

1 **AOASO COUNCIL MEETING NO. 27**

2 Venice Convention Center

3 May 14, 2024

4 **Attendance:**

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NAME	POSITION/ AFFILIATION	COUNTRY
1. Leonard Kyoung-Kon Kim	President - AOASO, KSSO	Korea
2. Jasper Wen-Yuan Lin	Vice President – AOASO; TMASO	Taiwan
3. Mohd Ismail Noor	Past President – AOASO; MASO	Malaysia
4. Brett Kuo-Chin Huang	Past President – AOASO; TMASO	Taiwan
5. Cheol-Young Park	President, KSSO	Korea
6. Mae Ann Michele Yuen	Representative, HKOS	Hong Kong
7. Brij Makkar	Representative, AIAARO	India
8. Sidartawan Soegondo	Representative, ISSO	Indonesia
9. Lee Phong Ching	Representative, SASO	Singapore
10. Jira Thavornpradit	Representative, BARSO	Thailand

6 **Observers**

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NAME	AFFILIATION
1. Jee-Hyun Kang	Korean Society for the Study of Obesity
2. Dicky Levenus Tahapary	Indonesian Society for the Study of Obesity
3. Yoo Bin Seo	Korean Society for the Study of Obesity
4. Chang Chin Yen	Taiwan Medical Society for the Study of Obesity
5. Tun Jeng Hsiao	Taiwan Medical Society for the Study of Obesity
6. Yi-Ching Yang	Taiwan Medical Society for the Study of Obesity
7. Chang-Hee Jung	Korean Society for the Study of Obesity
8. Timothy Gill	Education Chair of AOASO
9. Chia-Wen Lu	Secretary General, TMASO

8 **On-line**

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NAME	POSITION/ AFFILIATION	COUNTRY
Brian Oldfield	Immediate Past President, AOASO, ANZOS	Australia and New Zealand
Mia Fojas	Secretary General – AOASO, PASOO	Philippines
Koutaro Yokote	President, JASSO	Japan
Masamitso Nakazato	Representative, JASSO	Japan
Leonie Heilbronn	President, ANZOS	Australia
Geeta Appannah	President, MASO	Malaysia
Mhod Razif Shahril	Secretary-General, MASO	Malaysia
Do Thi Ngoc Diep	Vice President, VINUTAS	Vietnam
Piyamart Sitipredanant	Secretariat, BARSO	Thailand
Michelle Yuen	Representative, HKOS	Hongkong
Marjorie Ramos	President, PASOO	Philippines

Suk Yong Ri	Representative, OHCoHAK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)
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ABSENT:

Dr. Elaine Rush - New Zealand
Dr. Francis Chun Chung Chow - Hongkong

AGENDA:

- I. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
- II. Confirmation of minutes from the last Council meeting
- III. President's Update
 - A. AOCO 2023
 - B. Consensus on Sarcopenia obesity in Asia with IAGG-Asia Pacific region
- IV. Switching from biennial to annual AOCO
- V. Establishment of Committees
- VI. Update on the preparation status of AOCO 2025 (Presented by AIAARO)
- VII. Date and venue for next Council meeting
- VIII. Any Other Business

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I. Welcome Remarks from the President

Prof. Kim welcomed all the delegates and expressed his thanks for being able to join this year's Congress. Everyone was instructed to sign the attendance, both those attending face-to-face as well as the online attendees.

Representatives of Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Korea, Hongkong and Malaysia are acknowledged. It was announced that those who were not able to join and responded through email were Dr. Elaine Rush from Hongkong, Dr. Francis Chun Chow, Dr. Gary Wittert and Dr. Jun Whatter.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held last May 18, 2023.

The next order of the day was the approval of the Minutes of the May 18 Meeting. A copy of the minutes was sent to the email addresses of the participants prior to the meeting.

Confirmation of the Minutes was secured from the participants. Any additional comments may be emailed to the Secretariat.

III. President's Update

A. AOCO 2023

AOCO update was presented by Michelle Yuen from Hongkong.

Highlights from the AOCO 2023:

Acknowledgement and appreciation were expressed and for the opportunity of hosting last year's event.

- 1. Review of the registration and attendance

406 registered, 381 attended.

