



ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held on Sunday, 23rd October 2022 via the Zoom online platform

Present

Dr Onder Aydingoz (Turkey) Chair
Dr Bedri Karaismailoglu (Turkey)
Dr Arif Khan (Pakistan)
Dr Amber Haseeb (Malaysia)
Dr Tanay Prabhoo (India)
Dr So Kato (Japan)
Dr Buland Thapa (Nepal)
Dr Mohammed Iqbal Qavi (Bangladesh)
Dr Hong Geun Jung (Korea)

By Invitation

Dr David Choon Siew Kit (Malaysia)
Dr Ted Mah (Australia)
Dr Jamal Ashraf (India)

Absent with Apologies

Dr Ellewellyn Pasion (Philippines)
Dr Frankie Leung (Hong Kong)
Dr Tanya Burgess (Australia)
Dr Saeed Al Thani (UAE)

The meeting was called to order at 1400 hours (GMT+8) with Dr Onder Aydingoz, Chair

1	Chair's Welcome
	Dr Onder Aydingoz, Chair of the Education Committee, welcomed the Education Committee members to the meeting via the Zoom online platform.
2	Progress on the Survey by the Education Committee
	<p>Dr Onder Aydingoz said that a questionnaire of Education and Training of Orthopaedics and Traumatology in Asia Pacific region was sent to delegates from 24 countries. He said the Education Committee has received 20 replies. The countries which have not submitted the questionnaire is from Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam. Dr Onder Aydingoz said that Myanmar and Cambodia has informed him that they are in the progress of completing the questionnaire but there is no reply from Vietnam.</p> <p>Dr Onder Aydingoz said the results of the survey will be announced during the APOA 2022 Congress in a plenary lecture. He added that a manuscript will be prepared and submitted to the journal.</p> <p>Dr Onder Aydingoz said he had invited Dr Nicolaas Budhiparama from Indonesia to be a member of the Education Committee. Dr Nicolaas Budhiparama accepted but as he is in South America attending a meeting, he would not be able to join this meeting as the time of the meeting will be too early due to the time difference.</p>

