

## Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> AOASO Council Meeting

On the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Obesity, Prague, Czech Republic

Prof. Ian Caterson, presiding (President, Australian Association for the Study of Obesity)

Prof. Augusto D. Litonjua, secretary, recording (President, Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity)

Members Present:

1. Prof. Chang Chih Jen, President, Taiwan Association for the Study of Obesity
2. Dr. Apichati Vichayanrat, President, Thai Society for the Study of Obesity
3. Prof. Tess van de Merwe, South Africa Association for the Study of Obesity
4. Dr. Jae Heon Kang, South Korea Association for the Study of Obesity
5. Prof. Dr. Mohd Ismail Noor, President, Malaysia Association for the Study of Obesity

Others Present:

1. Prof. Nain-Feng Chu, General Secretary, 3<sup>rd</sup> AOASO Conference
2. Prof. Chih-Hsing Wu, General Secretary, TMASO, Taiwan
3. Dr. Rachmad Soegih, for Prof. Askandor Tjokroprawiro, President, Indonesian Society for the Study of Obesity
4. Dr. Surat Komindr, Scientific Chair, Thai Society for the Study of Obesity
5. Dr. Benedict Tan, for Prof. Cheah Gin Seng, President, Singapore Association for the Study of Obesity

The meeting was called to order by the President at approximately 1430 Hrs.

The agenda was approved as presented.

### Apologies

Prof. Shuji Inoue was not attending the Prague Convention, and therefore could not be present at the Council meeting.

Prof. Ruey-Shiung Lin was sending Prof. Nain-Feng Chu to report on the progress of the preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> AOASO Conference.

Dr. Tim Gill was not traveling to Prague, so could not attend the Council meeting.

Prof. Askandor Tjokroprawiro was sending Dr. Rachmad Soegih in his behalf.

Prof. Ruey-Shiung Lin could not make it to the meeting, and was sending Dr. Chih-Hsing Wu to report on the progress of the preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Oceania Conference on Obesity.

### Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> AOASO Council Meeting:

The minutes were approved with the following recommendations as corrections – Prof. Noor suggested that the countries of origin of the Council members be included in enumerating their names. Approved.

The minutes were then approved with the aforementioned correction.

## Business Arising from the Minutes:

### 1. NEWSLETTER

Professor Caterson remarked that so far, no country has submitted articles on their activities. A deadline for the November, 2004 issue would be 31 October 2004. Among the items that could be included would be the list of officers of each national association.

2. Other matters pertaining to the 3<sup>rd</sup> AOASO in connection with the minutes will be taken up after the presentation by Taiwan on its on-going preparations

## President's Report:

Prof. Caterson announced the inclusion of South Africa in AOASO. He introduced its Council member as Prof. Tess van de Merwe.

Prof. Caterson also announced the creation of the Hongkong Obesity Association (HOA). Its membership into IASO, and thence into AOASO, is pending because of problems in the tenure of its office holders, which in the case of the presidency is deemed by HOA as for life.

Mauritius is also a member of AOASO, and Prof. Litonjua has been delegated to look into who the president of the Mauritius society is from Ms. Kate Bailey. He then will issue the official invitation to that personality; in behalf of the Council.

Other possible countries that could be members of AOASO are Vietnam, India and Pakistan.

The president reminded the Council about possible participation in SCOPE, an IASO initiated program for various obesity associations worldwide for doctors. Information from this course can be cascaded to nurses and other health professionals. Topics should be specific and of interest within the region, e.g., BMI characteristics, prevalence of metabolic syndrome, etc. A team of accredited experts within the region can spearhead SCOPE in the Asia Oceania region and should be WEB-based.

## Progress Report on 3<sup>rd</sup> AOASO Conference

Prof. Nain-Feng Chu, general secretary for the 3<sup>rd</sup> AOASO Conference on Obesity reported that the conference will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, ROC on 25-27 February 2005.

The theme will be: Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome: New Frontiers of Treatment.

Conference chairmen are: Prof. Ruey-Shiung Lin and Prof. Chang Chih Jen.

A preliminary program was distributed to the Council

Prof. Litonjua reminded the Council and organizers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AOASO Conference, that the 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur recommended that the Council members be part of the Scientific Committee. Prof. Caterson suggested that the role of the Council would be to submit subjects of interest and speaker/s to the Organizing Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AOASO Conference. The points were accepted by Dr. Chu.

Prof. Caterson mentioned some benefits of IASO as the organizer of conferences in the future. This could mean more funds for the national associations.

Prof. Litonjua suggested that the Taiwan Conference include regional issues such as the prevalence of the metabolic syndrome in the region. Other topics suggested by the council members were : WHO-Asia Pacific Guidelines on BMI, IOTF updated collection of data on the metabolic syndrome and obesity.

Other Matters:

Prof. van der Merwe informed the Council that South Africa has a Continuing Professional Development Course in Obesity. A course is forthcoming on October 28-29, 2004 with Prof. Philip James as the keynote speaker. The course will consist of lectures – 2/3 of which will be given by international speakers and 1/3 by local speakers. One of the topics to be discussed – “Patients with HIV leading to the metabolic syndrome.”

The 4<sup>th</sup> AOASO Conference on Obesity – Indonesia has offered to host this Conference. Prof. Caterson recommended that Indonesia prepare its proposal for discussion at the next Council Meeting.

Prof. Ismail Noor commented that there are no funds in the AOASO Council and ways to provide for such should be discussed in future meetings.

Next Council Meeting:

The 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting of AOASO will be in Taipei. The representatives from Taiwan were requested to arrange for the venue and date/time of the meeting, which should be held in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> AOASO Conference on Obesity.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1730 hours.

Minutes prepared by:

Prof. Augusto D. Litonjua  
Secretary, AOASO  
President, Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight & Obesity (PASOO)