54 This is a marked improvement of 94% in terms of attendance.

55 Among those who registered, 65 paid. As a result, the complimentary slots were used for
56 Council members, speakers and some of the local organization.

57 There were 69 faculty members and 62 attendees from the sponsors and exhibitors.

58 Majority of the attendees were from Hongkong. Breakdown as follows:

59 284 Hongkong, Australia and Canada; 8 from Macau; 6 from Malaysia; 19 from Singapore,
60 10 from Taiwan, 1 from US, 1 from Scotland, 29 from South Korea, 1 from Vietnam and 1
61 from Thailand.

62 In terms of attendance, around 120 to 130 attended the plenary and breakout sessions.
63 Symposia on basic sciences were less attended. Towards the end of the day, there were less attendees.
64 On the second day, there was a pretty good attendance for the plenary, with 55 attendees towards the
65 closing.

66 2. Conference Activities: Observations

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68 a. Abstracts

69 A total of 63 abstracts were received. Of these, 39 were submitted in the first round and 24 as
70 late breaking submissions. Among these, 45 were accepted. Twelve were selected as oral presentation
71 participants and 33 for poster presentation. Four awards were given the best Oral Presentation Award,
72 Young Investigator Award, Young Investigator for Poster Presentation Award and the Best Poster
73 Award. The Secretariat is not able to post where the winners come from.

74 Breakdown of abstracts received per country: 16 from South Korea, 8 from Singapore, 6 from HK, 4
75 from Indonesia, 3 from China, 2 from Malaysia, 1 from each: India, Macau, Philippines, Taiwan,
76 Thailand and UK.

77 b. Student Scholarships and Website

78 This year, AOASO awarded Student scholarships given to HK local university students at HK
79 local: US\$ 20 cost per scholarship. Students were invited to come in, and they were sharing the event
80 from their Instagram and their You Tube channels. This is a very effective way to promote the
81 conference because of its low cost. Hopefully, these videos will be available online after the conference.
82 Very effective in terms of branding in the future so that more people around the world will be aware of
83 the event. Around 20 students attended. Eighteen of them submitted a video that they took from the
84 conference. Two winners were selected from the university and were given 20 dollars and free
85 registration as their prize.

86 After the event, a video of the conference was viewed on-demand, running from September to
87 December 2023. Hosting of web has already ended. Delegates who were interested were not able to
88 download but they can view and go online. So far, there were 75 views last September. The numbers
89 began to dwindle down to December when there were only 6 views. Thus, the video-on-demand was
90 taken down.

91 c. Post-event learnings / Evaluation of the conference

92 *Below are the post-evaluation findings of the conference based on the attendees' feedback.*

- 93 • Appropriateness of program duration – 38% percent – said the duration is excellent / 55 good
94 duration / 6 percent average / 1 percent disliked
- 95 • Provision of new knowledge – 95% believed it was very good / 5% average / 0 poor

- 96 Speakers who shared were able to enhance participants learning and sharing: 95% speakers
97 were engaging
- 98 • Appropriateness of presentation methods: traditional in power point and lecture setting:
99 94% think that the presentation method is appropriate
 - 100 • Beneficial to professional development and relevant to practice – 93 percent believed that the
101 conference is very helpful / 7 % think it is average
 - 102 • Appropriateness to your level of interest and understanding - 92 percent

103 *Sponsorship Issues / Challenges*

104 Most of the sponsors locally had well-known brands in the region. There are only 2 of these companies
105 that are outside of HK. All sponsors are using their local HK marketing budget to sponsor the event.

106 *Limited budgets in terms of Sponsorships*

107 Since Hongkong is not a very big place, the marketing budget was limited based on the feedback of the
108 host's contacts. It required a lot of networking and liaising with these companies on a personal basis
109 and a lot of them were very supportive. They have emptied out their marketing budgets. This might be
110 an issue in organizing for future events because the regional offices were not supportive.

111 This is something we can discuss. One of the non-HK sponsors is from South Korea – In Body. The
112 second company was Fuel Drop. It's a Singapore company that initiated sponsorship. They also
113 distribute in HK. The hosts were grateful to these companies in supporting the conference.

