

2nd Asean Deans' Summit

REPORT

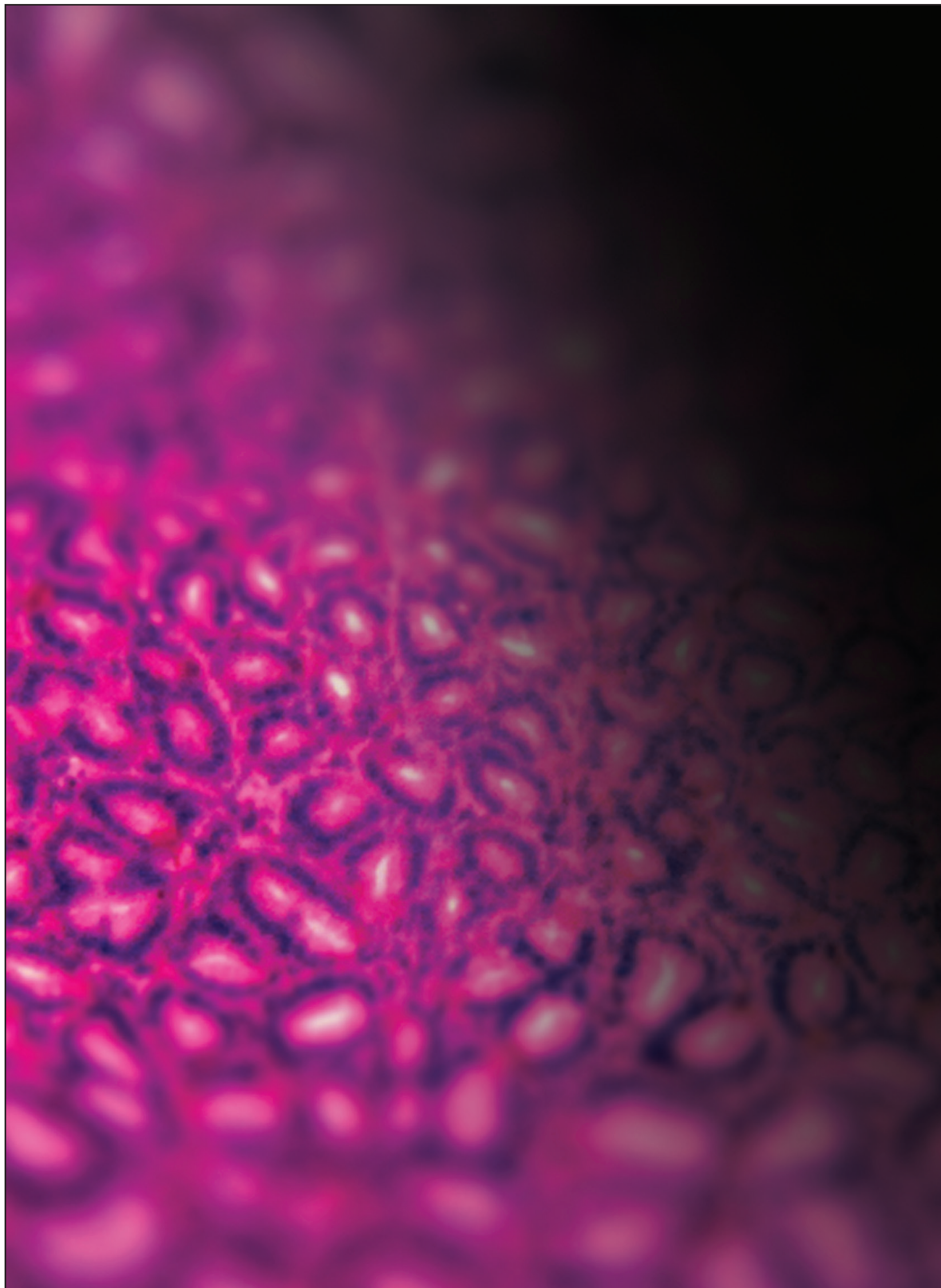


1st December 2013
Faculty of Medicine
University of Malaya

2nd
ASEAN
DEANS'
SUMMIT

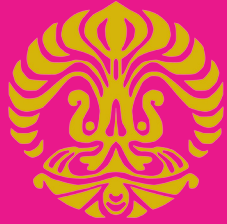
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Faculty of Medicine
University of Malaya



