

## MALAYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



HOOI Lai Ngoh\*<sup>1</sup>

### Objectives of the Malaysian Medical Association

- To promote and maintain the honour and interest of the profession of Medicine in all its branches and in every one of its segments and help to sustain the professional standards of medical ethics.
- To serve as a vehicle of the integrated voice of the whole profession and all or each of its segments both in relation to its own special problems and in relation to educating and directing public opinion on the problems of public health as affecting the community at large.
- To participate in the conduct of medical education, as may be as appropriate.
- To promote social, cultural and charitable activities in building a united Malaysian nation.

### Council, Executive Committee, Sections, Societies, Committees and Representatives of the Malaysian Medical Association

The MMA Council consists of the following key office-bearers who are also members of the Executive Committee; as well as 20 branch representatives from the 14 states in Malaysia.

President

Dr. David Quek Kwang Leng

President Elect

Dr. Mary Suma Cardosa

Immediate Past President

Dato' Dr. Khoo Kah Lin

Honorary General Secretary

Dato' Dr. N.K.S. Tharmaseelan

Honorary General Treasurer

Dr. Hooi Lai Ngoh

Honorary Deputy Secretary

Dr. Kuljit Singh

Honorary Deputy Secretary

Dato' Dr. Sarjeet Singh Sidhu

Chairman, Private Practitioners' Section (PPS)

Dato' Dr. Mohan Singh

Chairman, Section Concerning House Officers, Medical Officers & Specialists (SCHOMOS)

Dr. Harvinder Singh

We have two Sections in our Association, namely, the Section Concerning House Officers, Medical Officers & Specialists (SCHOMOS) and the Private Practitioners' Section (PPS).

There are 5 Societies: Public Health Society, Society of Sports Medicine, Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, MMA Ophthalmological Society and MMA Society of Medical Students.

We also have 31 Committees and MMA is represented on 34 external bodies—government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

### Membership

As at September 2009, the total membership of the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) stood at 8,079—this included Ordinary Members in benefit (3,172), Life/Joint Life Members (4,670), Exempt Members (225), Associate Members (5) and Honorary Members (7). In addition, there were 2,656 student members.

### Liaison with Government Agencies

#### Ministry of health

We had a dialogue session with our Minister of Health in April 2009. Among the issues raised were regulation of Managed Care Organisations, liberalisation of professional services and the maldistribution of doctors with shortage in rural areas of Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia.

Among the government doctors' issues dis-

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cussed were on-call and other allowances, promotion of doctors and delay in recruitment of house officers. Private practitioners' issues included review of the Private Healthcare Facilities & Services Act (1998) and its Regulations (2006), pharmacists dispensing drugs without prescription, medical examination for commercial drivers and the National Health Financing mechanism.

### **International Affairs (Slides 1, 2)**

#### **Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN)**

The 13th Mid Term Council Meeting was held in Mandaluyong City, Philippines, in May 2009. The MMA was represented by Datuk Dr. Teoh Siang Chin, Dr. S.R. Manalan and Dr. Hooi Lai Ngoh.

#### **World Medical Association (WMA)**

The WMA General Assembly was held in October 2008 in Seoul, Korea. The MMA was represented by Dr. David Quek, Dr. Mastura Ismail and Datuk Dr. N. Arumugam. Datuk Dr. Arumugam is now the immediate Past President of the WMA.

Subsequently, the WMA organised the Caring Physicians of the World Leadership Course in France in December 2008. Four members of the MMA Executive Committee, namely, Dr. David Quek, Dr. Mary Cardosa, Dr. S.R. Manalan and Dr. Mastura Ismail, attended this course. This course seeks to make participants more effective in their roles as leaders in their country's medical association.

The WMA organised a Seminar on Human Resources for Health and the Future of Healthcare in March 2009 in Iceland. The MMA was represented by a Council member, Dr. H. Krishna Kumar. The objective of this seminar was to bring together physician leaders and experts from the medical associations around the world in order to exchange experiences on the scope of practice and task shifting as a response to the health workforce crisis.

Dr. David Quek and Dato' Dr. Sarjeet Singh attended a one day WMA Seminar on 'Climate Change and Health Care' held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in September 2009. The purpose of this event was to bring together physician leaders from the medical associations from around the world as well as high level experts in order to exchange experiences and knowledge on the

impact of climate change on health and to develop a global strategy, in the context of the coming 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Dec 2009). This is to ensure that health is fully considered in current global debates and actions taken in this area. This seminar was also aimed at providing physicians with accurate information and awareness raising tools to advocate at national level along the same lines.

