



MINUTES OF THE 21st ASIA-OCEANIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
OBESITY (AOASO) COUNCIL MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (DAY 1)

Date: 30 August, 2019 (Friday)

Time: 11:50 AM – 13:40 PM

Venue: Studio 5, Level 6, Conrad Seoul, Seoul, Korea

PRESENT:

AOASO Main Office Bearers

1. Prof. Brian Oldfield	ANZOS	President
2. Prof. Leonard Kyoung Kon Kim	KSSO	Vice-President
3. Dr. Kwang Wei Tham	SASO	Secretary
4. Dr. Gaga Irawan Nugraha	ISSO	Treasurer
5. Prof. Timothy Gill	ANZOS	Education Chair
6. Emeritus Prof. Mohd Ismail Noor	MASO	Immediate Past President
7. Prof. Brett Kuo-Chin Huang	TMASO	Past President and Co-Editor-in-Chief, Obesity Research & Clinical Practice (ORCP)
8. Prof. Ian Caterson	ANZOS	Past President (AOASO & World Obesity Federation)

AOASO National Representatives

1. Ms Jane Martin	ANZOS	President
2. Prof. Elaine Rush	ANZOS	New Zealand representative
3. Dr. Banshi Saboo	AIAARO	President
4. Prof. Francis Chun Chung Chow	HKASO	President
5. Dr. Gaga Irawan Nugraha	ISSO	Vice-President
6. Prof. Leonard Kyoung Kon Kim	KSSO	Director, Committee of International Affairs
7. Emeritus Prof. Mohd Ismail Noor	MASO	President
8. Dr. Benjamin Lam	ANZOS	Vice-President
9. Prof. Yi-Ching Yang	TMASO	President
10. Dr. Piyamart Suvansanya	BARSO	Secretary



Observers

1. Prof. Alice Pik Shan Kong	HKASO	Council Member
2. Ms. Geeta Appannah	MASO	Secretary
3. Dr. Mas Rizky Syamsurnarmo	ISSO	Chairman, Research Committee
4. Dr. Phong Ching Lee	SASO	Treasurer
5. Prof. Chih-Jen Chang	TMASO	Board Director
6. Prof. Wen-Yuan Lin	TMASO	Board Director
7. Dr. Hao-Hsiang Chang	TMASO	Secretary-General
8. Dr. Kuen-Cheh Yang	TMASO	Vice-Secretary
9. Dr. Chai-Wen Lu	BARSO	Member

Absent with apology:

1. Prof. Gary Wittert	ANZOS	Co-Editor-in-Chief, ORCP
2. Prof. Yuji Matsuzawa		Past President, AOASO
3. Prof. Takashi Kadowaki	JASSO	Executive Member, International Affairs
4. Prof. Kwan-Woo Lee	KSSO	Chairman, Board of Directors
5. Prof. Ken Kyu-Rae Lee	KSSO	President
6. Pr Dr. Mia C. Fojas	PASOO	President
7. Prof. Chaicharn Deerochanawong	TSSO	Secretary

1) Quorum:

1.1 A quorum for the meeting was established and the meeting was called to order by Prof Brian Oldfield at 11:50AM.

2) Opening and Adoption of Meeting Agenda

2.1 Prof Brian Oldfield, President of AOASO, welcomed Council members, National and proxy representatives of member societies and observers to the 21st AOASO Council meeting and AGM held in conjunction with the 10th AOCO 2019 in Seoul, Korea.

2.2 The Meeting Agenda was adopted by all present.



2.3 The President thanked Prof Leonard Kim, representative from KSSO, for hosting the 10th AOCO in Seoul, Korea and congratulated KSSO on the well-organized and well-attended meeting. He also thanked the EXCO for assisting him in the past year especially in relation to the organization of the AOASO portions of the AOCO 2019 and the 21st Council Meeting and hoped to be able to interact further and get to know Council Members and representatives of member societies through this meeting.

2.4 The biddings for the hosts of the 11th AOCO in 2021 and the ICO in 2022 by an AOASO member society would be held on Day 2 of the Council Meeting the following day on 31 August 2019. One of the key discussion points for this Council Meeting and AGM would be to decide if an additional AOCO meeting will be held in 2022 in conjunction with the ICO 2022.