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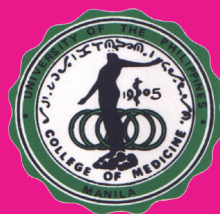
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Preface /

This report covers an account of proposals, presentations and discussions held at the 2nd ASEAN Medical Dean's Summit on 1st December 2013 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Malaysia. The summit was attended by delegates comprising of Deans (and Rectors) or their representatives from 14 medical schools in the ASEAN region. The report summarises major issues raised by delegates and the resolutions.

This Summit was the second of a Summit that was first convened in Bangkok at the Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University that was attended by the Deans (and Rectors) or their representatives from the 12 oldest medical schools representing each ASEAN country. The aim of the network was to bring together the leadership of these medical schools to stimulate dialogue and collaboration across areas of mutual interest especially in medical education and research.

List of Delegates /

ASEAN Medical Deans' Delegates:

- 1. Clinical Professor Udom Kchintorn**
*Dean
Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol
University, Thailand*
- 2. Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan**
*Dean
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National
University of Singapore*
- 3. Professor Myat Thandar**
*Pro-Rector
University of Medicine 1, Yangon*
- 4. Professor Prasit Watanapa**
*Deputy Dean and Director of Siriraj Hospital
Mahidol University, Thailand*
- 5. Professor Suwannee Suraseranivongse**
*Deputy Dean of Postgraduate Education
Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol
University, Thailand*
- 6. Professor Dr. Chirayu Auewarakul**
*Deputy Dean of International Relations
Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol
University, Thailand*
- 7. Professor Cho Cho Nyunt**
University of Medicine 1, Yangon
- 8. Dr. Alongkone Phengsavanh**
*Vice Dean
University of Health Science, Lao PDR*
- 9. Professor Pratiwi Sudarmono**
*Vice Dean
University of Indonesia*
- 10. Professor Ardi Findyartini**
University of Indonesia
- 11. Associate Professor Em Samney**
*Deputy Dean
International University, Cambodia*
- 12. Dk Dr. Nurolaini Pg Haji Muhd Kifli**
*Deputy Dean
PAP Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of
Health Sciences,
Universiti Brunei Darussalam*
- 13. Dr. Maria Salome Vios**
*College of Medicine,
University of Philippines*
- 14. Professor Saw KlerKu**
*Central Women Hospital,
University of Medicine, Mandalay*
- 15. Associate Professor Dr. Sith Sathornsumetee**
Mahidol University, Thailand

Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Malaysia:

1. **Professor Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman**
Dean
2. **Professor Datin Dr. Hamimah Hj. Hassan**
Deputy Dean (Undergraduate)
3. **Professor Dr. Tunku Kamarul Zaman Tunku Zainol Abidin**
Deputy Dean (Research)
4. **Professor Dr. Azad Hassan Abd Razack**
Deputy Dean (Infrastructure)
5. **Professor Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey Chiong Meng**
Deputy Dean (Postgraduate)
6. **Professor Dr. Jamunarani Vadivelu**
Head of Medical Education and
Research Development Unit
(MERDU)

Malaysian Medical Deans' Delegates:

1. **Professor Dr. Nafeeza Mohd Ismail**
Dean
Universiti Teknologi MARA
2. **Professor Dr. Ahmad Sukari Halim**
Dean
Universiti Sains Malaysia
3. **Professor Dato' Dr. Tariq Abd Razak**
Dean
International Islamic University Malaysia
4. **Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Shamsir Mohd Aris**
Deputy Dean
Student Development
and Performance Management
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia



Standing From left: Professor Cho Cho Nyunt, Professor Dr. Jamunarani Vadivelu, Professor Dr. Azad Hassan Abd Razack, Associate Professor Dr. Aris, Professor Dr. Tunku Kamarul Zaman Tunku Zainol Abidin, Professor Dr. Nafeeza Mohd Ismail, Professor Ardi Firdausy