3	<p>Proposed Diploma Program from the APOA platform</p> <p>Dr Arif Khan shared a presentation to propose a diploma program from the APOA platform.</p> <p>Dr Arif Khan explained the objectives of proposing this program as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APOA, being the parent organization, should develop a system whereby minimum standards are identified and met in each subspecialty • This will raise the standards of subspecialties in less developed countries. • It will become easier for specialists in these specialities in different countries to communicate with each other. <p>Dr Arif Khan gave the following points on how this can be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APOA develops a curriculum including learning objectives, syllabus and outcomes. • APOA works with federation members and identifies centres which can impart training in different subspecialties. • Candidates who have passed the theory, are sent to those centres for hands-on training to those centres on their own expense. • At the end of the training, they have to pass another online exam, which is the same for all countries. • Candidates are given diplomas with clear instructions that its only to improve their knowledge and skills to a minimum standard, and cannot be used for registration purposes. <p>Prof David Choon pointed out that this program is a good idea but will not be feasible without collaborating with the faculty.</p> <p>Dr Jamal said this should be the culmination of any academic association however he is not sure whether the APOA will be able to go about into it fully at once.</p> <p>Dr Ted Mah said the concept of this program is ideal however he would like to point out the value of the exam on whether this exam is recognized by any local authority. Dr Ted Mah said the proposal of this program adds another element of the examination process which has advantages and disadvantages. Dr Ted Mah explained that this program is advantageous as it gives credibility in terms of teaching. He adds if the individual has done a Fellowship following this particular system will be more recognized and valued.</p> <p>Dr David Choon agreed with Dr Ted Mah that the APOA is not able to certify any individual to do anything however the APOA can certify that the individual has completed a course to satisfaction. He added that it will be difficult to teach practical courses however this will not be a problem with theory courses. He proposed that the full set course should be determined at the beginning and work towards this to establish it.</p> <p>Dr Onder Aydingoz enquired if the APOA central office will be able to run this program and whether more staff is needed to run this. Dr David Choon agreed that more staff is needed and this course cannot be conducted free of charge.</p> <p>Dr Onder Aydingoz said there are some courses which are conducted free of charge however no certificate is given after completing the program and if a certificate is required this would be charged.</p> <p>Dr Bedri Karaismailoglu opined that this is a good program and proposed that this should start as an exam as the training which will be from the individual's own expenses might limit the number of candidates to participate. He added if this theoretical exam can attract a large number of candidates, the practical part can be added in the future.</p> <p>Dr So Kato said he agrees with the idea of the proposal however there are many other societies such as SICOT, EFORT and APOA need to differentiate from these societies. He</p>
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	<p>added that the idea is good for those without the structured education system in their own countries. He opined in terms of conducting the exam, APOA should learn from AO and SICOT as this should not differ much.</p> <p>Dr Jamal proposed to nominate two or three people in the Education Committee to conduct this. Dr Onder Aydingoz agreed with this and proposed that there should be different working groups for different projects and ideas. He suggested that Dr Arif Khan can take the lead to nominate two or three members of the Education Committee or non-members as well.</p> <p>Dr Jamal proposed for Dr Onder Aydingoz to talk to the Sections and get a blueprint in place and the role of the Sections to contribute to the academics of the exam.</p> <p>Dr Ted Mah reminded that the core of APOA is education, and the concept of diploma should not hinder education on a broad-based scale. He said if the courses are online, this can be for a minimum fee.</p> <p>Dr Jamal opined this should not be separate but interlinked as the educational organizations conducting exams such as SICOT diploma. He explained that the SICOT diploma does not have lectures but only exams and a certificate. He suggested that online lectures are conducted with a minimum percentage of attendance to be illegible for the theory exams. After the theory exam, they can proceed for the practical exam at the congress.</p> <p>Dr Arif Khan agreed with Dr Jamal that the APOA is not able to do everything at once. He suggested taking a humble start by having a group that can do more brainstorming and one or more Sections to lead and work on how to start with this program. He proposed that this can begin with lectures followed by optional exams. He said the skills and practical exams can be conducted later when the theory part of the exams are more established in the future. Dr Ted Mah said that the Hand and Upper Limb Section is able to step forward and assist with this.</p> <p>Dr Hong – Geun Jung said organizing these lectures is difficult and a lot of energy and time needs to be put in. He opined that everyone is busy and that giving lectures and taking exams is time-consuming. He suggested organizing Travelling Fellowships for the subspecialties who want to teach which can be conducted for a few weeks or a few months. He proposed that two doctors from each speciality can travel together for hands-on training in this Fellowship. He opined that surgeons will be more interested to learn by visiting and having a hands-on approach.</p> <p>Dr David Choon explained that the APOA has organized Travelling Fellowships until recently halted due to the lockdown. Dr David Choon pointed the issue is the selection of the candidate as there are many applicants and the APOA is not able to decide who are the suitable candidates just based on the CVs sent. He added that the expenses for around two individuals are large for a Travelling Fellowship and these expenses can be used to educate many more others. He explained that it is not needed to give a lecture every time due to the current technology. He added that a once-recorded lecture can be used many times as this is part of the course which occurs repeatedly. In this case, this would not be very time-consuming but instead rewarding. Dr Onder Aydingoz proposed to use the Education Committee WhatsApp group to enquire those who wish to join the group to work on this. Dr Onder Aydingoz said Dr Arif Khan will be in this WhatsApp group. Dr David Choon and Dr Ted Mah volunteered to be part of the call group.</p>
4	Proposal for APOA Primary Trauma Care Courses
	<p>Dr Arif Khan explained that Primary Trauma Care Courses are to prepare people for emergency situations. He pointed out that these courses are similar to ATLS but do not have copyright issues, unlike ATLS. He said ATLS is run by one organization and it is costly for this. He said there are many countries operating these courses but not all can attend these courses and the need for these Trauma Courses is massive. He said there is a UK based NGO that has started this free-of-charge program which is known as Primary Trauma Care.</p>

