

MALAYSIA

WONCA- COUNTRY REPORT FOR JEJU

There has been extensive discussions at the various sections / departments of family medicine in both the private and public sectors over the last year- continual to suggested reforms in response to escalating healthcare costs and better patient centered healthcare of the past few years. The intention as with most countries is to provide a patient centered, comprehensive healthcare by 5 star primary care providers.

HEALTHCARE REFORMATION PLANS

Various recommendations to this change by the Ministry of Health is being addressed. On the part of the ministry, administrative issues are being addressed - as to how we can change the system of delivery of family medicine for the betterment of healthcare to the public. The whole system of change is being discussed through Technical Working Groups which is made up of Ministry of Health Representatives, the Academic staff from the public universities and some of the private practitioners. The changes are expected to be made at all aspects of primary care. The blueprint of the entire system change is to be submitted by the end of year 2012. The AFPM is also taking part in helping the formation of guidelines on the various aspects of primary care.

EDUCATION AND IMPROVEMENT

We have increasing numbers of primary care doctors joining the various courses and the AFPM has become the largest providers of postgraduate medical education in Primary Care in the country. We have enrolled more than 1300 members in the AFPM – about three hundred in Diploma of Family Medicine, about one hundred and twenty in the Advance Training Programme both of which lead towards the Membership examinations, thirty nine in Primary Care dermatology, forty three in practice orthopaedics, seven in cardiovascular medicine, eighteen in ultrasound etc.

We need more space to cater for this encouraging increase in numbers of participants in the various courses. Our facilities at our new building, the Academies of Medicine is expected to be enhanced further with more office space for training made available. The plan is to build our own centre for skills training. Perhaps with time, we can purchase more space. The Ministry of Health

is supportive of our efforts and our programs are being recognised as consistent with their aspirations. The Diploma in Family Medicine is recognised as an entry point qualification to General Practice. This will probably be introduced at a later stage. Completion of the Advanced Training Program is recognised as equivalent to a trained Family Medicine Specialist by the Ministry of Health.

Thirty seven members have made it for Member of the Academy of Family Medicine by passing the MAFP Examinations this year which is a record. Nineteen of them will be awarded their degrees at the AGM this year. We are working on credentialing all our courses by the Malaysian Qualifying Agency.

MALAYSIAN PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH GROUP (MPCRG)

On the aspect of research and development in primary care, the MPCRG that is the Malaysian Primary Care Research Group had another successful conference this year from 2nd December 2011 to 4th December 2011. The 165 attendees comprising of delegates and committee members was a record and included participants from the Ministry of Health, Family Medicine Specialists of Malaysia, College of Family Physicians of Singapore, Australia, Korea, India, Hongkong and Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Yemen. The high quality of submissions was commended by the judges. The honorary MPCRG award was given to our own Professor Teng Cheong Lieng for his outstanding contribution in primary care research in Malaysia. We also launch our own MPCRG logo, slogan and website at this, the 3rd APPCR conference dinner.

The future plans of MPCRG is to organise further research workshop, to initiate research studies to produce guidebook for novice researchers. We also want to update our website continuously, create a forum for members and to participate in the Post graduate programs in the AFPM.

ASEAN region primary care (ARPAC) CONFERENCE(South East Asia):

To further improve family medicine on a regional basis, the ARPAC conference was held at Jakarta from 24- 27th of November 2011. About 400 delegates attended the conference which is about collaboration in sharing knowledge, skills, education and research in the Asia Pacific Region by working with the various secretariats, colleges, universities and academies so as to achieve common standards for quality healthcare, education, training, accreditation and certification.

Quality in Practice:

To further enhance the quality of family medicine in Malaysia, the ministry of health is tightening on standards by tightening on the regulations of the Healthcare and Facilities Act which ensures minimum standards to the private practice. The public sector is audited by the MSQH .Besides, the above quality assurance programs, the AFPM is still working on their effort of promoting the Quality in Primary Care program. The program which is voluntary is done with intention to improve the program to the highest standards possible in primary care. We have 119 participants- 52 were awarded their certification.