

## **Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology: 52 fruitful years**

**By Annette P. Borromeo, MD**

One sunny day in April 1956, the Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology (APSC) came into existence, while cardiovascular experts from various countries were in the midst of the well-attended First Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology in Manila.

The presence of who's who in the Asian-Pacific cardiology circle and the election of Dr. Antonio M. Samia, a noted Filipino cardiologist, as the first APSC president, made the event doubly significant.

In recognition of his position as the first APSC top honcho, as well as his contributions to the international setting of cardiology, Dr. Samia was given a Lectureship in his name. Through the initiative of Dr. Morton Berk, then president of the Hawaii Heart Association during the 6th APCC in 1976 in Honolulu, Hawaii, this Lectureship was made possible. The first Antonio M. Samia Lecture entitled "Coronary Artery Disease –Concepts and Controversies" was delivered by Professor Henry N. Neufeld of Israel during the 6th APCC held in Honolulu Hawaii in 1976.

After 46 years, the PHA, welcomed the idea of playing host for the second time to the 13th Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology. Then, Dr. Shahryar A. Sheikh was at the helm of the APSC. Dr. Edgardo Ortiz was the PHA president. Drs. Noe A. Babilonia and the author, were the 13th APSC Organizing Committee over-all chair and secretary general, respectively.

The APSC has gained the distinction of having metamorphosed into the largest continental component of the World Heart Federation.

To name some of the over 25 APSC member-nations: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, HongKong, Hawaii, India, Indonesia, Iran, Republic of Korea, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.