3) Report of the 10th Asia-Oceania Conference on Obesity (AOCO) 2019 by KSSO

3.1 Prof Leonard KyoungKon Kim (KSSO) gave an update of the 10th AOCO 2019 being held in Seoul, Korea. There were a total of 821 registrants from the Asia-Oceania region with representatives from Russia, the UAE, Israel and Mongolia, and a total of 234 abstracts submitted. There were a total of 159 faculty members from the Asia-Oceania region speaking and chairing at 9 AOCO symposia and 2 AOCO-KSSO symposia encompassing a wide spectrum of topics from the developmental origins of obesity and diabetes to complications of metabolic surgery and neural circuits of feeding behavior and obesity. Please refer to Appendix 1.

3.2 Prof Oldfield and council members present congratulated the KSSO on the successful organization of the 10th AOCO.

3.3 KSSO pledged to share the profits from the AOCO to AOASO, the amount of which would be confirmed at a later date.

4) Discussion of AOCO 2022 & 2023

4.1 **Background:** The subsequent meetings for AOCO after the current one in Seoul, Korea would be in 2021 and 2023. However, as an AOASO society would be due to host the ICO in 2022, and AOCO being an AOASO-associated meeting, Prof Brian Oldfield had, prior to today's Council Meeting, circulated an email to AOASO Council Members to seek opinions as to the



value of an out-of-synch AOCO meeting to be held in conjunction with ICO 2022. AOCO might therefore be held in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Prof Oldfield reminded Council Members that it is the expectation of the World Obesity Federation (WO) that ICO meetings held every 2 years should be sponsored by one of the four constituent Societies (in our case AOASO) of WO and that the local Congress of that Society (in our case AOCO) should be run in conjunction. He indicated that he would like to seek approval from the AOASO Council to hold an AOCO meeting in 2022; however, given that the host city for the AOASO/ICO meeting would not be determined until the outcome from the dedicated “bidding” meeting (to be held the following day [31 Aug 2019]) was known, this discussion could not be finalized. In other words, this decision was contingent on agreement to host an AOCO meeting in 2022 by the successful bidding city.

He outlined the advantages of AOCO being associated with an ICO meeting: (i) considerable prestige due to huge international presence (ii) potential financial benefit to AOASO though this is dependent on negotiations between WO and the host association.

A number of comments were made by Council members on this topic which are summarized below:

- Prof Ismail felt that even without naming the 2022 meeting an ICO/AOCO 2022, AOASO associations would already be working on the meeting together with the host country of ICO country. He voiced that it would be good to hear the thoughts and opinions of WO executives and the nature of the interaction of WO, EASO and the local Irish Society (ASOI) in the running of ICO 2020 in Dublin. He also wondered if WO would be agreeable to split the profits 3-ways as opposed to just 2-ways if WO with hosting society alone (without AOASO being involved).
- Prof Oldfield responded suggesting (i) that there was an expectation that there be a local Congress that would sponsor the meeting. In the case of ICO 2020 this would be the Irish Obesity Society (ASOI) as representative of the European divisions of WO, EASO and (ii) while there was every chance of a 3-way split of funds this was unlikely to be an equal split based on the fact that there was no expectation of AOASO to *equally* share the risk. The host institution should establish arrangements with WO and AOASO prior to meeting. As for branding, based on ICO 2020, there would be co-branding.
- Dr. Tham asked if AOASO would consider pushing the AOCO 2021 meeting to 2022 to circumvent the issue of “too many meetings” back-to-back. Prof Ismail was not supportive of this suggestion.



- Prof Francis Chow (HKASO) voiced concern that with back-to-back meetings in 2021, 2022 and 2023, this would pose challenges to scientific value and meeting fatigue and might strain resources.

Importantly, Prof Chow clarified that the society from Hong Kong bidding for the ICO 2022 was not HKASO but Hong Kong Obesity Society (HKOS) which was not part of AOASO. This arose as WO had accepted more than 1 society from 1 country (when previously it was only 1 society from 1 country). HKOS was accepted a few years ago to WO (2016) but is currently not part of AOASO. This was recognized by the President and other members as an important constitutional issue where there was need to align the Constitution of AOASO which called for 1 Country-1 Society with the status quo of WO which is now that membership of WO should not be restricted to the 1 from 1 rule. Prof Ian Caterson as representative and Immediate President of WO supported the more expansive view of WO membership.