114 *Venue for the Exhibition*

115 *Sourcing / Ocular for Possible Venue*

116 Cost was pretty much straightforward. Initial plan was to do the event on two levels in the HK
117 Exhibition and Convention Center. Rent, however, was very expensive. There were some
118 pharmaceutical companies who have bought a booth for the event. Eventually, these were given back
119 to them because of the limited space due to cost issues. There was a need to scale down the venue by
120 reserving one small wing of the Conference Center. Fortunately, it seemed to be quite adequate for the
121 purpose. The HK Obesity Society had one small booth. Reason for the very high costs was due to travel
122 inflation.

123 d. Notable Issues Encountered in Organizing the Congress

- 124 • Travel Inflation was the most problematic area of concern. During the time of organizing the
125 event, the borders just opened, and the cost of airfare was very expensive. Just to cite an
126 example, the price of the booking a ticket for flying one speaker from the US was almost 13,000
127 USD because it is a business class. We needed to change his booking to save some costs.
128 In the future, the host country can consider talking to local airlines to get some discounts and
129 liaise with them. This was tried in HK, but they were unwilling to do this because they lost a
130 lot of money during COVID pandemic, so they were trying to regain revenue in 2023
- 131
- 132 • Consider Industry sponsorship for more speakers. The downside of this is we lose control of
133 the program since they must promote their products.
- 134 • Heavy reliance on budgets from HK offices for these large pharmaceutical companies on the
135 sponsorships.
- 136 • Low awareness of some of the regional offices of AOASO

137 It was disappointing to know that some regional offices were not aware of what AOASO is. Suggestion
138 is to create an easy, searchable AOCO list of company cards on the AOASO website, which shall

139 include electronic copies of the scientific programs from the past years. People can search which
140 companies have sponsored the event, thus, they might be encouraged to do the same.

141 The Hongkong Obesity Society would like to create a website archive to highlight events of the AOASO
142 to share the information and materials permanently. The AOCO website will be closed since HKOS
143 cannot pay for its hosting. Information from the previous website will be transferred to HKOS website.

- 144 • Change in AOASO Ex-Com directive thru the conference.

145 The direction to have the election during the Congress made the organizing process more challenging.
146 From the main event alone, there were a lot of things that were committed to our sponsors, among
147 others. Our proposal, therefore, is to change the schedule of election for the Ex-Com.

- 148 • Sharing of Revenue between AOASO and Host Society

149 A very important issue of this update was on profit-sharing. The Hongkong Obesity Society is listed
150 as a non-government organization (NGO) and because of this, there are limitations or restrictions when
151 it comes to revenue.

152 Looking at the bottom line, the numbers after the event and splitting of the profits was difficult to
153 determine. To distribute the portion of the money and the part for the AOASO, it was difficult because
154 there were no contracts or agreements signed from the start. We needed the help of Prof. Kim to work
155 this out. Suggestion was to have a portion of the money generated from the event considered as a
156 donation instead of profit or revenue.

157 Suggest that a review is done on the financial report of the conference to be audited by our local auditor
158 and lawyers. We would like to recommend as well, that instead of the term “profit”, a donation would
159 be given to AOASO.

160 The whole HKOS was bearing all the costs and the risks of organizing the event. It was very difficult
161 to split the money and or profit when the budget taken from the AOASO was not sufficient to organize
162 the event, given that there was an absence of a formal agreement.

163

164 Open forum discussion on AOCO 2024

165 ***Brian Oldfield***

166 The issue on the splitting of the profit was suggested to Dr. Mia to become part of the agenda. This
167 issue has been brought up with the Council several times but it has not been formalized. It is true that
168 there is no set agreement regarding budget that the Society hosting the AOCO meeting should contribute
169 to AOASO. His observations were:

- 170 • It appears that AOASO is highly dependent on the goodwill of the host Society and this poses
171 a number of challenges every time that the Conference is held.

