develop programmes for continuing medical education in relation to auditing and quality assurance.