### **Seminars/Conferences Conducted by the MMA in 2008/2009 (Slides 3–12)**

#### **Seminar on occupational health concerns of health care professionals (November 2008)**

This seminar focused on hazards faced by health care professionals including radiation hazards and psychological hazards, and the health effects of shift work. It was organised by the Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

#### **SCHOMOS seminar—"Rights and responsibilities of government doctors" (December 2008)**

The objective of this seminar was to sensitise doctors to issues in the public health sector. It was officiated by the Director-General of Health. In his key note address on "Future of Doctors in Malaysia" he stressed the importance of having good clinical skills and knowledge, as well as good working attitude; and the challenges in healthcare encountered now and in the future were emphasised. This seminar was organised by the Section concerning House Officers, Medical Officers and Specialists.

#### **Adolescent sexual and reproductive health: Training the trainers (TOT) session (January 2009)**

The objective of the TOT was to train a pool of trainers equipped with knowledge and skills on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH). These trainers in turn will organise similar workshops in their schools and universities or in their own states and disseminate knowledge on ASRH to adolescents. Knowing that adolescents' main source of information is from their peers, the aim was to train as many young trainers as possible to reach out to their generation. This training was organised by the Adolescent Health Committee in collaboration

with the Malaysian Association for Adolescent Health and the Federation of Family Planning Associations.

#### **1st MMA-MMAH FELDA outreach programme (February 2009)**

This programme was held for adolescents from a secondary school outside Kuantan, Pahang. There were lectures, workshops and discussion on topics that included healthy lifestyle, smoking, alcohol and drugs and teen sex. It was jointly organised by the Adolescent Health Committee and the Malaysian Association for Adolescent Health.

#### **MMA international CPD symposium (March 2009)**

The objectives of this meeting were to determine the status of continuing professional development in Malaysia, to learn from the experience of our neighbours, namely, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand, as well as to discuss new methods of delivery of continuing professional development. This event was organised by the CPD Committee.

#### **Plantation health seminar (March 2009)**

This seminar, which was held in Sandakan, Sabah, was organised by the Plantation Health Committee jointly with the Incorporated Society of Planters—Sabah North East Branch. The target groups were estate hospital assistants, visiting medical officers and management staff in the plantation sector. Among the topics presented were role and responsibilities of estate hospital assistants and visiting medical officers, personal protective equipment, common health problems of the estate sector, estate sanitation and health as well as chemical health risk assessment.

#### **Seminar on housemanship training in Malaysia (April 2009)**

In Malaysia the period of housemanship training has been extended to 2 years and housemen have to rotate through 6 disciplines. As of 2008, there were 2,274 house officers training in 35 government and 3 university hospitals. Last year, about 65% were local medical graduates from the 21 local medical colleges and the remaining 35% were overseas graduates from 13 different countries. The objective of this seminar was to discuss the problem faced by housemen including quality of training, long working hours and delay in

appointment of new house officers. The meeting was officiated by the Deputy Health Minister and the keynote address was delivered by the Director-General of Health. It was organised by the Committee on Medical Education.

#### **Management of dementia cases at the primary care level for general practitioners (April 2009)**

It is vital for all doctors, irrespective of whether they provide private or public healthcare, to have some knowledge on how to care for the older patient. Solely depending on geriatricians is not going to help the patients who need immediate care. With this in mind, this course was organised by the Committee for the Health of the Older Person. Many aspects of dementia care were discussed including definition of dementia, changing trends in forgetful elderly, screening tools for dementia, preventive intervention, early detection and assessment of the elderly with cognitive problems or intellectual failure and management of dementia.

#### **Specialist forum (April 2009)**

This forum discussed problem faced by specialists in private practice. It was organised by the Private Practitioners' Section of MMA.

#### **Seminar on indoor air quality and occupational lung diseases (April 2009)**

This was another seminar organised by the Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The topics included the indoor air quality in health care facilities, exhaust ventilation systems, legionellosis and even nano particles.

#### **SOCSCO seminar on what, how and who (May 2009)**

This seminar highlighted the scope of SOCSCO (Social Security Organisation) medical claims and objective approach to ensure claimant's rights to compensation under the Employee Injury Insurance Scheme and Invalidity Pension Scheme. It also provided a platform for doctors to clarify perceived grey areas in the processing of SOCSCO claims. It was organised by the SOCSCO Committee.

#### **Seminar on occupational health for healthcare professionals (May 2009)**

There were several updates on topics such as

ventilation in hospitals, occupational dermatoses, radiation risks, and the use of N95 masks and protective equipment during the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. This meeting was held in conjunction with the MMA National AGM and was organised by the Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

#### **1st MMA-MAAH urban outreach programme (July 2009)**

The target audience was 100 selected students and the facilitators were Members of the Adolescent Health Committee as well as youth members of the Malaysian Association for Adolescent Health (MAAH).