Further points raised in relation to the 2022 AOCO meeting and the (related) issue of the one country – one Society policy were as follows:

- Dr. Gaga (ISSO) voiced that he had no objections for AOCO to be conducted every year in 2021, 2022, 2023 but voiced concern that the host country would have greater responsibility to support the event. He also felt that if host country/society was not part of AOASO, it should not host any event.
- Dr. Banshi's (AIAARO) opinion was that AOASO should make it clear to WO that the society hosting ICO 2022 should be part of AOASO.
- Discussion then arose on whether HKOS should be incorporated into AOASO and what the regulations and processes pertaining to these were.
- Prof Ismail (MASO) highlighted that in the most recent cases of VINATUS and BARSO's applications to register with WO, these were made through AOASO. As he was the President of AOASO during that period, he then forwarded their application to WO. He questioned if an interested society/member should apply to AOASO directly (i.e. the regional society) instead of or before applying to WO to be a WO member. As for HKOS' case, neither he nor Prof Oldfield as immediate Past President and President of AOASO respectively received any application from HKOS to be part of AOASO or WO.
- Prof Ian Caterson clarified that all applications should be made directly to WO; all associations within the AOASO region which are officially registered with WO should be, by default, part of



the AOASO and that WO is responsible for filtering down the application and information regarding newly registered obesity society to AOASO if the society had applied directly to WO.

- Prof Caterson clarified that previously, the WO regulations were that only 1 society from each country could be registered with WO. However, the regulations were changed 18 months ago to allow acceptance of more than 1 society from a country and associations need not necessarily be national associations.

Prof Oldfield proposed the discussion of the above matters (particularly of AOCO being held out-of-synch with ICO 2022) be deferred until after the outcome of the ICO 2022 bidding was known and be decided by members outside of a scheduled Council meeting.

5) Adoption of Minutes of 20th AOASO Council Meeting held on 24th May, 2018 in Vienna, Austria

5.1 The minutes of 20th AOASO Council meeting held during the ECO in Vienna, Austria on 24th May, 2018 was proposed to be adopted by Prof. Ismail Noor (MASO) and seconded by Dr. Kwang-Wei Tham (SASO) without any amendments.

6) Matters arising therefrom

6.1 Prof Ismail Noor (MASO) brought up the AOASO website for discussion. He proposed to AOASO members if they wanted to revamp the website to make it more interactive or to maintain it skeletal with only the essential information. He also reminded AOASO member societies to update the AOASO Secretary and the web master, Mr. Lim, whose email contact is on the AOASO website. Council members present were keen to maintain the AOASO website format and information status quo and agreed to keep the AOASO Secretary updated on any changes to key leadership and EXCO changes within their societies. Prof Ismail offered for Malaysia to continue hosting the AOASO website and Council members agreed to that.



7) Report of AOASO President, Professor Brian Oldfield

7.1 Prof Oldfield briefed everyone on the voting for ICO 2022 on 31 August 2019: The selection of the host society for the ICO 2022 would be held on 31 August 2019 with HKOS and the Melbourne group from ANZOS bidding. Each country's representative including its proxy would vote as well as WOF's 2 members. The weightage of the votes would be 50% from WOF and 50% from AOASO.

Dr. Elaine Rush (NZ rep, ANZOS) asked for confirmation that ANZOS would be have 2 votes as allowed for in the Constitution (recognizing that this Society is comprised of two countries) at the bidding for ICO and AOCO the following day.

Prof Oldfield indicated that Australia would abstain but NZ would vote as they had no vested interest in the Melbourne bid.

7.2 During his term as President, AOASO, Prof Oldfield outlined his ambition to achieve a greater interaction between AOASO societies and WO, to encourage mutual benefits and synergies between the two organisations. The fact that the Asian-Oceanian region is one which is strong and growing is well-recognized by WO, and WO is looking at ways to involve and develop AOASO more.

He outlined his views on the potential to assist, where necessary and where it was wanted, country specific standardization of approaches to obesity care. This included the potential to incorporate national guidelines that have been established recently in Australia and elsewhere for levels of accreditation of obesity treatment/management care delivery, standardization of approaches and benchmarking, improved networking and sharing of information. These would be established in conjunction with WO through AOASO on a country by country and as needed basis with recognition and understanding of the different healthcare systems, different requirements, different demographics and legislation throughout the region. Prof Oldfield shared that in Australia, the National Association of Clinical Obesity Services (NACOS) was established to standardize and stratify clinical care in the country. This model can be used in other countries in the region to organize and stratify care.

A global obesity taskforce was set up by WO to redefine the narrative towards obesity for the development of plans for World Obesity Day (WOD) next year and 6 groups were invited to globally support this narrative, AOASO being one of the groups. Stigma in obesity has been an important issue that WO is keen to continuing working on.