172 A recent “tradition” was started by South Korea where a donation of US\$ 5000 was given to
173 AOASO after the meeting in Seoul; however this is not binding, nor is there any formal
174 recommendation. An exception to this expectation occurred after the AOCO meeting held in
175 conjunction with ICO 2022 held in Melbourne. Here, the 3 parties involved i.e. the World
176 Obesity Federation (WOF), the host Society ANZOS and AOASO agreed, prior to the
177 meeting, to share PROFITS in the ratio 40:40:20 with the “20” or 20% of the profits going to
178 AOASO. *The rationale for the smaller share of the surplus was that AOASO would be*
179 *EXEMPT from any losses incurred from the meeting which would be borne by the other two*
180 *agencies.*

181

182 • It was proposed by Professor Oldfield that a more universally equitable arrangement would be
183 to have a fixed contribution to AOASO from the host Society derived from the registration
184 payment of each PAYING DELEGATE. For example, a fixed amount of say US\$20 per paying
185 registrant would be paid to AOASO. The advantage of this is whether there is a good or a bad
186 meeting, a big attendance or not, there is a set amount paid from each registrant that can be
187 factored into the registration costs for the meeting. In the event that there are a lot of registrants,
188 AOASO will share in the profits. The amount is fixed and let's see how this goes, and this
189 could be adjusted with Council approval. It also removes the tension of being uncomfortable
190 of what amount to give.

191

192 ***Dr. Ismael Noor***

- 193 • Agreed that having a fixed amount is workable and interesting.
- 194 • Proposed a lower amount of US\$ 10, the rationale being, to make it more acceptable to Asian
195 participants. His concern was that the number of participants vary, and this might create an
196 issue with potential registrants because of the cost.
- 197 • It would be better to have a fixed amount rather than ad hoc or that the host country does not
198 have an idea on the rules. It is good that we can decide on something that is tangible that can
199 be used for future reference.

200

201 ***Dr. Brij Makkar***

- 202 • He commented that the amount may be determined by the host country to be given to AOASO
203 or based on a gentleman's agreement.

204 ***Dr. Yuen***

- 205 • The suggestion of Brian is more feasible and would save the entire society/ host country the
206 embarrassment in deciding how much profit will be given to AOASO. Based on experience
207 was that not all registrants are paid, though there is no need go into specifics. Sometimes, the
208 registrant would not pay for the conference since the cost of the airfare had to be taken into
209 consideration as well. The host country paid a lot to get all the participants to attend. Perhaps
210 US 2,000 will be a reasonable amount to be donated to AOASO.

211 Per ***Prof. Kim***, everyone was invited to vote on the issue of having a fixed amount. Majority
212 voted in consensus to have a fixed amount.

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214 **B. Consensus on Sarcopenia obesity in Asia with IAGG-Asia Pacific region**

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216 ***Dr. Jasper Lin*** from Taiwan was the next speaker to discuss about the Sarcopenia Obesity in Asia with
217 IAGG Asia Pacific region.

218 This study is in collaboration in the international conference on Sarcopenia obesity held last March 17,
219 2024 in Taejon. The speaker thanked everyone for joining.

220 The participating countries were Japan, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand,
221 Indonesia, India, Singapore, Hongkong and Australia.

222 Young researchers were invited to share the oral poster presentations. There were 3 awards for the oral
223 presentation with 4 participants to share this honor. For the poster presentation, 5 got the awards.

224 The slides on diagnosis of sarcopenic obesity were shown. The consensus will be translated into 6
225 languages: Japanese, Indonesia, Korea, Thai and traditional Chinese.

226 Based on the results of this consensus, there were proposed treatments that have been recommended.
227 These include screening, diagnosis and treatment.

228 The declaration manuscript is in the AOASO website. Everyone is encouraged to download a copy.

229 **IV. Switching from biennial to annual AOCO and Establishment of Committees**

230
231 Prof Kim suggested switching from biennial to annual AOCO.

232 The background on this:

- 233 • The landscape on obesity societies have developed and the amount of knowledge is rapidly
234 changing
- 235 • Many pharmaceutical companies are developing new drugs
- 236 • The need for Annual Council meetings and regular general assemblies but there is no platform

237 Prof. Kim pointed out that for many years, the AOASO Council Meeting had been held at ECO or ICO
238 if there was no AOCO that year. It became problematic because the venue is far from Asia which
239 required a lot of money to organize and participate.

240 Prof Kim pointed out that to date, there were no reliable financial records to show the income and the
241 amount of sponsorship of the conferences as well as for the Congress. It has always been an issue that
242 AOASO does not have stable income and sponsorship when it comes to Conferences.

