



**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WPR/RC43/DIV/5

**Forty-third session
Hong Kong
7-11 September 1992**

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**OPENING REMARKS BY DR S.T. HAN,
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
HONG KONG, 7 SEPTEMBER 1992**

Right Honourable Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, Dr Shuichi Tani, Chairman of the Regional Committee, Lee Shiu-hung, Honourable Acting Secretary for Health and Welfare, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization, Honourable Representatives, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of WHO's Regional Office for the Western Pacific I warmly thank the Government of Hong Kong for welcoming us here for the forty-third session of the Regional Committee. From the very beginning, Hong Kong has played a key role in the work of WHO in the Region. It was here that the Regional Office was first set up, on a provisional basis, in 1950, and our relationship of cooperation and friendship has continued to deepen since those early days. So this occasion is like a home-coming for us, and a return to the original hopes and convictions that brought WHO and its regional organizations into existence.

For the next few days we will be looking at our achievements during the past year and the prospects for our work in the future. I am sure this city, with its worldwide reputation for dynamism and resourcefulness, will provide a perfect setting for these deliberations. For several of our agenda items, such as activities relating to tobacco use, quality assurance in health care, and public health training, the work that has been done in Hong Kong provides a particularly valuable reference point. And for our technical discussions on a healthy urban environment, it is hard to imagine a place in which more is going on that is of vital significance for the cities of today and tomorrow.

For many years now, Hong Kong has played a central role in health development in the Region through WHO, and we look forward to its continuing to do so for many years to come.