#### **Seminar on AFTA and the ASEAN mutual recognition agreement (August 2009)**

This meeting was co-organised with the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. And aimed to inform medical practitioners of the implications of AFTA and ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement.

#### **1st Malaysian international medical students conference (September 2009)**

The objectives were to foster better relationships between medical students in Malaysia and those of other countries, to enlighten medical students on the importance of clinical research on management strategies in the hospital as well as to make scientific presentations on par with those at well established Medical Student's Congresses in other countries. The conference also hoped to bridge the divide between medical students from various institutions in Malaysia. Several programmes were organised to meet these objectives; there were scientific paper presentations, plenary sessions, open forums on medical education, workshops on first aid and disaster response. This conference was organised by the MMA Society of Medical Students.

#### **National A (H1N1) influenza pandemic conference (September 2009)**

The objective was to share with medical practitioners, scientists and the mass media, information on various aspects of management of the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. Among the topics presented were current status and clinical management, viral diagnostics, public and health care provider responses and challenges as well as

the vaccines and challenges for the future. This meeting was co-organised with the Ministry of Health and the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Associations of Malaysia.

#### **12th Penang teaching conference for general practitioners (October 2009)**

This conference aimed at continuing education for doctors in primary care has been organised annually by MMA Penang Branch since 1998. This year, the pre-conference workshops were on CPR, Office Orthopaedics, Suturing and Wound Management and Communications Skills. The main conference was spread over two and a half days and comprised lectures and workshops on paediatric, cardiovascular, dermatology, rheumatology, obstetrics and gynaecology, respiratory, endocrine and psychiatry topics, among others. There was also a free paper session and a debate on the motion "Solo General Practice is obsolete in today's medical care delivery."

#### **Continuous professional development and workshop on spirometry and audiometry (October 2009)**

This workshop was organised by the Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. There were case presentations related to Occupational Health as well as hands-on workshop sessions.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, it was yet another active year for the 50th MMA Council especially the key office-bearers, who have to attend many meetings with the Ministry of Health and other external organisations to help solve problems faced by the profession. The Sections of the MMA focused on resolving problems faced by their respective members in meetings with the Ministry of Health and in other forums.

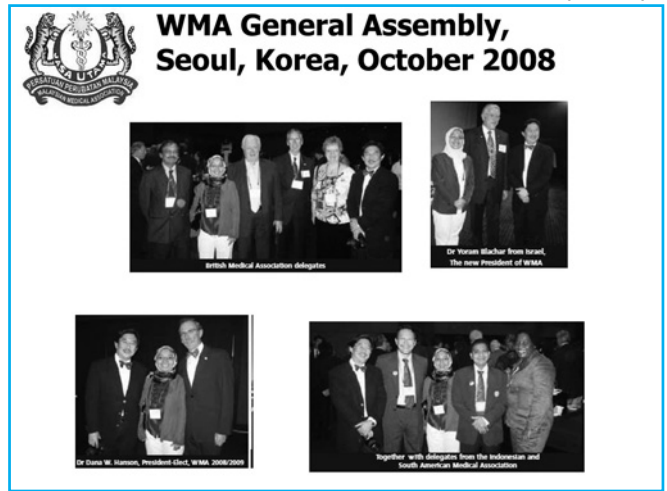
The Committees and Societies were also active participating in and organising various meetings and conferences whereas the Branches continued diligently with their activities, particularly continuing professional development, community activities and recruitment of new members.

Internationally, the MMA intends to be more involved and play a greater role in helping to shape certain medical professional and ethical concerns, which affect less developed nations.

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(Slide 2)



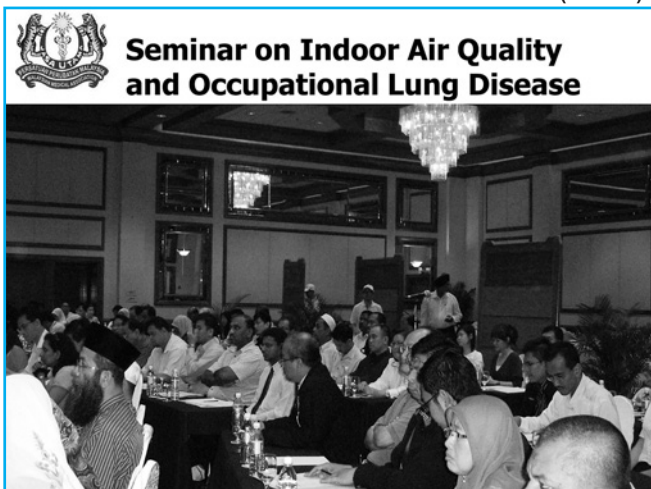
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