Sitting From left: Dr. Maria Salome Vios, Associate Professor Em Samney, Professor Saw KlerKu, Professor Myat Thandar, Professor Prasit Watanapa, Dr. Alongkone Phengsavanh, Professor Dato' Dr. Tariq Abd Razak, Professor Prasit Watanapa



te Professor Dr. Sith Sathornsumetee, Professor Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey Chiong Meng, Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Shamsir Mohd
Ardi Findyartini, Professor Dr. Chirayu Auewarakul, Professor Datin Dr. Hamimah Hj. Hassan, Professor Suwannee Suraseranivongse.

essor Prasit Watanapa, Professor Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Clinical Professor Udom Kchintorn, Associate Professor Yeoh Khay Guan, Dk Dr.



Background /

This report covers an account of proposals, presentations and discussions. The first ASEAN Medical Deans' Summit was held in Bangkok from 17th to 19th September 2012 from an idea that was conceptualised by Clinical Professor Udom Kachintorn. The Summit was attended by Deans and Rectors of medical schools from 10 ASEAN countries. These medical schools were the Mahidol University (Thailand), University of Malaya (Malaysia), National University of Singapore (Singapore), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (Brunei), University of Health Sciences (Cambodia), International University (Cambodia), Universitas Indonesia (Indonesia), University of Health Sciences (Laos), University of Medicine 1 (Yangon, Myanmar), University of Medicine (Mandalay, Myanmar), University of Philippines (Philippines) and Hanoi Medical University (Vietnam).

The purpose of the Summit was to establish a medical school network in the ASEAN community. Its aim was to strengthen collaboration and network among ASEAN medical schools in many areas such as human resource, medical education and biomedical research, which will ultimately lead to the improvement in the quality of health care systems in ASEAN countries. A "Declaration of the Southeast Asian Medical Schools Initiative" was signed by the deans and rectors of the medical schools on 18th September 2012. The development of the network was aimed to take into account international excellence in medical education in the ASEAN community as well as the global and competitive advance in biomedical research in the ASEAN community. Discussions held at the 2nd ASEAN Medical Dean's Summit on 1st December 2013 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Malaysia. The summit was attended by delegates comprising of Deans (and Rectors) or their representatives from 14 medical schools in the ASEAN region. The report summarises major issues raised by delegates and the resolutions.

This Summit was the second of a Summit that was first convened in Bangkok at the Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University that was attended by the Deans (and Rectors) or their representatives from the 12 oldest medical schools representing each ASEAN country. The aim of the network was to bring together the leadership of these medical schools to stimulate dialogue and collaboration across areas of mutual interest especially in medical education and research.

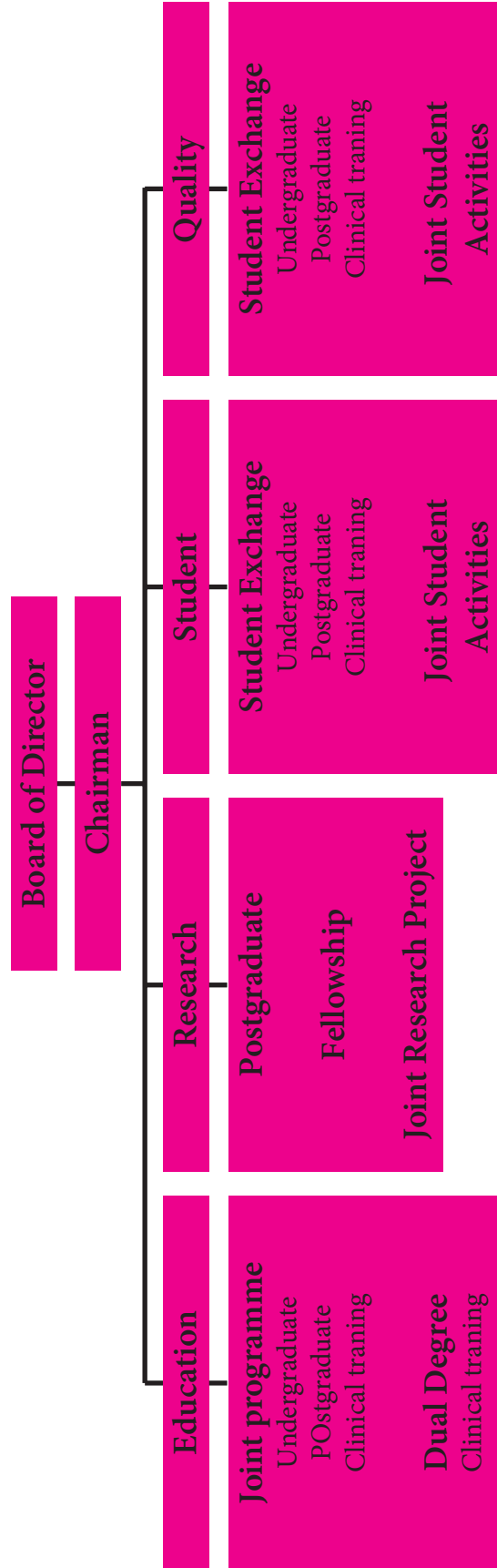
Establishment of the ASEAN Medical Schools Network

