



APOA CONGRESS COMMITTEE 2026-2027

Minutes of the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) Congress Committee Meeting Held on 2nd May 2026 via Zoom

Present

Dr. Onder Aydingoz (Turkey)	President
Dr. Jamal Ashraf (India)	Chairman
Dr. Marinis Pirpiris (Australia)	Congress President 2025, Cairns, Australia
Dr. Ram Chaddha (India)	Congress President 2026, Jaipur, India
Dr. Yi-Sheng Chan (Taiwan)	Congress President 2027, Taipei, Taiwan
Dr. Merter Ozenci (Turkey)	Congress President 2028, Antalya, Turkey

The meeting was called to order on 2nd May 2026 at 1800 hours (Malaysia Time, GMT+8) with Dr. Jamal Ashraf, in the chair.

1	Registration Fees & Finances
	<p>Dr Jamal confirmed that the Exco had officially approved the revised registration rates proposed by Dr Yi-Sheng, namely USD 400 for APOA members and USD 500 for non-members.</p> <p>Dr Onder raised concerns regarding future financial stability and the arrangement of advance payments. He noted that for previous congresses, including the Antalya Congress, the main Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) had been required to pay the guaranteed USD 100,000 contribution in 25% instalments commencing one year prior to the Congress. He proposed that APOA secure at least a portion of the guaranteed funds before the commencement of the Congress.</p> <p>Dr Yi-Sheng confirmed that the Taiwanese Orthopaedic Association (TOA) has guaranteed a sum of USD 75,000 for APOA. However, he stated that advance payment arrangements had not been previously discussed and thus this matter would need to be referred to the TOA Council for further consideration and approval.</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>EFORT Partnership & Promotional Materials</p>
	<p>Dr Onder informed the Committee that he would be attending the EFORT Congress in Malaga, Spain the following week and requested that EFORT be prominently recognised as the official “Guest Organization” for the 26th APOA Congress 2026 Taipei, Taiwan. The video was done by the Taipei LOC and thus Dr Jamal would send a high-resolution EFFORT logo to Dr Yi-Sheng who would ensure that the updated version would be given to Dr Onder by the following Monday.</p> <p>Dr Ram Chaddha intervened to clarify the appropriate terminology for official documentation. He noted that while a country may be designated as a “Guest Nation,” an entity such as EFORT should correctly be referred to as a “Guest Society” or “Guest Organization.”</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Scientific Program (Program at a Glance)</p>
	<p>Schedule Adjustments:</p> <p>Dr Jamal and Dr Onder commented that the proposed two-hour lunch break was excessively long. Dr Onder suggested revising the schedule by commencing the lunch break at 12:30pm which Dr Yi-Sheng agreed to implement.</p> <p>Session Separation:</p> <p>Dr Merter observed that the Hip and Knee sessions had been grouped together within the draft programme and recommended that they be separated into distinct sessions.</p> <p>Dr Yi-Sheng explained that the sessions were initially combined based on the volume of abstracts received in previous congresses; however, he agreed to revise the programme accordingly.</p> <p>Research Paper Presentations:</p> <p>Dr Marinis emphasized the importance of allocating sufficient time for research paper presentations, including long podiums, short podiums, and summary presentations. He said that some participants are only able to secure leave from their institutions if their papers are accepted for physical presentation at the Congress.</p>

Clarification of Plenary and Keynote Sessions:

Dr Jamal provided clarification regarding the terminology used in the draft programme. He stated that “Plenary” lectures are strictly limited to 30 minutes and must be conducted without concurrent sessions in other halls.

In contrast, “Keynote” lectures are to be held within their respective subspecialty halls alongside the relevant symposium sessions. He further clarified that the Congress programme will include exactly five plenary lectures: one delivered by the Immediate Past President (Dr Nico), and four additional plenary lectures nominated respectively by the President, Vice President, Second Vice President, and Congress President.

Room Allocations:

Dr Jamal, Dr Onder, and Dr Marinis stressed that room assignments should reflect historical attendance trends and anticipated audience sizes. High-demand tracks such as Trauma and Arthroplasty (Hip and Knee) should therefore be allocated to the largest halls (Rooms 1 and 2, with an estimated seating capacity of approximately 700 attendees), while lower-attendance tracks such as Oncology or Infection may be assigned to smaller rooms with capacities ranging from approximately 80 to 160 seats.

