

MALAYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



H. Krishna KUMAR*¹

Objectives of the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA)

- 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 the 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 appropriate.
- To promote social, cultural and charitable activities in building a united Malaysian nation.

MMA Executive Committee 2012/2013

- President: Dr. S.R. Manalan
- President-Elect: Dato Dr. N.K.S. Tharmaseelan
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Mary Suma Cardosa
- Hon. Gen. Secretary: Dr. H. Krishna Kumar
- Hon. Gen. Treasurer: Dr. Ravindran Naidu
- PPS Chairman: Dr. Koh Kar Chai
- SCHOMOS Chairperson: Dr. Thillainathan
- Deputy Hon. Gen. Sec.: Dr. Azizan Binti Abdul Aziz
- Deputy Hon. Gen. Sec.: Dr. Harvinder Singh

MMA Council 2012/2013

MMA Council has 29 members, 9 executive committee members, 20 branch representatives from the 14 states in Malaysia.

Sections, Societies and Committees of MMA

Sections

SCHOMOS (Government Drs)
PPS (Private practitioners)

Societies

SMMAMS (Medical Students)
SOEM (Occupational Health)
Public Health
Sports Medicine

26 MMA Committees

Represented on 36 Government/NGO committees

MMA Membership

- Currently there are over 38,000 registered medical practitioners in Malaysia
 - 67% are in the public sector
 - 33% are private practitioners
- Only 9,759 are MMA members (<26%)
 - 53% of MMA members are Life members
 - 53% of MMA members are from the private sector
- MMA also has 2,155 student members
 - Conversion to full membership after graduation is still a challenge!

MMA Online Membership System

- One of the strategies to address the declining membership is to provide online membership system where members could register through:
www.registermma.org.my

MMA website: www.mma.org.my

MJM website: www.e-mjm.org

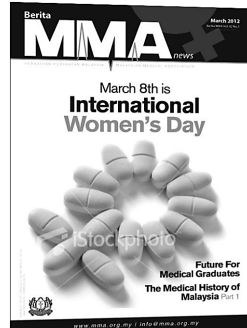
*¹ Honorary General Secretary, Malaysian Medical Association, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (secretary@mma.org.my).

This article is based on a presentation made as the Report of Activities by each MMA at the 48th CMAAO Mid-term Council, Macau, China, on November 9, 2012.

MMA Publications



The Medical Journal of Malaysia



Berita MMA

International Affairs

Medical Associations of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN)

The 15th MASEAN Conference was held on 15–18 May 2012 at the EDSA.

Shangri-La Hotel Mandaluyong City Philippines. Dr. Mary Suma Cardosa, Immediate Past President and Dr. Koh Kar Chai, PPS Chairman, attended this conference.

Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA)

The Commonwealth International conference on Non-Communicable Diseases & the Role of Information & Communication Technology (eHealth & mHealth) was held on 14–16 September 2012 in Chennai India.

MMA Representatives are:

Dr. S.R. Manalan, President

Dato' Dr. N.K.S. Tharmaseelan, President

Elect

Dr. Azizan Binti Abdul Aziz, Honorary Deputy Secretary

World Medical Association (WMA)

The WMA General Assembly was held on 10–13 October 2012 in Bangkok.

MMA Representatives who attended the meeting:

Dr. Manalan, President

Dr. Mary Suma Cardosa, Immediate Past President

Dato Dr. N.K.S. Tharmaseelan, President-Elect

Dr. Koh Kar Chai, PPS Chairman

Dr. Saraswathi Bina Rai, Chairperson Penang

Branch

Dato Dr. Syed Muhammad Salleh Bin Syed Yusof Al-Zawawi, Chairman Terengganu Branch

Dato Dr. K. Paramanathan, Chairman Pahang

Dr. Thillainathan K. Selvadurai, Chairman SCHOMOS

Current National Problems

MMA has been working with the Ministry of Health so that the views, concerns and welfare of all sectors of doctors are represented and taken into consideration in the implementation of new laws, policies and practices.

Health system transformation

- MMA had been involved in the “technical working groups” drawing up plans for the transformed health system since 2010
- Negative response of the public to the proposal for health system transformation due to lack of transparency and consultation
- “Taknak 1Care” campaign

Klinik 1Malaysia: clinics for urban poor run by “Assistant Medical Officers”

- MMA has been negotiating for GPs to provide this service (paid by government funds)

Rapid increase in no. of doctors

- Currently there are 33 medical schools in Malaysia!!
- 4–5,000 new doctors graduating annually
- Current no. of doctors 38,000 (1:800)
- By 2015: 1:600
- By 2020: 1:400 → >80,000 doctors
- Issues
 - Quality of medical graduates
 - Training of housemen and Medical officers
 - Opportunities for specialisation
 - Future unemployment for doctors

Private practitioners' woes

- Increasing regulations
 - Revised Fee schedule still not implemented (current fee schedule is 10 years old)
- Shrinking rice bowls for GPs
 - Calls for “specialisation” and “accreditation”
 - Concern about their place in the new health-care system
 - Concern about separation of prescribing and dispensing rights

Government Dr's woes

- Housemanship training
 - Shift system
 - Inadequate exposure to patients
- Promotions slow
- Proposed new salary scheme was shelved
- Change in policies due to changes in “top management”

Amendments to the medical act

- Specialist Register
- Compulsory medical indemnity and compulsory CPD points for renewal of APC
- Medical Qualifying committee for accreditation and recognition of qualifications of local and overseas institutions
- Change in composition of MMC
 - Increase in elected members
 - DG of Health is still the chair

Liberalisation of health services

- Full liberalisation by 2012

- Foreign ownership of hospitals and healthcare facilities
- Foreign specialists working in Malaysia
 - Too fast and not enough check & balance mechanisms in place

Lynas rare earth plant

- Plans to build the world's largest rare earth processing plant in Gebeng, Pahang.
- The long-term management of the enormous quantity of radioactive waste is the major factor concerning environmental and public safety.
- MMA, having studied the available scientific evidence, feels that there are enough concerns about the potential adverse health effects of this project and has advised the Minister of Health to err on the side of caution and to oppose the project.
- MMA is also participating in discussions/committees and consultations with MOH and other relevant ministries as well as the Parliamentary select committee set up to study this issue.