Background: The first Round Table Discussion on the "Status of Geriatric Medicine in Asia I " was held in Seoul 1999 during the 6th Asia-Oceania IAGG Regional Congress of the IAGG. It was chaired by yours truly and was attended by representatives from different countries in Asia. The discussion was based on an earlier study titled "Collaborative Study on the Status of Geriatric Medicine in Asia" (unpublished); by the following authors Ramos, MA (Phils.), Kuzuya, M, Umegki, H., Iguchi, A. (Japan), Tak-Kwan Kong, (Hong Kong), Dey, AB (India), Rochmah, W., Fangkun, G. (China), Poblete, E., Gatchalian, E.(Phils.), Wong SF (Singapore), Hyung Joon Yoo (Korea), Shy-Dye Lee (Taiwan), Jitapunkul, S. (Thailand). Each of the collaborators provided local data through a self administered questionnaire. Brief historical perspectives including demographics and health care programs relevant to the older persons were in various stages of growth and development. One consistent finding that was reported was the shortage of geriatricians even in aged populations like Japan and Hong Kong. Major obstacles for academic growth that were invariably identified included the following observations; 1.) Negative perception of the field of geriatric medicine 2.) low economic return 3.) lack of training opportunities 4.) resistance from existing traditional fields of specialty. Undergraduate curriculum from participating places were also reviewed. Topics such as aging of population, biology of aging and age related disease were invariably covered. Post graduate training i.e., clinical fellowships and PhD programs which ranges from 2-4 years in duration with most clinical exposures dominated by acute care settings or hospital based exposure. Some home care programs and institutional care exposures were reported but there seems to be a consensus that Long Term Care clinical and administrative skills should be improved among the trainees. Research is also one of the agenda that needs to be prioritized while in training in most of the places represented except for Japan.

Objective: Its been 23 years since the 1st Round Table Discussion and we thought its about time to look and compare the present situation with the past to see how much geriatric medicine has gained ground or to which direction it is headed to int the different parts of asia.