

Memorial Session of the establishment of AF at WC13 Brazil

WC13, The 13th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (<https://www.wc13rio.org/>) was held in Rio De Janeiro during August 31 to September 4. The main theme was "3Rs Integrating 3 Worlds: Human, Animal and Environmental Health" under the concept of "One Health".



On September 3 PM, we had an oral session entitled "Challenges in Asia to adopting the 3Rs across areas of animal use" (No. 53) as the Memorial Session of the establishment of AF. Y. Sakai and Dr. Yoon were the chairs of the session and we had four speakers from the four founding societies of AF as follows.

- #201: "Non-Animal Toxicity Testing Strategies in China : Development and Challenges", Peng Shuangqing, Shanghai Medicilon Inc./TATT-CSOT
- #202: "Status and future outlook of Non-animal testing methods in South Korea", Seokjoo Yoon, Korea Institute of Toxicology/KSAAE
- #301: "Toward an Expansive Interpretation of the 3Rs Across Areas of Animal Use", Jan Lauwereyns, Kyushu University/JSAAE, Yasuyuki Sakai, University of Tokyo/JSAAE
- #452: "Indian Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments- Genesis and Update", Vijay Pal Singh, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology/SAAE-I

Dr. Peng from TATT-CSOT introduced TATT and outlined China's vigorous efforts to advance alternative methods standardization independently, while collaborating with Europe and the US. Dr. Yoon introduced KSAAE, presented initiatives in advanced fields such as organoids

and MPS, and concluded by introducing WC14/5AC (the 5th Asian Conference) to be held in Seoul in 2027. Unfortunately, the following two presentations were pre-recorded video lectures. From Japan, Dr. Lauwereyns, an International Exchange Committee member, proposed that to advance the 3Rs in Asia, which has cultural and religious backgrounds distinct from Europe and America, it is realistic to promote them from a “Less is More” perspective while adopting the broader “One Health” viewpoint. Professor Singh from India introduced the steady activities of Indian academic societies, including lectures and hands-on seminars across the country for dissemination. He also reported on the 4th Asian Conference (Delhi) where the Asian Alliance was formed. Additionally, Professor Akbarsha made an urgent supplementary statement regarding activities in India.

Although approximately 40 participants attended, we recognized the need for continued efforts to promote the Asian Federation's activities through diverse opportunities and initiatives. Immediately before the session, a highly productive exchange took place between ESTIV President Kandloba, Vice President Roper (who visited Japan for the 37th Congress and contributed significantly to the ESTIV Award), and Professors Sakai and Kanda regarding concrete cooperation between JSAAE, the Asian Federation, and ESTIV. This discussion raised expectations for a joint short session at ESTIV 2026 (Maastricht) and for fostering exchanges among young and mid-career researchers.