

MINUTES OF

The 2nd Organizing Committee Meeting of the ARCCNM

VENUE : Holiday Inn Lahore, Pakistan

DATE : 11th April, 2004. 9:00 A.M.

<< Present >>

Members :

Korea

June-Key Chung, M.D. (Chairman)

Sang-Moo Lim, M.D. (Secretary General)

Bangladesh

Faridul Alam, M.D.

Pakistan

Muhammad Numair Younis, M.D.

China

Zuo-Xiang He, M.D.

Philippines

Jose Eduardo Rondain, M.D.

Vietnam

Mai Trong Khoa, M.D.

Observers : Dr. Myung-Chul Lee (Korea), Dr. Felix X. Sundram (Singapore)
Dr. Saeeda Asghar, Mrs. Areescha Zaman, Mr. Khalid Masood, Dr. Hameed
Naseer, Mr. Zaheer, and Mr. Qazi Asghar (all are from Pakistan).

1. Opening remarks

Dr. Chung Jun-Key (Chairman) officially called the meeting to order. In his opening remarks, he congratulated Dr. Saeeda Asghar, Dr. Younis and others for successfully organizing the "Oncology and Nuclear Medicine Conference". He conveyed his appreciation to ARCCNM members for the informative lectures and for their contributions. He placed the agenda before the committee members for their recommendations. The committee members recommended the agenda without any amendment. He requested Dr. Sang Moo Lim (Secretary General) to present the report of 1st OCM.

2. 1st OCM report : Dr. Lim presented a brief report of the 1st OCM.

3. Strategy for the Promotion of Nuclear medicine in Developing Countries

Dr. Alam from Bangladesh gave a presentation on 'Strategies for the Promotion of Nuclear medicine in Developing Countries'. In his view, the general socio-economic conditions, mass education, government commitment, health policies, strong lobby groups and health professional outlook are the related factors in the promotion of health sciences in a country. He pointed out that developing countries lack in many necessary factors such as, government commitment, appropriate plans, poor scientific background, etc. and it is more essential to overcome these problems for the promotion of nuclear medicine. He emphasized that various bodies, associations and groups should play vital roles for the promotion of nuclear medicine in their country. He believes that the national Society of Nuclear Medicine should play an important role in promoting the nuclear medicine in their country as they know what is nuclear medicine, what they can do for the society and can persuade other bodies and groups by organizing seminars, symposiums, training programmes etc. He appreciated the support of IAEA in promoting nuclear medicine activities by giving projects, fellowships and helping to organize seminars, symposiums, etc. He also stressed that international organizations like WFNMB, AOFNMB and ARCCNM can contribute to improve the quality of nuclear medicine in developing countries.

The talk was opened for discussion.

- Dr. Lee asked for any specific idea or suggestions to ARCCNM, WFNMB and AOFNMB.
- Dr. Alam answered that these societies can help in organizing seminars, symposiums and can provide financial assistance as fellowships and to attend international seminars.
- Dr. Asghar appreciated IAEA for their kind cooperation and support.
- Dr. Lee intervened and said, "IAEA is an important body but we cannot solely depend on IAEA as even it doesn't have enough funds and projects."

Dr. He from China spoke on 'Current Status of Nuclear Medicine in China'. He presented the facts and figures of nuclear medical centers and PET/CT scanners in China. He pointed out that limited funds and resources, heterogeneity of nuclear medicine services, high cost and advanced technology, and competition from other modalities such as, MRI, CT and ultra sound are the main challenges for popularizing nuclear medicine in China. He said that dissemination of nuclear medicine information to public, education of referring physicians, organization of national and regional level symposiums, cooperation with commercial companies and good relationship with the government for licenses are the prominent strategies to promote nuclear medicine in his country.

Dr. Younis from Pakistan gave a lecture on 'Strategy for the Promotion of Nuclear medicine in Developing Countries'. He described issues and factors related to nuclear medicine, and role of ARCCNM in

promoting nuclear medicine in developing countries. He proposed that management and sharing of resources such as, manpower, academic programmes, equipments and radiopharmaceuticals, scientific activities and coordination with other organizations are the strategies for the dissemination of nuclear medicine in developing countries. He emphasized that implementation of these strategies is a task for ARCCNM.

Dr. Rondain gave a talk on 'Strategy for the Promotion of Nuclear medicine in Developing Countries'. In his view, strategies like education, partnership with others such as exchange programmes, inter-hospital exchange of doctors, etc. publication of news letters or gazettes and sharing marketing strategies would help in dissemination of nuclear medical activities in developing countries. He also discussed issues and obstacles for the promotion of nuclear medicine in developing countries.

