



## ASIA PACIFIC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held on  
Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 via the Zoom online platform**

### **Present**

Dr Onder Aydingoz (Turkey), Chair  
Dr Anup Agrawal (India)  
Dr Jamal Ashraf (India)  
Dr David Choon (Malaysia)  
Dr Hong Geun Jung (Korea)  
Dr Bedri Karaismailoglu (Turkey)  
Dr So Kato (Japan)  
Dr Arif Khan (Pakistan)  
Dr JP Leung (Philippines)  
Dr Ted Mah (Australia)  
Dr Rujuta Mehta (India)  
Dr Mohammed Iqbal Qavi (Bangladesh)  
Dr Buland Thapa (Nepal)  
Dr Gowreeson Thevendran (Singapore)

### **Absent with Apologies**

Dr Saeed Al Thani (UAE)  
Dr Nicolaas Budhiparama (Indonesia)  
Dr Tanya Burgess (Australia)  
Dr Mahmut Nedim Doral (Turkey)  
Dr Amber Haseeb (Malaysia)  
Dr In-ho Jeon (Korea)  
Dr Eng Hin Lee (Singapore)  
Dr Frankie Leung (Hong Kong)  
Dr Denny Lie (Singapore)  
Dr Ellewellyn Pasion (Philippines)  
Dr Marinis Pirpiris (Australia)  
Dr Tanay Prabhoo (India)

The meeting was called to order at 20:00 hours (GMT+8) with Dr. Onder Aydingoz in the chair.

<b>1</b>	<b>Chair's Welcome</b>
	Dr Onder Aydingoz, Chair of Education Committee, welcomed the members of the Education Committee to the meeting via the Zoom online platform.
<b>2</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023</b>
	The minutes were passed unanimously by the Education Committee members.
<b>3</b>	<b>Education Committee Projects for 2023-2024</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>APOA e-Library</b>
<b>3.1</b>	Dr David Choon shared the progress of the new website and explained that there will be sections that are exclusive to members only (e.g., discussion forums). He added that discussions can be held simultaneously in all groups and that members who join in later can view the progress and decisions made previously.

<b>3.2</b>	<b>APOA Primary Trauma Care Courses</b>
	<p>Dr Anup Agrawal updated the meeting that a framework was being prepared and some modifications made. He enquired whether he would communicate with the APTS members on getting the lectures prepared or will this be done by the Education Committee. He estimated that these documents should be ready within two months. Dr Arif said that it would be necessary to find providers for the content, including orthopaedic trauma, for the trauma course. Dr Onder suggested that the working group for this course can decide on the speakers and content of the course.</p> <p>Dr David Choon said that this course can be presented via Open Learning platform which is more interactive. Dr Arif said that the theoretical aspects can be done on Open Learning, but the practical parts including demonstrations may require skill labs.</p> <p>Dr Anup said that they can use the online platform but will need to have an agreement with skill labs to teach practical skills. Dr Onder suggested initiating this course at the Dubai Congress.</p>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>APOA Curriculum of Orthopaedics and Traumatology</b>
	<p>Dr Onder updated the meeting about the curriculum and informed that every section has responded to the queries sent. He stated that they will combine the curriculum into one document and it will be sent to the Education Committee. He requested everyone to provide feedback on it, which can be discussed in the next Education Committee meeting, along with the Sectional Chairs. Once it is approved, the curriculum will be sent to the Council. Dr Ted Mah suggested that the chief delegates should get a copy of the curriculum and get their feedback before sending the curriculum to the Council.</p>
	<b>Diploma Programme from the APOA Platform</b>
	<p>Dr Ted Mah presented the updated programme and went through every part of the programme and stated that most of the Sectional Chairs have approved the principles. He stated that they have suggested USD 200 for the registration fee, whereby half of it will go to the Sections, and the other half will go to the Education Committee, as the Education Committee will need to keep track of the participants and provide certification to them.</p> <p>Dr Onder said that the Education Committee may have its own budget but the fees could be collected by the APOA to be used by the Education Committee for different projects. Dr Ted Mah suggested that the Education Committee can set up its own finances for future use. He added that a scoring system will be developed to make accreditation more objective.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Update on the Preparations and Scientific Programme of the APOA 2024 Congress Dubai</b></p> <p>Dr David Choon said that there are videos to help registrants sign up and submit free papers to the APOA 2024 Congress. He urged the Sectional Chairs to finalize their meeting themes and keynote speakers and submit them so that the programme can be updated and uploaded onto the new website to attract participants.</p> <p>Dr Ted Mah asked whether there is a possibility that some free paper presenters may register late as they may be unfamiliar with the new process. Dr David Choon explained that the rules and procedure are stated clearly on the website and that participants are encouraged to submit and register early in order to get more votes for their papers.</p> <p>Dr Jamal raised an issue about young surgeons submitting abstracts, especially from other countries who may encounter difficulty in traveling to Dubai to attend the meeting which may lead to lesser papers coming from countries other than UAE and neighbouring countries. Dr Jamal said that the certificate from OpenLearning may not be feasible for some institutes, which could demotivate the young surgeons to submit their abstracts. Dr David Choon clarified that the certificate is issued by APOA, not OpenLearning.</p>