	<p>Dr Onder Aydingoz enquired to Dr Jamal about his thoughts regarding the role of the Trauma Section. Dr Jamal opined that since Trauma Section is a part of APOA and thus he assumes that Trauma Section will have favourable views on this.</p> <p>Dr Ted Mah enquired whether this can be conducted in only certain facilities or in every hospital. Dr Arif Khan explained the difference between PTC and ATLS is that PTC teaches to run these courses on their own resources. Thus it is not mandatory to have high technological equipment for this. These courses teach us to use the resources that are available to save a life. Dr Ted Mah enquired about the mechanics of these courses.</p> <p>Dr Arif Khan explained that he is running these courses for the past 20 years. They train new faculty from other hospitals who then organize the course in their own hospital. The senior faculty joins them during the first few courses to help them and then they organize the courses themselves.</p> <p>Dr Ted Mah enquired how the consistency of the standard and quality of the teaching is maintained. Dr Arif Khan said that the PTC website has the same teaching materials. New content cannot be added however can add a few pictures. The course consists of three parts. Theory, consisting of short lectures, scenario practice and skills stations. Theory can be done online, however, scenario practice and skills have to be done physically.</p> <p>Dr Ted Mah enquired whether there will be an assessment at the end of this course. Dr Arif Khan replied there will be one assessment before the course and another assessment at the end of the course.</p> <p>Dr Jamal said there is an experience in regard to this in India and after a period of time realized that it is difficult to maintain its standard. He said this is conducted in the Indian Orthopaedic Association and the Indian Trauma Society conducts the course. However other organizations are not encouraged to run these courses. He asserted that every course has to be centrally controlled and under supervision or instruction from people who are part of the pool.</p> <p>Dr Arif Khan said since this is to be conducted on the APOA platform a certain degree of standardization should be maintained. He said there has to be a central platform for this and proposed if APOA can provide this platform, the standard can be maintained.</p> <p>Dr David Choon showed the Open Learning platform which he has set up three years ago and has courses and learning activities regarding Trauma. He explained on how this platform has the tools which can be used as the central platform.</p> <p>Dr Ted Mah pointed out that the issue is to assist the students regarding the practical aspects. Dr Arif Khan stated the proposal is to reduce the workload on the faculty and resources so it is cheaper and easily done to achieve the same results.</p> <p>Dr Onder Aydingoz proposed that Dr Arif Khan, Dr David Choon and Dr Jamal can discuss this further to solidify the proposal in the next meeting.</p>
5	Establishment of e-Library on the APOA website
	<p>Dr Arif Khan said the statistics show that most people visiting the APOA website are young people who visit the website in search of certain educational activities. He said the idea is to facilitate the people and make the website more interesting. He said the proposal is to develop an e-Library on the APOA website. He pointed there are 21 Federation country members and most have their own electronic journals. He suggested providing a link to the 21 Federation country journals for this e-Library. It makes it easier and more accessible to visit all the journals instead of accessing the journals individually on their own website. He pointed out that there are many Sections under APOA which have organized webinars which have been uploaded at different places. He proposed to place all these webinars in one place such as the e-Library for easy access. Dr Arif Khan suggested inviting some of the members from the various APOA sections to record a video on how to perform a particular surgery as this will greatly increase the interest of the young surgeons. He also suggested</p>

that the platform needs to have sufficient data storage space to upload all these materials. He pointed out that the APOA website platform needs to increase the data space which will have certain charges. This will be informed by Dr Jamal. He concluded that the addition of all the above materials to the APOA website will increase the viewership of the website and the viewership of all the journals of the Federation countries.

Dr David Choon showed the mechanics of the Open Learning platform that can cater to what has been proposed by Dr Arif Khan.

Dr Onder Aydingoz enquired of the cost of this platform. Dr David Choon replied that this costs around RM20,000 a year and including the programmer the total cost per annum is around RM100,000.

Dr Jamal explained that having such a platform on the APOA website is very expensive. He explained that since this will be done on the APOA website it will lead to an exorbitant cost. He said that the Open Learning platform run on other people running the platform and paying a certain amount of fees for this. Dr Jamal said the members in the Trauma Section, Spine Section and Foot & Ankle Section have stated that their materials will be placed on their website respectively and not on the APOA website. He explained that the APOA is gradually moving in the website to membership-specific Sections sites. He pointed out that the member from Spine Section has stated that a member of the Spine Section who has paid for the membership of the Spine Section should have access to the educational materials of the Spine Section only and non-members should not have access to that material. He reiterated that every section wants to put its educational materials on its own website.

