



Dear Friends

Let me first wish you all a Happy New Year even if the year has already begun!

I am confident that this will be a fantastic year for IBE with many exciting challenges and opportunities for us to contribute to, in our efforts to have better conditions for people with epilepsy world wide.

This is a very special year as we also have the International Epilepsy Congress in Singapore and I hope that many of you will be able to attend.

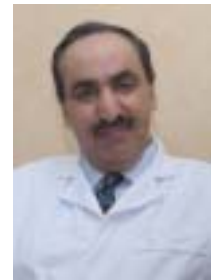
In the next issue of IE News there will be reports from the very successful 6th Asian & Oceanian Epilepsy Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that was held in November last year. As you may recall the congress was moved from Bali to Kuala Lumpur due to terrorist bombings in Bali. Thanks to valuable and dedicated efforts of many people, in particular Dr Dede Gunawan and Dr Chong Tin Tan, the congress, jointly hosted by Indonesia and Malaysia, was a great success.

The meeting attracted 1600 delegates from the South East Asian and the Western Pacific Regions, who enjoyed excellent scientific and social programmes. I was also fortunate to witness at first hand the determined actions of key persons in the IBE Regional Committees in South East Asia and Western Pacific and we also celebrated the launch of these regions with an informal Reception prior to the first meeting of these regional committees.

A special forum for people with epilepsy and their carers was successfully organised by Dr MM Mehndiratta and members of the Regional Committees. But as I mentioned, there will be more comprehensive reports in the magazine that is on its way to the printer.

Vice President for the Eastern Mediterranean Region

I am delighted to inform you that Dr Abdulaziz Al-Semari, Saudi Arabia has been elected Vice President Eastern Mediterranean by IBE Full Members in the region. I am also very pleased that plans are underway to celebrate the election and to officially introduce IBE's Regional Committee Eastern Mediterranean. A launch Reception will take place on Wednesday 21st February at the time of the 1st Eastern Mediterranean Epilepsy Congress in Luxor, Egypt.



Finally may I remind you to submit your text and images for the Members Poster display in Singapore?

Until next – best wishes!

Susanne Lund
President



Thanks

to everyone who submitted nominations for the **Volunteer Award!**