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**International Congress on Endoscopic Surgery
(June 19-23, 1995)**

With advances in medical technology in recent years, the treatment of patients have undergone some fundamental changes. One of the most spectacular development has been the advent of endoscopic surgery. Conditions that have required a large wound in the past can now be treated using endoscopes inserted through the mouth or through the umbilicus. Because a large painful incision is avoided, post operative pain is much reduced and the recovery period is much shorter. The cosmetic result of this new kind of surgery is also superior, as there is no unsightly scar.

Endoscopic surgery has revolutionized the practice of surgery. The advantages of a surgical operation that can be performed without the trauma and suffering of a major wound are obvious to doctors and patients alike. In the past few years laparoscopic cholecystectomy (removal of the gall bladder with an endoscope inserted through the umbilicus) has replaced open surgery as the treatment of choice for gall bladder stones. Laparoscopic techniques are also applicable for other conditions in the abdomen such as appendicitis, peptic ulceration, colonic tumours, hernias, as well as diseases in the chest and in gynaecology. Endoscopic surgery can also be used for patients with gastrointestinal bleeding, jaundice, cholangitis, colonic polyps and many other conditions that mandated open surgery in the past.

The techniques of endoscopic surgery are quite different from those of open surgery. With such an explosive development of endoscopic surgery, there is an urgent need for a forum for surgeons practicing this kind of surgery to share and exchange information in this new kind of surgery.

The 2nd Asian Pacific Congress of Endoscopic Surgery will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 19th - 23rd June 1995. During this time over 600 surgeons and operating room nurses from Asia and countries around the Pacific rim will meet. Besides leaders in endoscopic surgery from within the region, experts from Europe and the America have been invited to attend. The focus of the meeting will be on critical appraisal of existing endoscopic operations and sharing information on the latest development. Of particular interest to an Asian audience will be a symposium devoted to how to contain costs and to make this kind of high technology medicine cost-effective in an Asian setting.

The highlight of the Congress will be a live-demonstration of endoscopic surgery. This will take place at the Prince of Wales Hospital and will be transmitted live via microwave to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Surgeons from Hong Kong as well as experts from overseas, will demonstrate some of the state-of-the-art endoscopic procedures.

The Congress is a Bi-annual event of the Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia, and is co-hosted in Hong Kong by the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Society of Digestive Endoscopy. Besides the activities of the main congress, teaching workshops will be held at the Chinese University on laparoscopic stapling, thoracoscopic surgery and gynaecology.