243 As mentioned earlier by Brian, there was no stronghold for AOASO to organize the congress

244 The following areas were points to consider as to why we should shift to an Annual Meeting instead:

- 245 • Active involvement is necessary for the scientific program and invitation of speakers in our
246 member-countries. This must be extended further to the gathering of sponsorships and fund-
247 raising activities.
- 248 • Our member-societies must encourage more participants to join our own AOASO. KSSO and
249 other member-societies have started to participate in AOASO and the title declaration.
250 Everyone is encouraged to support the activities and programs of AOASO.

251 On the matter of sharing the profit, suggest that AOASO be involved in fund raising, perhaps the
252 regional office and the global office, the obesity pharmaceutical societies sponsor as well. If the aim is
253 to have a 50-50 share in the profit, the role of doing these tasks must be shared as well.

254 For fund raising, AOASO can help in getting the sponsorships. The suggestion made by Brian earlier,
255 however on paying a portion of the registration fee that may be considered as a donation, however,
256 might create an issue because our set-up for AOCO is very much different from each country such as
257 India and Hongkong. We might have a problem with our member-societies.

258 Shifting the schedule of AOCO to be conducted annually may be explored with the Congress. Our
259 member-societies might want to look into the feasibility of this recommendation. In Korea, the Society
260 for Korean Obesity and Metabolism Studies (SOMS) is planning to host the SICOM (next to present)
261 where there will approximately be 200 to 300 attendees. We might out to consider these for some of
262 our small meetings out since there is a small number of participants for some of our meetings.

263 **SICOM Presentation**

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265 Prof. Jee-Hyun Kang, president of SOMS, presented the upcoming SOMS International Conference on
266 Obesity and Metabolism hosted by the Society for Korean Obesity and Metabolism which will be held
267 in Seoul

268 Introduction of SOMS: Since 2002, SOMS has been a platform for academic exchange and clinical
269 practice in South Korea. Currently, it is a member of the World Obesity Federation. It organizes
270 academic conferences, published “*Archives of Obesity and Metabolism*” and aids in educating obesity
271 experts.

- 272 a. Consists of specialists in family medicine with members expand to 100 territories and is
273 currently affiliated with the World Obesity Federation.
- 274 b. The purpose of SOMS is to provide a network for obesity specialists in the Asia and Oceania
275 region serving a platform to promote the collaboration in these regions and facilitating these
276 collaborations to effectively prevent and manage obesity within communities in Asia and
277 Oceania.

278 They plan to get most of the speakers from within Asia and Oceania region. They would like to extend
279 invitation to AOASO to be part of collaborative efforts in organizing scientific programs of SICOM
280 2024. The SICOM International Congress which will be held from October 24 to 26, 2024.

281 The Scientific Committee will provide scholarships to support international researchers for speaking in
282 the Congress and to provide their valuable experience.

283 Benefits of the accepted abstract are:

- 284 a. Two nights of two complimentary accommodation
- 285 b. Complimentary registrations for all authors including co-authors

286 Venue: Agricultural Technology Center located in Gangnam area of Seoul

287 They expect an attendance of 200 to this event. It takes about one and half hours from the Incheon
288 International Airport to reach the venue by taxi.

289 It would be a great pleasure to work with AOASO for the SICOM 2024.

290 **Possible Collaboration with Other Societies in Organizing the Conference**

291 For the upcoming AOCO in 2025, Prof. Kim has recognized the difficulty in hosting the Congress.
292 Korea, Japan, Australia and India have many members and perhaps can gather the support of
293 pharmaceutical companies. We can consider following the model of European Association of Studies
294 for Obesity. Perhaps we can explore these models and see if this would be feasible for AOASO.

295 We might want to consider looking into this possibility as option in organizing the event by
296 collaborating with societies such as SOMS. This might also be a way to determine in sharing the profits
297 by following this model.

298 Open Forum on Collaboration with Other Societies for Annual AOCO

299 **Brian Oldfield:**

300 Having a “test” situation might complicate things. We are talking of a large organization with
301 potentially large number of registrants, good access to sponsors which is not representative of the
302 member Societies which are universally less well supported than the Korean Society. As such it is not
303 a viable or relevant “test” for the rest of AOASO. There are 2 situations that need to be considered:

- 304 a. Should we have a sharing arrangement which will solve the problems for a big meeting and a small
305 meeting? Because the amount depends on number of attendees will matter. Suggestion of US\$ 20 to
306 be shared by the participants or perhaps Michelle’s suggestion of US\$ 2000 and should not be reduced
307 because it will approximate what we can get from the hosting country. Suggest having a vote.