8) AOASO Financial Report

8.1 Dr. Gaga Irawan Nugraha, Treasurer, AOASO, presented the financial report from 31 May 2018 to 31 July 2019. The financial report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The balance as of 30 April 2018 which was presented at the (last) 20th AOASO Council Meeting (on 24 May 2018) was USD 5,722.55. ANZOS donated a sum of USD 5,000 from the proceeds of the 9th AOCO held by ANZOS. Financial support in the sum of USD 483.87 was given to Dr. Pallavi Patankar in 2018, then Secretary of AOASO, for registration fees for ECO attendance where the 20th AOASO Council Meeting and hand-over of EXCO committee members was conducted. The balance as of 31 July 2019 was USD 9,613.24.

8.2 Arising from circumstances of financial report requested by Dr. Pallavi in 2018, Dr. Gaga proposed to the Council to draft a set of rules/procedures of providing financial support to AOASO committee members to attend meetings in the future.

8.3 Dr. Gaga also raised the question as to how to continue building the AOASO financial balance. Prof. Oldfield agreed that AOASO should keep building its balance sheet and proposed that one of the ways is for AOASO societies conducting AOCO meetings to contribute from the profits of their meetings should there be any. This further underpinned the need to consider the potential for the AOCO meeting in 2022 to act as one of the host Societies of the ICO 2022 and share in those profits. It was confirmed by Prof Leonard Kim of KSSO that a contribution (amount to be confirmed later) would be expected by KSSO from the proceeds of the current AOCO in Seoul, Korea.

8.4 The centralization of the AOASO bank account/funds (e.g. in Singapore) was brought up by Prof Oldfield. Dr. Tham explained that the purpose of this centralization was for the bank account to remain at a fixed accessible site hence removing the need to move the account every 4 years when the term of the Treasurer changes. This was previously also mentioned at the (last) 19th AOASO Council Meeting. No consensus was arrived at the meeting but Prof Brian Oldfield suggested proposals should be made and considered prior to the end of the current term of EXCO in 2022.

9) Report on ORCP Journal

9.1 Prof Huang Kuo-Chin (Brett), Co-Editor-in-Chief of ORCP, gave an update on behalf of ORCP. He thanked AOASO societies for their contribution and encouraged members to continue



contributing. reported on the status of ORCP. For further details on the journal performance, please refer to Appendix 2 (which was circulated to Council Members prior to today's meeting).

In summary, the journal has a 2018 impact factor of 2.056, a slight (4.5%) decrease from the 2017 figure. The journal received 612 submissions in 2018 and has had 350 submitted so far this year. The rejection rate is currently running at 90% with 14% of the articles rejected after peer review and 76% of articles rejected by the current 4 Editors without going for peer review. The processing times for accepted articles had reduced and were hovering over 20 weeks to final decision. The CiteScore (a citation metric used by Elsevier) for ORCP is 1.84 (with 1 as the average) which has been stable. Data from Science Direct shows that the journal received 132,112 downloads in 2018 and by the end of June 2019, has had just under 75,000 articles downloaded. Expected downloads for 2019 is expected at 150,000.

10) Any Other Business

Prof Tim Gill (ANZOS) asked Prof Ian Caterson where he viewed the direction in which SCOPE was going and how in his view, SCOPE could contribute to this region. Specifically, he asked whether SCOPE was viewed by WO as primarily profit generating or run for the benefit of member Societies.

Prof Caterson's replies were as follows:

- 1) On the whole, the clinical care and management aspect of WO is under the lead of Prof Joe Prioetto. Under his lead, there has been an increase in the number of SCOPE modules. Curriculum has been translated to several languages and WO working on more languages e.g. Mandarin. He encouraged AOASO societies/countries to press for appropriate translation to their native languages especially the CORE modules.
- 2) There has been a growing realization that the issues of different regions are unique and that SCOPE needs to be less North American or European-centric only and is looking for more contributors to adapt the SCOPE content to local / regional issues e.g. ethnic specific. This will



ASIA-OCEANIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY
OF OBESITY



require input from AOASO. Yes, while SCOPE started out as profit generation, with support / sponsorship, this is of a lower priority now. Funds may become available to support these initiatives in the AOASO region as they have for the GULF region.

In Prof Caterson's view, WO would like to use SCOPE as a way of standardizing obesity training in the region and this would require more regional modules. Prof Oldfield commented that SCOPE in its current format and as described by Prof Caterson was unlikely to overlap considerably with the level of benchmarking and accreditation as described earlier (based on the NACOS experience in Australia) and would likely work alongside the initiative that he outlined.

11) There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned at 13:00 PM.

Minutes Prepared by:

Kwang-Wei Tham
Secretary
AOASO

Minutes Vetted by:

Brian Oldfield
President
AOASO