



Minutes of the 16th.AOASO Council Meeting/General Assembly, 18 March 2014, 12.45-14.45pm, Room 309, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia in conjunction of ICO 2014.

Attendee

[AOASO Executive officers]

Kuo-Chin Huang (TMASO) President
Gary Wittert (ANZOS) Vice President
Kyoung Kon Kim (KSSO) Secretary General
Tim Gill (ANZOS) Chair, Education Committee
Ian Caterson (ANZOS) Past President

[AOASO National representatives]

Anna Peeters (ANZOS, AUS)
Elaine Rush (ANZOS, NZ)
Jihni Zhang (HKASO)
Gaga Irawan (ISSO)
Masamitsu Nakazato (JASSO)
Jeong-Taek Woo (KSSO)
Gabriel Jasul Jr. (PASOO)
Cindy Ng Li Whye (SASO)
Mohd Ismail Noor (MASO)
Patankar Pallavi (AIAARO)

[Observers]

Chang Beom Lee (KSSO)
Chang (TMASO)
Wen-Yuan Lin (TMASO)
Kuen-Cheh Yang (TMASO)

1. Apologies for absence

Prof. Suiji Inoue (Past-president) (JASSO)
Prof. Yuji Matsuzawa (Past-president) – (JASSO)
Prof. Gary T. Ko (HKASO)
Prof. Kazuwa Nakao (JASSO)
Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy – Hon Treasurer (PASOO)

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 15th AOASO council meeting held on 31st October 2013 at Trans Luxury Hotel, Bandung, Indonesia

The General Assembly adopted the minutes of the 15th. AOASO Council meeting and members agreed that the issue on New Zealand voting rights will be discuss under “Any other Business

3. Final report of the 7th AOCO 2013 at Bandung, Indonesia (ISSO)

On behalf of ISSO, Dr. Irawan reported the summary of AOCO 2013. He mentioned that it was successful and beneficial. ISSO felt happy about it and thank all AOASO member countries for their support. There were 43 speakers from ten countries and 12 moderators mainly from Indonesia. The number of participants was 432 (international 19, local 413), and the list of activities include six plenary lectures, eleven symposia sessions, oral presentations, poster presentations, a yoga class, AOASO council meeting, ISSO business meeting, the Faculty dinner, and cultural night. The number of abstracts accepted for oral and poster presentations were 37 and 64, respectively, while the number of sponsors were ten. Summary of financial report revealed an income of 1,861,897,886 rupiah similar to that of the expenditure hence, the balance is 0 rupiah. This “0” balance is made possible by the timely intervention of the Universitas Padjadjaran through grants, for which the Organiser are much indebted.

4. Report of the preparation status of AOCO 2015 (JASSO)

On behalf of JASSO, Prof. Nakazato reported that JASSO have recently elected a new President, Prof Masato Kasuga to replace Prof Kazuwa Nakao. With this new development, Prof Kasuga will now take over the duty as the President AOCO 2015. He further reported that the date and the venue of AOCO 2015 will remained unchange and that the scientific program is under construction.

5. ICO 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (WO/MASO)

On behalf of WO/MASO, Prof. Ismail Noor, thanked AOASO member countries for their support of IC 2014. . From the WO Secretariat report, about 1200

delegates have registered for ICO 2014. This relatively poor response is partly due to the ECO 2014 to be held in Sofia in May 2014 and also the fact that Pharmaceutical Companies have cut down expenses on sponsoring Clinicians, as compared to previous ICOs. Prof. Caterson expressed the same concern in view of close proximity (within the same year) of 3 major Obesity Conferences i.e. ICO, ECO and TOS, and host of future AOCO should take this into consideration in their planning.

He is pleased that most of the invited speakers have obliged and that comment from the delegates, on the Scientific programme of ICO 2014 was very positive. He informed the Council that the abstracts book which was arranged to be printed by Wiley in Singapore has been delayed and should arrive on day 3 of the Congress.

The AOASO Breakfast Symposium (ABS) partially sponsored by WO for young investigators held for the first time in ICO series, have received positive response from delegates. The Council unanimously agreed that ABS should be continued in future ICOs. We will seek support from WO, to waive the registration fees of selected candidates but member countries should help support the other expenses, should their candidate be nominated. Prof. Ismail expressed his thanks to Prof Gary for agreeing to chair the session.

6. Election of AOASO new president and officers

Short discussion was made about the period of new officers and it was decided not to change. It is four years unless the Statutes of AOASO is amended.

Secretary General, Dr Leonard informed the Council that this is an election year to elect the new AOASO President and officers for the years (2014-2018). The Secretariat received the nomination of Prof. Ismail Noor for AOASO President. Since there was no other nominations, Prof Ismail Noor was elected as AOASO President unanimously. He pledged to try to make AOASO more visible and get member countries to work together to achieve this goals.

Prof. Woo (KSSO) was elected as Vice-President, Dr. Pallavi (AIAARO) as Secretary General and Dr. Irawan (ISSO) as Treasurer. Prof Tim Gill has agreed to stay for another term as the Chair of Education Committee. Since there were no other nominations, all of the above officers were elected unanimously. The period of new officers starts from ICO 2014 until ICO 2018.

7. AOASO other activities

a. Frequency of ICO and AOCO

Although the frequency of ICO has been changed from every four years to every two years, the Assembly decided to keep current frequency of AOASO (once every two years). Using IT solutions such as Webinar and decreasing the frequency was suggested as an option, and there was a concern about the difficulty of determining host country. However, considering the benefit of face-to-face congress and the number of our members, the current frequency of every two years remained unchanged. The speakers of AOCO from this region are expected to contribute their expertise without honorarium, and this will be helpful for hosting the meeting as a low-cost conference.

b. ORCP journal

Prof Wittert, Editor in Chief, informed the Council that Prof. Nakao, new co-editor, successor of Prof. Inoue, have decided to withdraw from being in the Editorial Board. Prof. Wittert, suggested either Prof. Huang (TMASO) or Dr. Kim (KSSO) to be a new co-editor. Prof. Huang has accepted the offer and the Council agreed. Prof. Wittert referred the improvement of associated editor system.

Prof. Peeters raised an issue about making ORCP more visible. Prof. Gary Wittert mentioned some of the advantages, for example, online journal, free downloadable highlight articles and included Webinar platform. He also asked members to continue to support ORCP either by sending articles or increasing the subscription of their members.

c. Education committee

Prof. Gill tried to negotiate on implementing SCOPE in Asia-Oceania region with SCOPE team, but it was rejected because of the high cost.

Educational leverage can be induced by granting CPD points to the selected articles of ORCP, video clips and other IT solutions contained in ORCP website.

8. Any other business

The issue of New Zealand having a voting right within ANZOS was further discussed. Prof Ismail suggested that this issue could be overcome by

amending the current AOASO Statutes in line with the WO Articles of Association. The Council agreed to amendment of the Statutes thus allowing New Zealand their voting rights in the next Council meeting.

9. Date and venue of next meeting

The 17th.AOASO Council meeting will be held during AOCO 2015 scheduled for 1- 4 October 2015 in Nagoya, Japan.