308 b. The question of whether we have an annual meeting or a biennial meeting should be subject to a
309 formal vote rather than a SICOM “test” where the financial status of this Society is not comparable to
310 other AOSO member Societies.

311 **Brij Makkar:**

312 a. An annual meeting vs a biennial meeting is preferable.

313 b. There are several meetings within the region that member-societies can attend. Members can submit
314 their Certificate of Attendance to these meetings as an alternative to having a second conference for
315 AOASO.

316 c. Not everyone who attends ICO and ECO come from the region. This will require to attendance to an
317 international meeting within the region and interact with other countries to exchange ideas.

318 d. We can look at the contribution of US\$ 20 per registrant or place a minimum value such as US\$
319 2000 for instance to be given to AOASO depending on the number of attendees

320 e. We do not have an active working committee in organizing the conference except for the AOASO
321 meeting. Suggest having a Zoom meeting every 6 months and a physical meeting at ECO and AOCO.
322 We should make it a point that each member-country has a representative during these meetings. Half
323 of the attendees are attending via Zoom anyway.

324 f. We can also have more activities to create more visibility by releasing communication materials such
325 as publications and online presence regularly in order to generate awareness.

326 **Jasper Wen-Yuan Lin:**

327

328 For now, the meetings can stay as is, but we may try collaborating with other countries such as Korea
329 with KSSO or TMASO to host the international conference. AOASO can have a regular meeting to be
330 hosted by Korea and get some funds into AOASO.

331

332 **Brij Makkar:**

333

334 Suggested that in terms of the contribution, rather than having a contract, there may be a fixed amount
335 to be considered as a donation.

336

337 **Michelle Yuen:**

338

339 Agreed with this Dr. Makkar’s suggestion so that this will issue will be upfront for auditing purposes.
340 She shared her experience in the host society (HKOS) – one is in terms of profit-sharing so that they
341 know how much they can contribute which can be worked into the budget and know if there is a need
342 to get more money from the society’s finance to support to AOCO and to contribute to AOASO.

343 The HKOS is receiving funds from the HK government. There is a need to justify this if funds will be
344 channeled money from the government to AOASO. It will be difficult to solicit their support later. The
345 rationale on having a fixed amount addresses the following:

346

347 1. A *donation or subscription fee* to be given to AOASO must be well-defined for profit-
348 sharing purposes.

349 2. Showing a certain *module of the program*. Based on last years’ experience, the venue
350 was significantly reduced to one small wing of the convention center due to the limited
351 budget because there was no definite idea of what the program flow is.

352 If there was a module of the program from the start, the host country will know how
353 the arrangements will be made, rather than changing the AOASO portion which might
354 have been arranged based on the invited speakers.

355

356 ***Ismail Noor:***

357

358 Shared his reservation on having an Annual Meeting instead of the biennial meeting: “We
359 cannot be compared to other associations with 28 member-countries whose members are very
360 active. It is not easy to organize a regional conference when you have a small group of
361 members. We cannot compete with large organizations, and we can only expect each member-
362 country to work so much for each conference.”

363 He was not sure that an annual conference would be feasible. Based on observation, AOASO
364 is highly dependent on the efforts of the host country and receives support from only some of
365 the member-countries. To make it work on a yearly basis would require a huge amount of
366 effort coming from AOASO especially on the host country who will arrange everything.

367

368 ***Brij Makkar:***

369

370 On the other hand, the next question would be who will host the 2026 event. We have so many
371 meetings on obesity every year, the question of who is going to come. We have the European
372 meeting every year, meetings sponsored by each member-country every year. As long this
373 event is linked with ECO, only a few countries will stand up to make it profitable.

374

375 ***Brian Oldfield:***

376

377 He understands the reservation and would support what Prof. Ismail mentioned.

378 “I understand the reasons for an annual meeting that Ismail pointed out. This may amount to
379 meeting fatigue, sponsorship fatigue, disparity between big societies and small societies to
380 enter to the roster of an annual meeting. We should be very careful in launching into an annual
381 meeting. It may work for 3 or 4 host countries so the rotation will be quite small based on
382 capability.”