Call for Action:

Dr Jamal requested that Dr Yi-Sheng circulate an editable Word version of the “Programme at a Glance” to the committee members to facilitate collaborative review and correction of the identified scheduling issues.

4 Opening Ceremony Protocol

Dr Jamal Ashraf instructed that the Opening Ceremony be allocated a duration of approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour to accommodate the presentation of awards as well as speeches by the APOA President, the Incoming President, and the President of the Guest Society.

Dr Jamal has drawn up the list of VIPs and guests to be allocated reserved seating including APOA presidential line, past presidents, invited presidents of affiliated societies, award recipients, and Godfather contributors.

APOA Anthem Discussion:

Dr Jamal opined that the APOA song introduced at the APOA Congress 2022 Manila did not truly represent the APOA but was subsequently made into an APOA anthem

	<p>during the presidency of Dr Levy Pasion. Dr Marinis suggested the establishment of a dedicated working group to develop a new and more inclusive anthem for APOA.</p>
5	APOA Awards & Official Invitations
	<p>Dr Jamal outlined the APOA awards to be presented during the Congress, comprising three Honorary Fellowships and one Extraordinary Service Award. He explained that the Honorary Fellowships would include one award for the Immediate Past President and two additional recipients nominated by APOA President. He further noted that the Extraordinary Service Award is traditionally conferred upon an exceptional local contributor who has not previously served as APOA President.</p> <p>Dr Jamal also emphasized that all official invitation letters addressed to VIPs and award recipients, including details of their respective privileges and entitlements, must be issued directly by the APOA Secretariat rather than the local organizing committee. He specified that such correspondence should bear the signatures of both the APOA President and the Congress President.</p> <p>Dr Onder further advised that any official Congress-related correspondence issued by the APOA Secretariat should include the Congress Committee Chair in copy to ensure proper coordination and communication between APOA and the local organizing committee.</p>
6	TOA Congress Theme
	<p>Dr Yi-Sheng presented the provisional Congress theme, <i>“Intelligent Orthopedics: Shaping the Future,”</i> highlighting that the proposed concept reflects a strong emphasis on artificial intelligence (AI), computer science, and precision medicine within the field of orthopaedics.</p> <p>Dr Marinis and Dr Onder both pointed out the importance of finalizing the Congress theme at the earliest opportunity, noting that the selected theme would directly influence the development of the official Congress logo and should be consistently reflected across all promotional and meeting materials.</p> <p>Dr Jamal proposed that the theme be finalised at the next meeting the following week.</p>
7	Key Discussion Items for the Upcoming Meeting (9th May 2026)

Review of the Updated Program at a Glance

- Confirm the scientific tracks, particularly Trauma and Arthroplasty, are strategically assigned to the largest available halls (Rooms 1 & 2, with an estimated capacity of approximately 700 attendees), while smaller subspecialty sessions are allocated to venues of appropriate capacity to optimize audience distribution and participation.
- Ensure that all “Keynote” lectures are appropriately integrated within their respective concurrent subspecialty sessions, and that the five designated 30-minute “Plenary” lectures are scheduled as standalone sessions without any concurrent programme overlap or timing conflicts.
- Confirm the formal separation of the Hip and Knee sessions into distinct scientific tracks to enhance programme clarity and subspecialty focus.
- Verify that adequate and well-structured time allocations have been incorporated for physical research paper presentations, including long podium presentations, short podium sessions, and summary presentations.

Financial and Advance Payment Update

- Dr Yi-Sheng to provide feedback and updates from the TOA Board regarding the proposal for scheduled advance payments prior to the Congress.
- Discuss potential mechanisms to ensure financial stability and timely contributions leading up to the Congress.

Review of Congress Privileges, Awards, and Official Invitations

- Review documentation to ensure it clearly outlines VIP privileges, reserved seating arrangements, the three Honorary Fellowships, and the Extraordinary Service Award.
- Confirm the process and format for issuing official invitation letters through the APOA Secretariat.

Finalization of the Congress Theme and Logo

- Conduct the final review and approval of the proposed Congress theme: *“Intelligent Orthopedics: Shaping the Future.”*

The meeting adjourned at 1858 hours (Malaysia Time, GMT+8) with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Minutes prepared by Secretariat:

Ms Molly Kong Yoon Moi

Ms Lena Teh Poh Leng

Minutes approved by:

Dr Jamal Ashraf, Congress Committee, Chair