

MINUTES FOR

The Asian School of Nuclear Medicine Meeting

09:00, 29 September 2003
Jade Room, Hotel Nikko, Jakarta, Indonesia

<< Present >>

- 1 Dr Felix X Sundram – Singapore, Dean, ASNM
- 2 Dr Y. N. I. Anand – India, Vice Dean, ASNM
- 3 Dr Shuji Tanada – Japan, Vice Dean, ASNM
- 4 Dr Sang-Moo Lim – Korea, Vice Dean, ASNM
- 5 Dr Theofilo San Luis – Philippines, Vice Dean, ASNM
- 6 Dr Sombut Boonyaprapa – Thailand, Vice Dean, ASNM
- 7 Dr Zuo-Xiang He – China, Observer for Dr Chen, Vice Dean, ASNM
- 8 Dr Myung-Chul Lee – Korea, President, WFNMB
- 9 Dr June Key Chung – Korea, Chairman, ARCCNM
- 10 Dr Vikram R. Lele, India, Observer
- 11 Dr S. Kartamihadja Hussein – Indonesia, Observer
- 12 Dr John S. Masjhur – Indonesia, Observer
- 13 Dr Muhammad Numair Younis, Pakistan, Observer
- 14 Dr Jose Eduardo Rondain – Philippines, Observer
- 15 Dr Faridul Alam, Thailand, Observer
- 16 Dr Mai Trong Khoa, Vietnam, Observer
- 17 Ms Soon-Yong Lee, ARCCNM Staff
- 18 Ms Ju-Hyoung Han, ARCCNM Staff

1 Dr Felix X. Sundram, Dean of Asian School of Nuclear Medicine (ASNM) called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and welcomed all the Vice-Deans and the observers present and thanked them for their attendance at this meeting.

2 The Dean gave a short background of the ASNM and outlined briefly the current situation of the ASNM. He mentioned that in October 2001 there was a task force meeting of ASNM in Bangkok followed by a discussion in June 2002 in Dalian in China on the formation of ASNM. In September 2002, there was further discussion of ASNM in Manila and in February 2003 the ASNM was formally established at a meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Currently, 6 Vice-Deans have been appointed and are in communication with the Dean except for Dr Sheng Zu Chen from China who has not replied any of the e-mails sent to him during the course of this year by the Dean. As such, the group decided that Dr Chen will continue to be a Vice-Dean but e-mails will also be copied to Dr He in Beijing to maintain continuity in communications of the ASNM. Dr Sundram also informed the meeting that Dr Padhy of IAEA has not responded to any of the e-mails requesting for a copy of the ISNM (Indian School of Nuclear Medicine) Constitution. In the lead-up to the formation of the ASNM, Dr Sundram mentioned the previous presentations by Dr Anchali Krishanachinda of Thailand, Dr Jerry Obaldo of the Philippines and most importantly, Dr Mizanul Hassan of Bangladesh was the co-ordinator for the Task Group of ASNM and he noted with thanks their significant contributions to date. The Dean also presented the various training courses that were currently available from the European School of Nuclear Medicine (ESNM), and gave examples of their short duration training programs with titles, as well as the longer duration of specific courses run by the ESNM. He mentioned further that the American SNM (Society of Nuclear Medicine) also has specified requirements for the professional development of Nuclear Medicine Physicians.

In response to questions from some of the members present, the Dean highlighted the fact that the ARCCNM was dedicated to the spread of Nuclear Medicine knowledge in Asian countries, and the ASNM was specially tasked to train Nuclear Medicine Physicians throughout the Asian region, particularly those from the developing countries. The ASNM is not targeted towards the training of technologists as there are currently on-going distance learning programs for this purpose, run by the IAEA.

