

SIOP Asia : Official seat moves to China !

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SIOP Asia has now existed for about 12 years : Japan managed the official functions for the initial 9 years. Later the office moved to India. And now the official seat and the focus is on China ! The SIOP Asia membership has elected Prof. Wang Yao Ping as the new President. Dr. Jing Yan Tang (China) is nominated as the Secretary of SIOP Asia and Dr Chi Kong Li (Hong Kong) as the Editor for the SIOP Asia newsletter. The new executive board of SIOP Asia consists of Dr Fumio Bessho (Japan), Dr Zakia Lamki (Oman), Dr Anupam Sachdev (India), Dr Choi (Korea), Dr Sutariyo (Indonesia) & Dr.AA.H.Pour Feizi (Iran). I welcome the new team of office bearers and I am quite sure that we can look forward to more activities and developments in the coming 3 years under the leadership of Dr. Wang.

I thought it appropriate to reflect on the achievements of the past 3 years.

- Membership base has increased and widened (we have > 200 members)
- Regular biennial conferences are being held by rotation in various countries of Asia.
- 10% of conference savings support SIOP Asia office and activities.
- Newsletter is published biannually (Dr. Li has informed me that he has already obtained sponsorship for this publication for the next 3 years !)
- Promotion of networking among individuals, groups and institutions.
- Dhaka declaration on “ Childhood cancer is curable”
- SAARC initiative launched to promote education and collaborative clinical trials in the region.
- Information on the status of pediatric oncology services & programmes in various countries has been disseminated
- Regular GBM,s (5 times in three years) organized for exchange of views / ideas amongst members.
- Parents programmes and organizations encouraged. Both the past 2 years SIOP Asia meetings had their active participation.
- Young investigator awards instituted for best free paper and poster papers at the SIOP Asia conferences.
- Future 2 meeting in 2006/08 at Shanghai, China and Muscat, Oman already announced.
- Website of SIOP Asia thoroughly updated at www.siop.nl/siopasia

All this would not have been possible without the active co-operation of the SIOP Asia executive board particularly, the assistance and contribution of

the outgoing secretary and editor : Dr. Rashmi Dalvi and Dr. M.R.Lokeshwar. I also acknowledge the efforts of the organizing committees of 2nd and 3rd SIOP Asia conferences led by Dr. L.S.Arya and Dr. M.A.Mannan respectively. The main SIOP Board including the President Dr. Allan Craft have been extremely supportive of all SIOP Asia initiatives. The enthusiasm of the members and parents has been highly infectious. I am quite pleased with what we could achieve as a team for SIOP Asia in past 3 years. It was indeed a pleasure to have had the opportunity to work as the President of SIOP Asia. I wish the incoming team all the best. I look forward to meet all SIOP Asia members (& other SIOP members, who are welcome too!) at Shanghai, China in 2006. Please mark your calendars and do decide to come to Shanghai with your colleagues, post graduate students and spouses !

Dr. Bharat R. Agarwal
Imm. Past President – SIOP Asia

Appendix 1.

Minutes Of General Body Meeting Of Siop Asia Held During Annual Siop Meeting Oslo , September 2004

The meeting was attended by : Dr BR Agarwal, Dr R Dalvi, Dr W Wang, Dr MR Lokeshwar, Dr A Sachdeva, Dr A Borkar, Dr M Chaphekar, Dr P Kusumakumary, Dr JJ Seo, Dr F Bessho, Dr K Saha, Dr P Chitalkar, Dr M Alebouyeh, Dr S Choi, Dr LS , Arya, Dr S Kanvinde, Dr CH Chui, Dr AS Jacobsen, Dr CR Shi, Dr T Iehara, Dr Y Kawahara, Dr H Hosoi, Dr S Banavali, Dr M Kaneko, Dr Sutaryo, Dr S Mulatsin, Dr J Tang, Dr P Sobti, Dr P Kurkure, Dr N Singh, Dr V Jain, Dr A Mahajan, Dr T Seth, Dr A Nakagawa, Dr CK Li