Dr. Khoa from Vietnam gave a presentation on 'Promotion of Nuclear Medicine Technology in Vietnam'. He mainly focused on the current problems for the promotion of Nuclear Medicine in Vietnam as they do not have adequate facilities like equipments, trained manpower, locally produced radiopharmaceuticals and moreover, there aren't any university courses, training and national examination for nuclear medicine technologists. However, he revealed the future plan to install new cyclotrons, SPECTS, gamma counters and PET units across the country. He believes that, strategies such as education and training, local source of radiopharmaceuticals and collaboration of hospitals with foreign companies to install expensive equipments would somehow solve these problems.

The talk was opened for discussion.

- Dr. Alam asked the opinion regarding accreditation for the performance of society like seminars,lectures etc..
- Dr. Sundram replied that it is difficult as they are already giving CME points.
- Dr. Chung intervened and said ARCCNM can provide one or two lectures and a small financial assistance.
- Dr. Lee commented that communication to the local society members is a problem. He emphasized that communication is very important to convey the information of the activities. He requested all societies to provide their database containing e-mail address, telephone numbers or fax to the ARCCNM office so that they can directly communicate to members. He also revealed that when he became the president of the WFNMB, he set up a global network. (The delegates agreed to provide the database.)
- Dr. Lim, Dr. Sundram and Dr. Younis had a consensus on giving CME points.
- Dr. Younis wanted to know whether the funding problem for the activity of ASNM was resolved.
- Dr. Sundram replied that more funds are needed to run ASNM and he usually asks for donations.
- Dr. Lee intervened and said that when he meets top business leaders in business meetings, they promise to support. He said it is not difficult to get funds. In this regard, he promised to help if the societies come up with the complete planning of their activities.

- Dr. Lee commented that he would be happy if the delegates would work to popularize PET technology in developing countries.

4. 8th Congress of the AOFNMB

- Dr. He gave brief information about 8th congress of the AOFNMB. He asked the delegates to collect the information sheets from Dr. Chung. He informed that so far they had received 266 abstracts and most of them were from China. He also revealed that 24 abstracts were received for young investigator award, 26 for popular poster and 39 for ARCCNM respectively. He commented that even if the participants are provided with financial assistance, only 39 abstracts were received for ARCCNM.
- Dr. Younis commented that the March deadline was too early to submit the abstracts and now since the deadline was extended more abstracts would be expected from Pakistan also.
- Dr. He said that immediately after the 8th congress, there would be a 5 days training course on " Nuclear Oncology and Cardiology". He revealed that the training programmes will be sponsored by ASNM, ARCCNM, CSNM and the hosting institution. He also clarified that the organizers would bear the expenses of the participants.
- Dr. Sundram commented that it would be difficult to stay away for two weeks for participants as well as delegates.
- Dr. Lee suggested that instead of having many lectures, it is better to have 3 to 4 lectures on education programmes. (All delegates welcomed the suggestion.)
- Dr. Younis commented that 3 to 4 teaching sessions would definitely help the participants from the developing countries.
- Dr. He agreed to arrange some teaching sessions from local speakers.
- Dr. Chung suggested that it would be more effective if the participants are divided into small groups for the teaching session.
- Dr. Chung announced that the ARCCNM Delegate Assembly will be held at Beijing on 10th October 2004

5. WFNMB Introduction : Myung-Chul Lee, M.D., President, WFNMB

Dr. Lee gave a presentation on 'Strategic Action for the Promotion of Nuclear Medicine in Developing Countries'. He spoke on NM activities in the developing countries, strategic directions, activities of Korean Society and programmes and activities of WFNMB. He emphasized that NM needs more money and activities compared to other disciplines. He insisted on more cooperation and collaboration in government, local, national and international levels for the promotion of nuclear medicine. He expressed his concerns about the decrease in number of Nuclear Medicine institutes in developing countries. He said that, IAEA's statutory functions, National Society of Nuclear Medicine and government are the responsible bodies for the promotion of nuclear medicine in a country. In his view, strong leadership, role of national society of

NM, collection of database, cooperation and collaboration, etc. are essential to promote nuclear medicine in developing countries.

He gave a brief description about the structure and programmes of Korean society, as it could be a role model for the other developing countries. He also explained about current activities and programmes of WFNMB. According to him, a strong co-operation from IAEA is necessary for the promotion of nuclear medicine.

He announced that the 9th congress of WFNMB will be held at Seoul in 2006 and requested the delegates to collect the information from the website. He announced some special considerations for young researchers from developing countries to participate in the 9th Congress. Finally, he urged the delegates for their cooperation and to arrive at a consensus to revamp the structure of WFNMB.

6. Others

- Dr. Lee suggested to organize the next General Meeting of the ARCCNM in South East Asia.
- Dr. Asghar thanked ARCCNM for the interesting lectures. He especially thanked DR. Lee, Dr. Chung and others for their kind cooperation.
- Mrs. Areeza Zaman requested Dr. Asghar to present the mementos and certificates to the delegates as a token of appreciation and respect. Dr. Asghar presented the mementos and certificates.