Dr David Choon agreed with Dr Jamal and suggested another platform which is free of charge known as Moodle. He added that all the materials are backed up in a single zip file which can be circulated to every Section.

Dr Jamal said to Dr Onder Aydingoz that the APOA is trying to do too many things at the same time which will not lead to success for any. He pointed out that the Education Committee needs to set priorities.

Dr Onder Aydingoz reiterated that working groups should be established to work on different aspects which will report to the Education Committee.

Dr Ted Mah said the indexing of the materials would require the employment of a group of people which would lead to high expenses. He said the concept is good but agreed with Dr Jamal that the Education Committee should prioritize things.

Dr Arif Khan proposed that this would require some brainstorming and to approach this matter slowly before it is implemented. He stated that the aim is to ensure that APOA is able to contribute academically so the Federation countries will remain with APOA. He suggested that APOA as one parent organisation can develop these resources and every Section can use them. He said it is not financially viable for the Sections to develop their own resource centres but APOA can provide it. He pointed out that if APOA can develop all these activities, there will be more Federation members that will find this beneficial and will remain as part of the APOA. Dr Arif Khan said this has to start on the right foot to move forward in the future.

Dr Onder Aydingoz stated that it is difficult to find the right people to participate in and run these programs. He said the main issue is finding the best working groups to proceed with this.

Dr Ted Mah said that the increase in educational activities is important to increase the value of APOA however to proceed with this would require funding. He added that the funding has to come from courses organised with a small fee.

Dr Onder Aydingoz said he will speak to Dr Ellewellyn Pasion to get the syllabus from the Asean countries. He said this will act as a guide to all member's associations.

6	Any other business with permission of the chair
6.1	Going Forward 2024
	<p>Dr David Choon gave a presentation as the Congress Chairman of APOA on the plan going forward to the year 2024.</p> <p>Dr David Choon presented on the following regarding the central organization of APOA congress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APOA is set to become a Hong Kong company • This should be the vehicle for funding. • Major contract should be negotiated from Hong Kong (Local Professional Conference Organiser) • However the Secretariat and the daily functioning occurs in Malaysia • This necessitates the formation of a satellite company or structure in Malaysia answerable to Hong Kong • The Malaysian entity is still part of the APOA Hong Kong <p>Dr David Choon explained the role of the Malaysian Secretariat or Company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to do this the websites must be run from Malaysia • Can be hosted by suitable provider not necessarily Malaysian • Need a Malaysian web development team to enable close collaboration between Secretariat and web offerings • The free papers of the meeting have already been successfully run during the 2021 meeting • Propose to do the same for the 2024 meeting but will incorporate live elements such as award of certificates and a live discussion space during the meeting <p>Dr David Choon proposes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Education Committee support this initiative together with the Congress Committee • Proposal should be presented to the new Executive and incoming Council in Cebu, Philippines • Should be approved by the end of the year 2022. <p>The Education Committee unanimously support the proposal by Dr David Choon.</p>
6.2	Bid of further APOA congress
	<p>Dr Arif Khan enquired Dr Jamal when the bid for the future APOA congresses can be circulated. Dr Jamal explained that according to the constitution, prospective bidders have to send in their prospective proposals for hosting the congress three months before the date to be decided. The date to be decided is the 24th November 2022. He said the bid was supposed to be opened on 24th August 2022. Dr Arif Khan said the new document has not been sent and the Council has yet to be notified of this. Dr Jamal said that the new bid document has to be approved by the incoming Executive Committee and Council before it can be circulated. Dr Jamal proposed that an email can be sent that states that any interested country can send their prospective proposals. Dr Jamal added once the new bid has been approved, this can be circulated.</p> <p>Dr Onder Aydingoz thanked all for joining the meeting.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 1600 hours (GMT +8).

Minutes prepared by:

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