Clinical Professor Udom Kchintorn
Dean of the Faculty
of Medicine Siriraj Hospital,
Mahidol University, Thailand.

Clinical Professor Udom Kchintorn, in his presentation, proposed the establishment of an ASEAN Medical Schools Network with a vision of “Connecting ASEAN Medical Schools towards One Community”.

- The four main objectives of the network are:
- To promote collaboration among leading medical schools in the ASEAN region
- To leverage medical education and health systems towards international excellence
- To share human resource and provide capacity building for medical education and research and health systems in ASEAN countries
- To be prepared to work as one community under the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015

Clinical Professor Udom Kchintorn proposed the structure and functions of the network which was agreed upon by members of the meeting (Figure 1). It was proposed and agreed that the chairman would be elected from among the members of the committee board. It was suggested that the board of committee would have a two-year term. It was also proposed that a main office be set up, which would be on rotational basis and situated in the same institution as of the chairman. At the initial phase, the board of committee should work through online technology and tele-conference. In order to provide a strategy, plans and implementation of the activities of the network, four divisions (working groups) were suggested to be established: education, research, student and quality. Each division will be led by its head, and the working group offices should be in the same institution as of the head of divisions.



The Moderated Discussion

The delegates supported the idea of “One Community” and agreed to establish the ASEAN Medical Schools Network. It was underlined that medical schools have a fundamental role in producing doctors, hence healthcare systems cannot be separated from medical education. As ASEAN has a large population, the network would strengthen the sharing of resources (as one community) and form a stronger voice in matters pertaining to healthcare and the medical workforce.

The discussion concluded that one representative of each founding member will form the board of committee. The meeting was also informed of another initiative to form a network of medical schools in the ASEAN region that began between Malaysian and Indonesian Medical Schools which comprise a much larger group of medical schools. It was suggested that this initial group of twelve schools comprising the oldest medical schools which has now met for a second time with clear goals and objectives will exist in parallel with the other network. Meanwhile, all ASEAN medical schools are welcome to participate in activities organised by the ASEAN Medical Schools Network (and these medical schools could become invited members in the future).

A clarification was brought up to differentiate between the two concurrent chairs: the chair of the board (ASEAN Medical Schools Network) and the chair of local organising committee of network meetings (ASEAN Medical Deans' Summit). The chair of local organising committee may change every year and the chair of the board would serve a longer term to ensure the continuity of the role. It was proposed that in these initial stages the Chair and the secretariat for the ASEAN Medical Schools Network serve a minimum of a two-year term until the network stabilizes. It was suggested that in the future, the members could contribute fees to sustain the long term running of the secretariat, serving as one of the funding sources.

The delegates also agreed to indicate specifically “ASEAN medical deans” instead of “ASEAN deans”. It was also reminded that in order to use the official word “ASEAN” and its logo permission should be sought from the authorities.

ASEAN Medical School Accreditation

Professor Prasit Watanapa
Deputy Dean and Director
of Siriraj Hospital,
Mahidol University, Thailand.

Professor Prasit Watanapa presented on the issues related to medical school accreditation, a quality assurance process under which services and operations of the institutions or programs are evaluated by an external body to determine and ensure that applicable standards are met.

