I am delighted to be attending this 26TH APACRS in Singapore, the home of the APACRS. It was founded 26 years ago by Professor Arthur Lim right here in Singapore.

APACRS being the youngest of the major cataract and refractive societies in the world and Asia-Pacific also being made up of arguably the most diverse countries of the world, it cannot have been easy for the APACRS to make its mark and develop into what it is today. Yet the strong leadership which Arthur Lim and Graham Barrett have brought to the APACRS has been key to the continued success and growth of the APACRS.

Asia has over 4 billion people out of a world population of 7 billion. Having more than half the world’s population drives organizations in the Asia-Pacific to develop, grow and be relevant to the world as a whole. Indeed, the sheer numbers in Asia represent an opportunity for Asian ophthalmologists to lead the world in doing research and education. It is my hope that the APACRS will be a common platform that will amplify the strength to all cataract and refractive societies in Asia for the betterment of all our people.

I congratulate the APACRS on its 26TH Annual Meeting in Singapore and trust that you will all have a fruitful and enjoyable stay in our “city in a garden”.

Dr Vivian BALAKRISHNAN
Minister
Environment & Water Resources, Singapore
Honorary
Senior Consultant Ophthalmologist
Singapore National Eye Centre
Welcome to Singapore, the heartbeat of the Asia-Pacific for the 26TH APACRS Annual Meeting!

We have put together the biggest and most comprehensive anterior segment meeting in this part of the world so that you, our delegates and all of us here can learn and update ourselves on all aspects of anterior (and some posterior!) segment issues.

The participation of the Cornea Society and the major cataract and refractive societies from around the world promises a truly global focus on the anterior segment. I am sure that you will learn something of practical import that you can use in your practice.

I am indebted to you, the delegates, my many friends and colleagues who have made the effort to come to Singapore to join us on this momentous occasion. I also thank our sponsors, big and small for their support, without whom this meeting would not have been possible.

Enjoy!
The 26TH Annual APACRS Meeting in Singapore has become the anterior segment event of 2013. In addition to our usual focus on cataract and refractive surgery, we have included a Cornea Day and Glaucoma symposiums.

The Combined Symposium of Cataract and Refractive Societies (CSCRS) is our major plenary session featuring experts from the major regional cataract and refractive societies, including the ASCRS from the U.S., the ESCRS from Europe, and the ALACCSA-R from Latin America. Individuals contributing to the progress of cataract and refractive surgery will be recognized with various awards, including our major award, the APACRS Lim Lecture, which will be delivered this year by Professor Hung-Won Tchah from Korea.

Live surgery this year includes femtosecond laser cataract surgery in addition to the latest techniques and implants. With over 80 submissions, this year’s Film Festival is keenly anticipated and the award winners will be announced at our Film Festival Awards Ceremony on 12 July 2013.

There are many reasons to visit Singapore—it has a rich culture and is truly a multicultural kaleidoscope where all visitors are welcome. The restaurants are numerous and the food is outstanding. I am sure you will also enjoy the tourist attractions, which include wildlife parks, Universal Studios, and even some relaxing beaches. It is an ideal location for our APACRS meeting, where ophthalmologists from the Asia-Pacific come together on an annual basis to share knowledge and friendship. Together we can raise the level of teaching and skills to the benefit of our patients in practicing the profession and the subspecialties to which we are all dedicated.

On behalf of APACRS, I would like to welcome all delegates to the 26TH Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons in Singapore 2013.
A very warm welcome to Cornea Day, which kicks off the Anterior Segment Event of the Year as part of the 26TH Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons.

For the first time, the Asia Cornea Society and the international Cornea Society come together to jointly organize APACRS’s first Cornea Day. New clinical and scientific developments in the field of cornea and external disease herald a true renaissance in our ability to diagnose and treat corneal disorders, and the unique relationship and close collaborations of both these supranational corneal societies culminates in our much anticipated program. Delegates can look forward to superb scientific content showcasing the best from the West and the Asia-Pacific region in a series of symposiums that address the unique challenges in cornea and external diseases in our part of the world, while our Corneal Symposium within the main APACRS Meeting focuses on “Corneal Controversies in Cataract and Refractive Surgery”.

In my capacity as Medical Director of the Singapore National Eye Centre, it is also with great pleasure that I welcome you to take time to visit the facilities of our Centre during SNEC’s Open House on the evening of Thursday, 11 July 2013. The Singapore National Eye Centre is Singapore’s national center for ophthalmology, spearheading and coordinating the provision of specialized ophthalmological clinical care, and the pursuit of ophthalmic education and research.

It remains for me to thank the councils of both ACS and the Cornea Society for their hard work in planning this event, together with our international cadre of speakers. I look forward to welcoming you to sunny Singapore (when it doesn’t rain), where East meets West, and North meets South, within a melting pot of Asian cultures and unique traditions. Enjoy the meeting!