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Asian Regional Association for Home Economics

The International Association of Home Economists and
Allied Professionals in Asia

ARAHE, celebrating 40th Founding Anniversary

Mr. Albert M. Rosarda

2023-2025 ARAHE President

The Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE) is an international organization of Home Economists and Allied Professionals in the Asian Region.

ARAHE was founded in September 1983. The key people involved on its founding were:

Dr. Aurora Corpuz. A Filipina who was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) at the 3rd IFHE World Congress in Ottawa, Canada on July 17-24, 1976. Sometime in the early 80's, the IFHE Council (the policy-making body of IFHE) created five (5) Vice Presidency positions to represent the five regions of the world, namely, Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and the Pacific. Dr. Corpuz was elected as the first Vice-President for Asia in 1980 and served until 1984.

Dr. Ampere Rigor. A professor from the University of the Philippines at Los Banos Laguna. She is a good friend of Dr. Corpuz, from whom she later asked for the name of a Japanese Home Economist among her friends at Cornell University. Dr. Rigor gave the name of Dr. Chiyono Matsushima her address and telephone number in Tokyo, Japan.

Dr. Chiyono Matsushima. Dr. Corpuz, without personally knowing Dr. Matsushima, unhesitatingly phoned the latter. Introduced herself and kindly inquired for the name and

address of the President of the Japan Society of Home Economics. Dr. Matsushima sounded surprised but warmly responded by giving the name of Dr. Akihiko Yabe.

Dr. Akihiko Yabe, President of the Japan Society of Home Economics. He was requested by Dr. Corpuz to host the first Asian Regional Seminar in lieu of their usual annual activity and proposed that the founding ceremony of the Regional Association be scheduled at the end of the seminar. With Dr. Yabe's acceptance of Dr. Corpuz' idea, communications from Japan to the Philippines flowed for the planning of the details of the big event, which was set for September 5-11, 1983.

The delegates representing the ten (10) Asian countries were: Dr. Rosanne Santora Kao (Hong Kong), Dr. Surjeet Malhan (India), Ms. Fitri Aini (Indonesia), Dr. Akihiko Yabe (Japan), Dr. Soojae Moon (Korea), Ms. Hapsah Nawawi (Malaysia), Dr. Aurora G. Corpuz (Philippines), Ms. Tng Sai Tin (Singapore), Ms. Edna Yvonne Seragoda (Sri Lanka), and Mrs. Amomrat Chareonchai (Thailand).

Three invited IFHE Officers present were President Margaret Fitch (USA), President-elect Margaret Dalloway (England) and Secretary General Madame Odette Goncet (France).

Of the five IFHE Regions, Asia had the distinct honor of being the first to formally organize as a Regional Association.

As ARAHE is celebrating her 40th Founding Anniversary, it is our fervent hope that the present and future officers and members shall continue to be inspired and guided by the ideals and principles of IFHE and ARAHE in attaining the common objective of improving the quality of life through active Professional Organization Involvement (POI) at the local and international organizations of Home Economists and Allied Professionals such as ARAHE and IFHE.