Professor Prasit Watanapa stressed that medical school accreditation is necessary, particularly if the school has a policy to join international networks or carry out collaborations with local, regional or international medical schools.

Professor Prasit Watanapa pointed one potential threat to accreditation, which is the requirement for Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification. Effective in 2023, doctors who wish to apply for ECFMG certification will be required to graduate from a medical school that has been appropriately accredited. In other words, medical curriculum of an institution must meet standards by the ECFMG board. Professor Prasit Watanapa reasoned opportunities for medical school accreditation amongst them would be the improvement in the quality of medical education of each country and subsequently to meet international standards. Accreditation may also lead to the transformation of the medical curriculum which in turn will lead to the improvement in the quality of health care systems

After a brief introduction to mechanisms of the LCME and WFME frameworks, Professor Prasit Watanapa proposed two options for ASEAN medical schools' accreditation. Firstly, individual countries could establish its own accreditation body, using the system that is in line with WFME or LCME. Secondly, if ASEAN is to be made "One Community", ASEAN medical schools could establish its central accreditation body/centre. The main mission of the central accreditation is to provide consultation, conduct surveillance, and to accredit the medical schools that meet the standard criteria

Next, Professor Prasit Watanapa explained benefits of establishing an ASEAN Medical School Accreditation Body/Centre. Through his delivery, Professor Prasit Watanapa elaborated the concept of "One Community". These benefits include:

- Leverage the quality of medical education of the region to reach international standards (WFME)

- Strengthening the collaboration between medical schools among the ASEAN countries
- May reduce the cost of accreditation process if ASEAN medical schools establish the accreditation system that meets the WFME or LCME criteria
- The accreditation system is designed to fit with the ASEAN situation

Professor Prasit Watanapa also highlighted several critical steps when setting up the ASEAN Medical School Accreditation Body/Centre. These steps are listed below:

- Reaching a consensus development on the establishment of ASEAN medical school accreditation system
- The foundation of ASEAN medical school accreditation body/centre would embrace initial missions of:
 - > Exploring the WFME or LCME medical school accreditation system, processes and standards
 - > Drafting the ASEAN medical school accreditation system, processes, and standards that fit well with WFME or LCME and the ASEAN situation/culture
- Following that, the system, processes and standards have to be approved by the ASEAN medical schools before any implementation
- Forming a surveyor team (that has to be trained) to do an effective surveillance
Subsequently, the ASEAN medical school accreditation body should also comprise a consultation team
 - > It is suggested that in order to have a good accreditation system, a personnel who carries out a consultation job to an institution should not become a member of the accreditation team
- During the early phase, the accreditation team should comprise of a representative from WFME or LCME

Professor Prasit Watanapa used a project funded by Wellcome Trust to illustrate the concept of transferring, sharing and obtaining knowledge (or skills and capacity) between the Mahidol University and the Imperial College, UK. This successful mechanism was a convincing example in working towards the “One Community” as urged in the ASEAN Medical Schools Network.

The Moderated Discussion

The discussion concluded that although each country has its own accreditation system, the ASEAN Medical School Accreditation Body/Centre could provide consultation to medical schools which need it. This mechanism matches the concept of the “One Community”. For instance, learn and share, give and take. Furthermore, this mechanism would leverage the regional healthcare system as a whole. Meanwhile, in alignment with the proposal of the ASEAN Medical School Accreditation Body/Centre, medical schools could consider harmonizing their medical curriculum in order to meet regional standards, and identifying communalities to start with. It was also reminded that medical schools should work closely with its national regulatory bodies in the accreditation process.



Report on the ASEAN Dean's Research Meeting

Professor Dr. Tunku Kamarul Zaman
Tunku Zainol Abidin
Deputy Dean (Research), Faculty of
Medicine, University of Malaya, Malaysia.

Professor Dr. Tunku Kamarul Zaman Tunku Zainol Abidin, reported on discussions and presentations made at the ASEAN Dean's Research Meeting, which was held in Bangkok from 12th to 13th September 2013. There were more than 20 delegates from 12 institutions who attended the meeting.