383

384 ***Brij Makkar:***

385

386 He agreed that there are big countries and small countries having big number of members and
387 a small number of members, the disparity will always be there. “In Europe, not all countries
388 are able to host the meetings. The meetings will be hosted by those countries who can manage
389 and are capable to do so. We can do the same. We can always invite countries to host the
390 conference. We can then play the sequence and can be planned two years in advance. The
391 host country will be able to identify what they can do and what they cannot. Perhaps we can
392 rotate these among the countries who can manage it on a four- or five-year cycle, for instance.
393 I believe it is doable and if we are able to do this, we can also to build up AOASO and to have
394 more exposure.

395

396

397 To recap the discussions, *Prof. Kim* has taken into consideration the views of Brian and Ismail
398 and their reservations. He agrees that the possibility of failing is there, or we can succeed.

399 “I suggest that we can try testing this model and find out our strengths and weaknesses.
400 Secondly, there are very small societies who can host the AOCO and suggest that we should
401 be involved ourselves and put our efforts together. I strongly recommend pursuing the option
402 of having AOCO (annually), working closely together with the host society and decide (if) we

403 can keep this or not. We have taken into consideration the views shared by everyone and will
404 now take the issue into a vote.

405

406 *Michelle Yuen* asked if there are criteria on defining the success of organizing the Congress
407 meetings. This may be determined later, per Prof. Kim. For now, this will be a test run.

408

409 **Leonie Heilbronn:**

410 If AOASO is sharing half of the profit, will it mean taking half of the risks as well?

411

412 **Brij Makkar:**

413 These are two different issues. “We are only talking about the fixed amount for the contribution
414 which is US\$ 20 initially suggested by Brian earlier. What is being proposed is a smaller group
415 meeting in Korea, that is, AOASO will link with SOMS as a test run.

416

Voting

417

418 1. Test run of AOASO with SOMS

419 Those who agreed in adopting the test concept are: India, Malaysia, Hongkong,
420 Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Dr. Theo Mar from BARSO. Those who
421 did not agree with the test run was: North Korea and ANZOS

422

423 2. A Scientific Committee to lead the scientific program for the AOASO and SOMS

424 Dr. Kim proposed that if we collaborate with the AOASO and host country, we should
425 create a working committee. I recommend that the director for this purpose of exploring
426 this test arrangement will be Japan. This is the collaboration with AOASO and SOMS.
427 Japan will recommend a member later.

428

429 *(Note: there was no vote or formal agreement conducted in the meeting as to whether we*
430 *should move to an annual vs biennial meetings)*

431 **V. Update on the preparation status of AOCO 2025, New Delhi** (presented by AIAARO)

432

433 **Dr. Brij Makkar** is happy to report the following updates:

- 434 • Dates are blocked already – September 5 to 7, 2025
- 435 • *Hotel Lang Convention Center in New Delhi* has been booked.
- 436 • Host city is in New Delhi.
- 437 • Venue is very accessible. Commute is convenient, close to the airport which is only 15
438 minutes travel.
- 439 • Located in Aero City where a lot of activities are happening in this place
- 440 • Very close to Metro Line, making it very accessible to places you may want to visit
- 441 • Looking forward to welcome everyone in India

442

443 **VI. Date of Next Council Meeting: SICOM**

444

445 **VII. Any Other Business**

446

447 **Brij Makkar:**

448 Suggested having more activities that will generate more awareness and visibility for AOASO.
449 One of these is to issue Certificate Program under the banner of AOASO as Clinical

450 Management of Obesity for HR Managers. “We can structure one and make it a Certificate
451 Program. This will attract the young population to be on the lookout for signs of obesity and
452 attract captive audience for the conference.”

453 AOASO will issue the Certificate of Attendance and Completion. There is a nominal fee which
454 may be over and above the registration for a certificate program. This will be an added value
455 for AOASO for future endeavors.

456

457 Prof. Kim thanked Dr. Makkar for his suggestion and will discuss this matter with the
458 Education Committee of AOASO. However, matters that required for the collaboration with
459 SOMS will be given top priority as the event will happen in October 24 of this year.

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461 Prepared by:

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465 **Prof. Mia Fojas**
Secretary-General

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467 Approved by:

468

469 **Prof. Leonard Kyong-Kon Kim**
470 President

