Editorial

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The purposes of the Fourth Asian Nephrology Forum are to discuss many matters related to the pathogenesis and treatment of renal diseases, hypertension, and diabetes, and to establish friendly ties among the young investigators from other Asian countries and friends and colleagues in Japan. The presentations and discussions on various renal

diseases were organized with invited speakers and young Japanese investigators. This Forum has been held every year since March 1996. The discussions have been very informative and useful for these investigators. 1999, scientific workers from Taiwan and Malaysia were invited: *Their papers are presented here.*