The meeting resulted in several consensuses. Firstly, Research Network of ASEAN Medical Institutes (RNAMI) was established. The Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University will serve as the secretariat for the present ASEAN schools of medicine collaboration. Meanwhile, a shared forum or platform on the website will be created and maintained by Mahidol University. Members could update programmes, upload and share progress on this electronic platform.

In the research meeting, the discussion identified several areas of research interest. The first area is non-communicable diseases (global health) which include cancer (gastric cancer, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, liver cancer, breast cancer), diabetes mellitus (molecular genetics, health care services), cardiovascular system and geriatrics. The second area is communicable diseases which include emerging and neglected infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, dengue haemorrhagic fever. Other areas of interest for research collaboration included medical education and tele-medicine. Subsequently, researchers from the respective institutions could find matching partners. The coordinators will lead each of the areas and coordinate each of the relevant research areas. It is hoped that the creation of a research consortium involving the 12 institutions would obtain larger international research funding with pooled resources.

Another objective of the RNAMI is to strengthen medical labs for services and research, and to be accredited at to ASEAN and international standards. This includes assistance for interested parties in getting laboratory services and research accreditation. The initial proposed areas were research in medical education and pooling research resources. Professor Dr. Tunku Kamarul Zaman Tunku Zainol Abidin highlighted Clinical Investigation Centre (CIC) as the strength of University of Malaya. The institution is willing to offer its experience to apply for standards or accreditation and create collaborative networking.

Lastly, Professor Dr. Tunku Kamarul Zaman Tunku Zainol Abidin presented current limitations and his proposed timeline. It is expected that the first RNAMI collaborative project could be launched on January 2015.

The Moderated Discussion

The discussion concluded that the division (working group) of research could identify suitable accreditations. Meanwhile, the ASEAN medical schools could share their research accreditation experience. For instance, helping medical laboratories to acquire accreditation (new application) or re-acquire accreditation (due to expire). Next, as research interests are various, ASEAN medical schools could identify one or two common interests to collaborate at the initial stage. The suggestions were a research in medical education and a bio-medical research project.



Medical Students/Faculty Exchange

Professor Datin Dr. Hamimah Hj. Hassan
Deputy Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of
Medicine, University of Malaya, Malaysia.

Professor Datin Dr. Hamimah Hj. Hassan stressed that student exchange programmes offer opportunities for medical students to learn, participate and study the healthcare system of their selected country. In addition, they would learn about the society and its culture. She shared the experience of current student exchange programmes at the University of Malaya programme is also known as an elective and its duration is eight weeks during students' clinical years.

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya has affiliated its student exchange programme with at least two other ASEAN medical schools, which are National University of Singapore and Mahidol University. Professor Datin Dr. Hamimah Hj. Hassan informed that medical students who wish to carry out their elective (or exchange programme) in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya should apply six months ahead and have at least one year of clinical training. Applicants could select their preferred discipline, and successful applicants will be supervised and evaluated.

In contrast to student exchanges, academic and faculty exchanges are less well structured and are usually carried out at the individual level.

The Moderated Discussion

Delegates shared student exchange programmes at their institutions. The idea of student exchange could be extended to outreach programmes and sport events between institutions. However, not every institution would recognise credit transfer for student exchange programmes for now. It was also mentioned that sharing of information on student exchange programmes of each institution in a common website should be made possible. The division (working group) of student could work on this mechanism in the nearest future. The faculty exchange is defined to be faculty exchange in the forms of medical teaching and clinical training



Resolutions and Next Steps

Professor Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of
Malaya, Malaysia.

