



**The 2nd Delegate Assembly of the**  
*Asian Regional Cooperative Council for Nuclear Medicine*  
**(ARCCNM)**

**on the occasion of**

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**Promotion of Nuclear Medicine in Asia Region;  
Proposal for Strategic Action Plan**

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## Proposal for Strategic Action Plan

### **Nuclear Medicine in Asian Countries: Unique Case**

- Asian countries, majority if not all are facing crisis, economic, political, social etc
- The South Asian region, if considered alone (Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Maldives) represents more than quarter of developing world and nearly 50% of the Asia.
- Gross national product per capita in Asia on average is 300 USD Vs 1200 USD for rest of the developing world.
- Nuclear Medicine does not feature prominently in healthcare agendas in most of the Asian countries because of the huge burden of other health related problems.
- The overall growth of Nuclear Medicine is therefore either static or negative.
- Many Asian countries however fairing well despite the above situations eg; Malaysia, Vietnam, India. (Recent transfer of PET technology etc.)
- Other countries are capable of producing their own radioisotopes and cold kits; China, Korea, Pakistan etc. (producing their own Tc-99m generators, indigenous cold kits)
- Some developing Asian countries have also acquired the technology of manufacturing even more sophisticated equipments; Korea, eg; *Medical Cyclotron*.
- Few Asian countries have a wider acceptance of diagnostic & therapeutic Nuclear Medicine techniques as a clinical application tool; Myanmar, Bangladesh etc.
- Considering the above facts, we may be justified to believe that Asian countries have a huge potential towards developing Nuclear Medicine.
- The potential for promotion of Nuclear Medicine in Asian countries can be maximally utilized from addition of catalyst activity; from within the Asian region itself.
- Some of the Asian countries have a better rate of developing Nuclear Medicine, Better Nuclear Medicine Developers (BNMDs) & others have a slow rate of developing Nuclear Medicine, Slow Nuclear Medicine Developers (SNMDs).

- The BNMDs are better in most of the aspect of Nuclear Medicine but still lack at some others, while SNMDs might be lacking in many aspects and better at others.
- The AAsian Region therefore essentially requires a solid Council / Cooperation between BNMDs and SNMDs for the promotion of Nuclear Medicine.

## Cooperation between BNMDs & SNMDs in Asian Region

- ARCCNM has to play its role for being a forum of Asian countries where BNMDs and SNMDs come together.
- Without the ARCCNM, it is difficult to establish a mutual cooperation for the promotion of Nuclear Medicine between the countries of Asian region for a number of factors;
  - ▲ Gaps in working relationships between the National Societies of Nuclear Medicine
  - ▲ In some countries the national societies either are very weak or in early phase of formation.
  - ▲ The governmental cooperation for promotion of Nuclear Medicine is not sufficient, may be due to lack of initiative from National Societies.
  - ▲ Lack of scientific and academic activities in the field of Nuclear Medicine in many Asian countries.
  - ▲ Lack of resources including trained manpower, facilities; eg; equipment & radio pharmaceuticals, highly specialized research and clinical tools eg; SPECT & PET.

## Why ARCCNM?

- ARCCNM has the most important and vital role to play because other organizations either;
  - ▲ Provide an opportunity for scientific activity once over a fixed time.
  - ▲ Provide temporary/ short term support for developing a concept/idea.
  - ▲ Focused on research projects only.
- ARCCNM is the most important organization for this job because;
  - ▲ Only representative organization of NM for Asian countries
  - ▲ Have close collaboration with national Nuclear Medicine societies

- ▲ Can bridge the gaps between national societies of Asian countries.
- ▲ Can provide means for communication, assist for materializing many unattended issues
- ▲ The only active forum available providing opportunity for close collaboration and exchange of ideas
- ▲ Can assist the national societies in forming a consistent and long term working relationship.
- ▲ Is holding its scientific activities in a consistent manner on annual basis for last 4 years, in conjunction with the national societies meeting.
- ▲ Established ASNM successfully.

## **Role for ARCCNM and Proposals**

- The ARCCNM has to play its umbrella role by gathering national societies of Nuclear Medicine and later assisting and pursuing these societies in accomplishing the tasks.
- The ARCCNM can promote and implement the concept of **Resource Sharing** between BNMDs and SNMDs.
- The proposed steps to be taken are;
  - ▲ Continue the Scientific Activities and Coordination between organizations through holding its OCMs at the annual scientific sessions of NM societies & providing financial support to attend scientific meetings
  - ▲ Formation of database consisting of available resources of Nuclear Medicine in Asian region; through survey forms/ questionnaires.
  - ▲ Central system of information where the academic & training programs are available and which Asian countries can offer? May be possible to send the people in between the Asian countries for training/ professional education (through ASNM?).
  - ▲ Provide knowledge and assistance to national societies for the availability of equipment & radio pharmaceuticals from within the Asian countries. Links / Contact information etc. This may help in easy availability of radio-isotopes and cold kits & reduce the cost as the shipment distance are shorter and also because of lower costs of the products itself
  - ▲ Guidance to the local radiopharmaceutical companies through NM societies.

- ▲ Formation of guidelines for selection and purchase of SPECT gamma camera, PET equipments and hot lab items, considering the needs in Asian countries.
  - ▲ Providing assistance to member countries and national societies for formation of national policies and guidelines regarding national radiation protection policies etc.
  - The tasks can be accomplished through actively involving members of organizing committee of ARCCNM and also through ASNM.
  - The website of ARCCNM can carry this information accessible to members of the organizing committee/ representatives of national societies for use from time to time.
  - The **resource sharing** therefore can be achieved through availability of a **central database** at ARCCNM carrying information of useful Nuclear Medicine resources available in BNMDs and SNMDs of Asian region.
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Photos taken in Jakarta, Indonesia