

Dear Esteemed Members of the Asian Lactobacillus Society,

I trust this message finds you in excellent health and spirits. It is with great honor and pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 13th Annual Asian Lactobacillus Society Conference.

I am Sung-sun Park, Ph.D., serving as the President of the Korean Society for Lactic Acid Bacteria and Probiotics. As this remarkable conference gathers experts, scholars, and enthusiasts from across the region, it is a privilege to represent Korea in extending these congratulations.

Despite my sincere desire to be present, unforeseen circumstances unfortunately prevent my physical attendance at this significant event. So, Professor Jin-man Kim will attend the 13th Asian Lactobacillus Society Conference as the acting president of the Korean president, Sung-sun Park. Also, please allow Professor Ki-sung Moon to participate as an observer.

They are contributing their expertise and insights to the enriching discourse that this conference promises.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight recent advancements within Korea's probiotics industry. On June 2nd, the Korean Society for Lactic Acid Bacteria hosted a successful academic conference themed "Beyond Probiotics : From Supplement to Therapeutics" Distinguished participants from the Korean Food and Drug Administration and the Health Functional Food Association graced the occasion, lending their insights to the dialogue.

The growth of the probiotics field in Korea is a source of immense pride for us all. The exchange of ideas and the fostering of connections within our nation serve as a testament to the dedication and progress in this vital area of research and industry.

In celebration of the 13th Annual Asian Lactobacillus Society Conference, I am humbled to present a symbolic gesture of support. A flag representing the unity of our endeavors, along with a donation of \$1,500, is being sent forth as a token of our appreciation. May these contributions aid in advancing the society's mission and pave the way for even greater accomplishments in the future.

In closing, I reiterate my warmest congratulations to all involved in the organization and participation of this esteemed conference.

With utmost respect and warm regards,

Sung-sun Park, Ph.D.

President, the Korean Society for Lactic Acid Bacteria and Probiotics