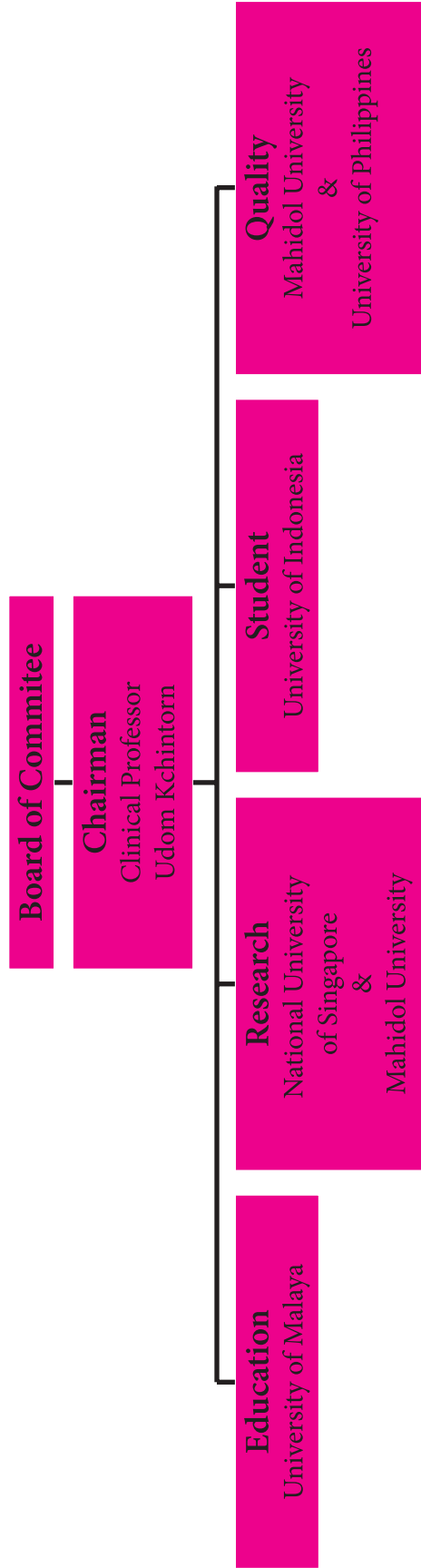
Professor Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman chaired the resolutions for the 2nd ASEAN Medical Deans' Summit. The resolutions were reported as below:

The structure of the ASEAN Medical School Network was determined (Figure 2). Medical schools which initiated the 1st ASEAN Medical Deans' Summit in Bangkok, 2012 will become the founding members of the ASEAN Medical Schools Network. These founding members will form the board of committee. As the network grows and stabilizes, other medical schools could become invited members. It has to be noted that all ASEAN medical schools are most welcomed to participate in activities organised by the network.

Clinical Professor Udom Kchintorn was elected as the chairman of the board. His two-year term will commence immediately from 2013/2014 to 2014/2015. The Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand volunteered to become the host for the secretariat. Its status as a permanent or rotation-based secretariat is to be determined at the end of the two-year term. Meanwhile, the following universities will lead the four divisions (working groups) in the ASEAN Medical Schools Network. The heads and divisions are listed as below:

- Education: University of Malaya (Malaysia)
- Research: National University of Singapore (Singapore) & Mahidol University (Thailand)
- Student: University of Indonesia (Indonesia)
- Quality: Mahidol University (Thailand) & University of Philippines (Philippines)

Figure 2



Under the division (working group) of Quality, delegates agreed to establish the ASEAN Medical School Accreditation Body/Centre. The division of quality should work together and decide either to follow the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) framework. On this matter, it was reminded that each institution should work closely with its national regulatory body. Meanwhile, the division of quality needs to work closely with the division of education as both domains are inter-related.

Under the division (working group) of Research, plans and outcomes as decided at the Dean's Research Meeting in Bangkok, September 2013 will be followed in order to commence research related activities in this initial phase. In addition, medical education was chosen as the first common research area for ASEAN medical schools to collaborate with at this initial phase.

Under the division (working group) of Education, it was decided to separate the domain "Student" from "Education". It was suggested during the discussion that the division of education could focus on curriculum development, assessment, workshops, formal teaching and learning. It was also decided that undergraduate and postgraduate education are to be combined at the initial stage, while research studies at the postgraduate and post doctoral levels are incorporated into the division of research.

Under the division (working group) of Student, it would focus on student exchanges and collaborative outreach programmes. Once the secretariat has been set up, student exchange programmes should work towards joint activities to replace existing bilateral exchanges. In the future, the secretariat website should be able to inform interested applicants of available student exchange programmes in the ASEAN countries.

Lastly, National University of Singapore will host the 3rd ASEAN Medical Deans' Summit. The suggested date is August or September 2014. The two-day event will include the meeting for Research Network of ASEAN Medical Institutes (RNAMI) (one day) and the summit itself (one day).



