

66TH ANNUAL CLINICAL CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS FROM 5-8 DECEMBER 2010 @ MANDALUYONG CITY, MANILA

Trip Funded by:	College of Surgeons Travelling Fellowship Fund
Attended by:	A/Prof Low Yin Peng
Reported by:	A/Prof Low Yin Peng

Trip Report

I arrived in Manila International Airport in the afternoon of 4 December 2010. An arranged transport took me to the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The next morning I was in the stage party at 8.30 am. The opening of the 66th Annual Clinical Congress took place at the Isla Ballroom. The presidents of regional surgical colleges present included those from Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore.

In the evening, there was a Fellowship Night held at Isla Ballroom. It was an informal affair. Fellows, delegates and overseas guests mingled together.

On the morning of 6 December 2010, the regional surgical college presidents, Lt General Nopadol (Royal College of Thailand), Dr Andrew Yip (Hong Kong College of Surgeons) and myself had breakfast meeting with our Philippine hosts headed by Dr Stephen Sixto Siguan, President of the Philippine College of Surgeons and Vice President, Dr Josephina Almonte.

The agenda were 1) The MRA and 2) the proposed formation of the ASIAN Federation of Surgical Colleges.

Generally, we support in principle the MRA. The problems we see ahead are:

- 1) harmonisation of surgical training curricula and training.
- 2) establishment of acceptable professional standards
- 3) mutual recognition and accreditation
- 4) involvement of the individual country's health and licensing authority and other stakeholders
- 5) language. In Thailand, for example, the ability to speak Thai is one of the requirements for practice in Thailand.

I suggested that a Joint ASEAN Medical Specialists' Accreditation Board be formed for the purpose.

I told the meeting that the College of Surgeons of Singapore would have a meeting with our Indonesian counterparts. The proceedings would be sent to the Master, Academy of Medicine for transmission to the Singapore Medical Council and Specialists' Accreditation Board.

The proposed Asian Federation of Surgical Colleges is in a way influenced by the MRA. There needs much more discussion and planning before it can take off.

In the evening of 7 December 2010, I attended the Annual Dinner & Induction of 2010 Board of Regents. This was also held at the Isla Ballroom. Dr Josephina Almonte was officially installed as the 2011 President of the College of Surgeons.

I returned to Singapore on 8 December 2010. I am very impressed with the friendliness, courtesy and graciousness and generosity of our Filipino hosts.

Usefulness of Event to Self & College of Surgeons

- 1) Fostering and strengthening of ties between the College of Surgeons, Singapore with the PCS and other regional surgical colleges.
- 2) Establishment and renewal of personal friendship with our Filipino, Hong Kong and Thai friends.
- 3) Better understanding of the professional and social life of Filipino medical profession.
- 4) Closer collaboration among the various colleges.