3 There was extensive discussion on the organization of the ASNM and of the training that could be given to potential physicians in Asian countries. Dr Johan noted that there were different training schemes in each country for Nuclear Medicine Physicians. Dr Anand from India and Dr Alam from Bangladesh and Dr Younis from Pakistan gave examples on how the training

and certification as Nuclear Medicine Physicians was organized in their respective countries. It was suggested that the ASNMM work towards a formal certification of training courses in the long term. The most fundamental job of the ASNMM was in the transfer of knowledge from the more developed countries to the less developed countries in the Asian region. The ASNMM could give credit hours for training courses conducted in the various countries and it was suggested that electronic courses and examinations could be held by the ASNMM. A further suggestion was that CME courses could be conducted as part of the regular ARCCNM meetings. It was felt that the current curricular for Nuclear Medicine training of the Physicians in the various countries appear to be adequate. Dr He also suggested that the individual countries could train 30 to 40 participants in their own local regions by running courses within their own countries. The ASNMM should start planning to award CME points for various training courses in the region. The various Vice-Deans and observers were requested to send a copy of their annual scientific meeting dates to the ARCCNM and ASNMM so that training courses could be dovetailed with the ARCCNM meetings and courses of the ASNMM. Dr Lim from Korea briefed the members present on the KOICA course to be held in Seoul later this month. Dr Anand from India suggested that the December 2004 meeting of the Indian Society of Nuclear Medicine in Mysore, India could be also linked up as an ARCCNM/ASNMM project. Details of various meetings in the region with the venues and the dates should be sent to the Dean, ASNMM as well as to the ARCCNM such that it can be downloaded from their websites. It was agreed that there would be no need at the moment for a separate website for the ASNMM but rather to be part of the ARCCNM website.

4. As regards to the organizational structure, the Chairman, Dr Chung suggested that the ASNMM should be independent of the ARCCNM. However, after much discussion it was decided that ASNMM is a body within the ARCCNM and should remain so with the ARCCNM as the parent body until such time that the ASNMM is able to operate independently. It was noted again that funds would be required for office operations as well as for training programs to be run by the ASNMM and long term solutions for funding would have to be found.

5. As regards the faculty which could be called upon for teaching on behalf of the Asian School of Nuclear Medicine the group felt that each country could nominate 10 to 12 teaching faculty members comprising of physicists, radiopharmacists as well as nuclear medicine physicians. From this list of potential teaching experts, the Vice-Deans and Dean of ASNMM would then decide on the appropriate teaching faculty member for a given assignment or a course in a specific country. The educational scheme could be in conjunction with the ARCCNM or with the local participating countries and their nuclear medicine organizations or it could be a one-off training course in a given country. The members stressed that the teaching be in English,

with adequate command of the language by the faculty teacher. It was also felt that the important aspect of the knowledge of the faculty member in terms of qualifications and teaching capacity should also be sufficiently high. In response to a question from Dr Anand, the Dean suggested that this teaching faculty was purely voluntary with no major expenses paid by the ASNM and that a token contribution could be offered by ASNM or by the host country which requests the training or the teaching for the particular course that is being undertaken.

6. Dr S M Lim and Dr M C Lee highlighted the European School of Nuclear Medicine activities for training of Nuclear Medicine Physicians. It was noted that currently the Dean of ESNM, Dr Peter LIND is in Austria, VIENNA. He has not responded yet to emails from Dr Sundram but has verbally agreed with Dr Chung and Dr Lee to give support to the ASNM. The previous ESNM in Paris is currently known as INSTN and is only for the training in France. Dr Lee also suggested the possibility of tapping IAEA funds, by way of a RCA proposal for 2005-2007 cycle.

7. Dr Tanada showed a list of Japanese agencies from which financial assistance could be sought by our junior colleagues, e.g. JICA. It is important that member states support requests from other Asian countries for RCA proposals, as Japan is now the lead county for RCA activity in Asia/Oceania. We could attempt to write to the JSNM for sponsoring ARCCNM participants or to sponsor lecturers for ASNM courses. It was suggested that the GE be approached for some donation to the ASNM activity.

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm, with the Minutes to be circulated in October.