	<p>Dr Arif highlighted that there might be a psychological barrier as the participants may be more familiar with the previous system of free paper submissions; this may result in being hesitant to submit their abstracts for APOA 2024. Also, they would need confirmation on the acceptance of their abstracts before they can start planning their trip to attend the Congress. He suggested that there should be a way to overcome this barrier by improvising the way we communicate with potential participants.</p> <p>Dr Rujuta wanted clarification on whether there will be an online option and needed some assistance in reaching out to women orthopaedic surgeons. Dr Jamal said that there will not be a hybrid option as discussed in the last meeting to improve the physical participation for this congress.</p> <p>Dr Anup asked whether it is acceptable for presenters to be absent from Congress even though they submitted their papers. To add on, Dr Ted Mah wanted clarification on whether the participants who choose not to attend the meeting and only submit the paper or will they have to register and then submit and present the paper. Dr David Choon explained that they are still presenting their papers but it will not be a live presentation.</p> <p>Dr Jamal proposed that this new model be launched and then gauge the development/progress. Dr Anup proposed that we should charge a lower registration fee for participants who submit abstracts. Dr David Choon disagreed with the suggestion and proposed that if the participants want to cancel their registration, only a certain portion of the registration fee is refunded.</p> <p>Dr So Kato concurred with Dr Jamal's opinion on young surgeons' attitudes in presenting the abstracts. Dr So Kato said that young surgeons would prefer having some experience in presenting their papers live as opposed to presenting online. Dr Bedri added that the participants may not receive financial support if they pay the registration fee beforehand. He suggested that since young surgeons may want experience in live presentations, a discount can be given to them so that they may feel more inclined to attend physically.</p> <p>Dr Onder agreed on the new system and its versatility and that we could start using this system at this Congress. Dr Arif also agreed that this new model should be implemented even if there may be apprehensions that come with it, as many efforts have been invested in this model. Dr Anup also agreed with the implementation of this new model.</p> <p>Dr Ted Mah elaborated that the young surgeons and the industries involved need to understand that this is a new and more effective structure as opposed to the traditional way so that they would be more willing to participate and the industries to fund the surgeons to attend.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Any Other Matters</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Follow-Up Meeting</b>
	Dr Ted Mah suggested that a meeting should be held once the registration is launched to see the progress.
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
	<p>Dr Onder Aydingoz proposed that the next meeting be on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at 8 pm (Kuala Lumpur time).</p> <p>Dr Onder Aydingoz thanked all the participants for joining the meeting.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 2130 hours (GMT +8) with a vote of thanks to the chair.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Ms ZhenYi Heng

**Minutes vetted by:**

Dr Onder Aydingoz

Chair, Education Committee

Dr Arif Khan

Secretary General, APOA