

64TH ANNUAL CLINICAL CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS FROM 6-10 DECEMBER 2008 AT MANDALUYONG CITY, PHILIPPINES

Trip Funded by:	College of Surgeons Travelling Fellowship Fund
Attended by:	Dr Chan Heng Thye
Reported by:	Dr Chan Heng Thye

Trip Report

My wife and I attended the 64th Annual Clinical Congress of Philippines College of Surgeons at EDSA Shangri-La Hotel from 6th to 10th December at Mandaluyong City.

Next morning at 7.30am on 7th December, I was gowned in my Academic Gown and joined the stage party with other Presidents from Taipei, Indonesia, Vietnam, Australia and Malaysia. The stage party marched into hall with pomp and majesty and to be followed by the army personnel armed with Philippine flags and rifles. The national anthem was played. This was followed by PCS Hymn – led by 2008 Fellows.

The Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) officially opened its 64th Annual Clinical Congress on “Tradition and Technologies” which aims to discuss the traditional means of surgical treatment versus the technologically advanced ways of giving care to common surgical problems. The event started with the traditional processional ceremonies and Dr Armand Crisostomo welcomed all the delegates of the Convention. Dr Wilma Baltazar presented the 75 new Fellows of the PCS. And the Initiates were sworn in to the Fellowship Pledge.

The President also gave the Gregorio T. Singian Leadership Society Award to the following: Dr Reynaldo Baclig, Dr Maximino Simbulan as GT Singian Fellows and XENO Pharmaceuticals, Society of Philippine Surgeons in America (SPSA) as GT Singian Benefactors for contributing funds to the PCS Foundation.

The PCS awarded the very first PCS Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr Cresencio Abes for his insurmountable contributions in the Surgical Society and the community.

At 7pm on Sunday (7 December 2008), a Fellowship night was held at Isla Ballroom. Its theme was “PCS goes OPM (Original Pilipino Music)”. The occasion was hosted by Dr Dondi Dizon and Dr Amihan Banaag. Guest performer was the New Minstrels Band who performed nostalgic songs of the 70's and the 80's, all of which proudly Pinoy. They were joined by the PCS President, Dr Armand Crisostomo, Vice President, Dr Alex Erasmo, and all the members of the Board of Directors of PCS in singing a favourite Pinoy rock song! All 11 regional Chapters of PCS participated in a nightlong music extravaganza of Filipino music. Proving that the Pinoy Surgeons are not only good with the scalpel and the Operating Theatre but also with “jamming” in Music Hall. So, Pinoy Surgeons, Rock On!!!

On Monday (8 December 2008), I attended the “Presentation with Power” talk delivered by Dr Dino Santos – Senior Associate Trainer for S.E.A. Speakers & Trainees Bureau. At lunch, I hosted Dr Lum Siew Kheong (President of the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia) and his spouse so as to discuss on the Asean Federation of Surgery. Dr SK Lum is in favour that we all (Asean) should work together to promote surgery in Asean.

At 7pm, we gathered for the International Presidents Reception Dinner held at The Legend Villas, Mandaluyong City. Dignitaries present were Ambassadors from Canada and Singapore – Mr A Seherajah. After dinner, Presidents of the College of Surgeons of Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore sat down and listened to the incoming President, Dr Alex A. Erasmo read the document on the commitment to form the Asean Federation of Surgery before all signed on the document.

On Tuesday (9 December 2008), besides attending some relevant talks, we all gathered for the “Annual Dinner and Induction of 2009 Board of Regents” at Isla Ballroom. The highlight of this dinner besides the induction was the musical performance by each Chapter of the 11 Chapters of PCS. The Filipinos are very musically talented and can sing very well. It was a very enjoyable and an entertaining night.

On Wednesday (10 December 2008), my wife and I flew back to Singapore.

Usefulness of Event to Self & College of Surgeons

The trip is an eye-opener. PCS has an illustrious & illuminating history of how it has developed from a simple College to its present glorious & well-known College. They have over 50 Presidents who are still active behind the scene by contributing their experiences. I am deeply touched by their dedication & self-less devotion to ensure the College is solidly founded on solid principles. I hope that our past presidents will likewise emulate the Presidents of PCS. The College duly recognise them individually at all functions. Sadly, this is not practise in our College. I hope the incoming President will remedy such shortcoming. It seems to me that when the President's time frame is out, he is forgotten.

I am very happy that the ASEAN Federation of Surgery is signed in the presence of our Singapore Ambassador -- Mr A. Selverajah. By year 2012/2010, changes will be implemented by all ASEAN governments promoting free trade & access. Hence, I think it is timely that the College jumpstart on this formation so that by then, all Colleges will bask on the goodness resulting from these government open-door policies. Let us not be side-tracked by fear of influx of other ASEAN doctors into our doors, as well as, how to maintain good surgical standards. Let us tackle these problems together in a friendly ASEAN atmosphere.

I am happy that I have suggested that the PCS to hold the first ASEAN Federation meeting - dovetailed into their College's Congress meeting scheduled in May 2009 at Lake Tahore.