1. Dr BA welcomed the attendees and asked for comments on the annual report. Members were updated on the proposal for associate members. This had been put up & was under consideration with the SIOP board. SIOP Asia was progressing well with 3 biannual meetings & 2 newsletter issues behind us. Dr Wang was congratulated on having won the election for the post of SIOP President. Dr BA said that SIOP had very kindly accommodated all SIOP Asia related material on its website. A database of pediatric oncologists in Asia was being prepared pending information of other working/active members of the ped oncology fraternity & PHO organizations in various countries. There was a need for developing parents groups & networking to foster regional networks. Finances were at a zero balance presently, however a corpus could build up further with contributions from SIOP Asia meetings. SIOP board had also agreed to split its continental contribution for Asia into 4000USD for the continental meeting & 1000USD for publication of the newsletter.

2. Dr MR Lokeshwar outlined some of the problems faced in bringing out the newsletter – finances for publications was one & the other was getting in contributions. Dr Banavali suggested that costs could be brought down by having an

e-journal & sending it online. Dr R Dalvi & Dr A Sachdev thought that members could receive an e-copy but some prints were important for distribution to increase awareness & widen the net of SIOP Asia. Dr P Kurkure added that periodic e-copies with annual compilation of 2 volumes would cut down postage costs. It was then concurred that the newsletter should be sent electronically & if there was finance, then to publish it.

3. Dr Mannan was lauded in absentia on having carried through a very successful meeting. Dr BA mentioned that the local organizing committee had sponsored 150 scholars & fellows to attend the meeting. The conference also made way for public awareness & political publicity for the cause of childhood cancer through local media. The organising committee is requested to submit the accounts and forward the amount equivalent to 10% of registration fees collected at the conference.

4. Dr Wang was invited to form the SIOP Asia executive committee. Dr Jing Yan Tang (China) was nominated Secretary, Dr Chi Kong Li, Editor. Dr Bharat Agarwal & Dr Rashmi Dalvi would continue as ex officio executive committee members. The other members nominated were Dr Fumio Bessho (Japan), Dr Zakia (Oman), Dr A Sachdev (India), Dr Choi (Korea), Dr Sutariyo (Indonesia), Dr AA.H.Pour Feizi (Iran) & one more President's nominee from China.

5. Dr Wang thanked everyone for having elected him. He discussed the progress in planning the next SIOP Asia meeting to be held at Shanghai in 2006. He had brought down the costs by holding the meeting in the hospital facility itself. He discussed plans for the scientific programme which would be over 3 days (fri-Sun). He planned to invite speakers from western countries, Asian countries & Chinese doctors. Dr Sutariyo suggested that the program could include discussion on the role of traditional Chinese medicine in cancer & cancer registration. Dr Kanvinde suggested having a website tailored to accept online registration & abstract submission. Dr Sachdev suggested as before that 1/3 faculty should be western countries, 1/3 other Asian countries & 1/3 from China. Dr Choi suggested having a symposium bringing out Asian characteristics of pediatric oncology eg SE Asia has a high incidence of retinoblastoma. He also offered to host the SIOP Asia meeting in Korea in the next available slot. Dr Kurkure asked for a slot for SAARC presentations. Dr Li said that the program should balance out interests & needs of underprivileged & underprivileged nations. Dr K Sah asked that scholarships be arranged for those who would need them. Dr Sachdev pointed out that we need to develop other regions in Asia & foster twinning within the Asian region. Dr BA suggested that preconference workshops for postgraduates, fellows & nurses could be held. Members hoped that registration fees would include meals. Dr Wang said that registration for local doctors, students would be slightly subsidized as required. He also added that their Japanese counterparts had promised to contribute to the needs of the meeting.

6. Dr Kurkure made a presentation on the workshop held at Nepal as the beginning of Activities in the SAARC region. It was a well attended & successful venture. It was decided to continue Dr Kurkure as SAARC coordinator for another term.

7. Dr BA informed that SIOP 2007 slated for Asia had 2 bids from Hongkong & India & the SIOP board had just informed the decision in favor of the meeting being held in Mumbai in the fall of 2007.

8. Dr P Kurkure put on record commendation of the hard work & enterprise of the outgoing President & executive committee

Dr Rashmi Dalvi
Secretary, SIOP Asia (2001-2004)