

33RD ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF THAILAND FROM 17-20 JULY 2008 AT THE ROYAL CLIFF BEACH RESORT, PATTAYA, THAILAND

Trip Funded by:	College of Surgeons Travelling Fellowship Fund
Attended by:	Dr Chan Heng Thye
Reported by:	Dr Chan Heng Thye
Trip Report	
From 17-20 July 2008, my wife and I attended the 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand at the Royal Cliff Beach Resort, Pattaya, Thailand. As usual, our Thailand counterparts were very warm in reception as well as being first-class hosts. The theme is "Surgical Practice in the Present Era". The meeting was not only being educational and informative but was challenging and encouraging to the young surgeons to take up the batons where the seniors left off. Apart from doing my Presidential duty, I was invited to the "International Presidents Roundtable Meeting" held on 19 July 2008 at 7.00am to 9.00am. The meeting was well supported by the five (5) past Presidents in addition to the present members of the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand, along with the Presidents from College of Surgeons of Malaysia, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Philippine College of Surgeons, College of Surgeons Singapore, Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand, together with Dr John Fildes (Chairman of Trauma Committee of American College of Surgeons) and Prof Nicolaos John Lygidakis (Secretary General of International Association of Surgeons & Gastroenterologists). Besides these, were representatives from the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand in the field of Paediatric, Plastic & Reconstructive, Neurosurgery, Colorectal, Urological, Orthopaedic Surgery, together with the Executive Director and Deputy Director from Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand. Topics discussed upon:- - Setting up a Cancer Centre in ASEAN through Prof Nicolaos John Lygidakis. He has spoken to the College of Surgeons of Thailand, Malaysia, etc. - Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Group – Malaysia has not set up the ATLS course because of high cost of buying in the specialist from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma Committee. Likewise, the Philippine College of Surgeons is deterred because of the cost issue. However, the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand has started through some aid from the ACS Trauma Committee. Dr John Fildes was concerned with this information and would take the message of costing back to the ACS Trauma Committee. At the initial site visit, two surgeons from ACS came over. The cost was five (5) million Baht. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has helped by sending either one or two core instructors to Thailand. Last year, the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand conducted twenty-five (25) courses. This year, they hope to hold thirty (30) courses. So far, they have been doing this for the past ten (10) years. Of late, they are using "pig" program for ATLS course. - Dr Armando Crisostomo, President of the Philippine College of Surgeons, presented the "Proceedings of the 1st Philippine Summit Patient Safety in Surgery". It is on a CD as well as in written form. - The education and training of surgeons plus Exchange Program in Thailand has thirty (30) years of history and it concentrates in surgical oncology, vascular and general surgery. Thailand is having a shortage of surgeons at present.	

Dr Armando Crisostomo with Dr Lum Siew Kheong (President of College of Surgeons of Malaysia) is putting up a paper based on the facts submitted at the last meeting held in Kuala Lumpur. The ASEAN Cardiology has set up ASEAN College of Cardiology and is headed by Dr Richard Ng – a Cardiologist from Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore. A suggestion was tabled for all College of Surgeons to form an ASEAN College of Surgeons so as to look into and finalise a training program for our young surgeons. Also, an Exchange Program was being tabled by Dr Soottiporn Chittmittrapap. Hopefully, trainees and future specialists can participate in such a program. Prof Ian Gough, President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and myself agreed in this Exchange Program and would like to call it the “Federation of ASEAN Surgeons”.

- v) Prof C.K. Yeung invited the College of Surgeons Singapore to join the Hong Kong College of Surgeons to make arrangements to train our trainees and hopefully, to invite the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh to join in at a later stage.

Usefulness of Event to Self & College of Surgeons

This meeting was both educational and informative. Collaboration ties and fellowship were re-fostered with our overseas fraternal Colleges at this meeting.