

CONGRESS REPORT

The XXth International Congress of Psychology was held in Tokyo from August 13th to 19th, 1972. Over 2,540 delegates from 54 different countries attended, there were two psychologists from New Zealand included in these totals.

The topics ranged over the total span of mainstream psychology, up to 12 different sessions running in parallel at any one time; the major changes from previous Congresses were the increased use of symposia with three or four invited speakers and two or three discussants, and yet greater emphasis on cognitive psychology in its widest sense. Because this was the first Congress held in Asia, special sessions on both the academic and administrative aspects were held to discuss the special problems and character of psychology in Asia.

The Japanese Psychological Societies, of which there are 8, roughly corresponding to our professional divisions, together with the Japanese Academy of Sciences, carried out a superb organizational task in running the Congress, which was noted for its comprehensive facilities, extreme efficiency, and generous hospitality. It may not be generally realised that such a Congress costs well over \$200,000 to run, and takes about six years to organize. These are obvious reasons for its only being held in the larger, developed countries.

The proceedings of the Congress, in extended abstract form, are to be published by the Japanese Psychological Society in one large volume, so no detailed comment will be made on papers given. Generally, issues affecting professional psychology, which are likely to have further implications for New Zealand, were discussed in the Assembly of the I.U.P.S. which was marked by more lively interchange than in some previous Congresses. The increasingly high standards demanded both by Psychological Societies and by Governments in a number of countries, coupled with increasing concern about test misuse, has given rise to proposals for greater interchange of information between national societies. In particular the under-developed countries of Asia are showing interest in collaborating to form some sort of Eastern Psychological Union, which would be an affiliated body to the I.U.P.S. A Latin American Association already exists and constitutes a precedent. The position of New Zealand is, in many ways, like that of Australia and Japan, and to a lesser extent Israel, but other countries in the loosely defined Asian area which stretches from Iran to the Phillipines are, as yet, under-developed to the extent or level of the technically sophisticated countries. It may be of interest to note that there are apparently, active psychologists in the People's Republic of China, under the auspices of a Social Sciences Council there. Realistic considerations of international politics cannot be ignored in predicting the future development of psychological links in the Western Pacific area.

The next Congress will be in Paris in 1976, and the next after that at Leipzig in 1980 to coincide with the centenary of the founding of the first psychological laboratory and the first psychological journal.

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