7th IOC/ APOC 2010, SYDNEY

MAO hosts Cocktail Evening at the Maritime Museum

5th February 2010 – With the help of the Sarawak Convention Bureau, the MAO was proud to organise a social gathering aimed at the Executive Committee Members and Observers of the participating countries of APOS. This event was held at the Australian National Maritime Museum. This gathering was an excellent way of making new acquaintances and renewing old ties. A total of 45 guests from the various APOS countries attended including the Malaysian High Commissioner to Australia, Dato’ Salman Ahmad and members from Malaysian Tourism, Sydney. Guests were given a complimentary Puak Kumbu and guided tour to the Maritime museum followed by Cocktails! The event ended with many delighted and merry people who were subjected to one too many cameras!

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- Cocktail Dinner for Malaysian delegates & APOS ECM’s
- The Winning Bid!
- Delegate boosting by the MAO committee donning on the Sarawak Costume
- World Village Day
- William Profit’s lecture

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Group photo of the guests with some members of MAO standing proud with Mr Dickson our friendly Iban warrior from Sarawak
**7th International Orthodontic Congress**

6th February 2010- The International Orthodontic Congress is the world’s Orthodontic Congress. It is the Congress of the World Federation of Orthodontists and is held internationally every 5 years. The recent 2010 Congress was held at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre on Darling Harbour, close to the centre of Sydney. This Congress was to be grand in all sense of the word as it incorporated the 7th Asian Pacific Orthodontic Conference and the 22nd Australian Orthodontic Congress.

About 4087 including accompanying persons registered for the Congress. Of these, 3600 registered as participants inclusive of Doctors, Dental Auxiliaries and Dental Technicians. The post-conference website registered 2200 doctors. Delegates came from 93 countries and represented 90 World Federation of Orthodontists affiliated societies and associations. The largest delegations came from, in order, Australian Society of Orthodontists, American Association of Orthodontists and followed by the British Orthodontic Society.

Other major participants were from Japan, France, China, New Zealand, Germany and Indonesia. All these provided more than 100 delegates. The main purpose of me attending the Conference was to attend the Asian Pacific Orthodontic Society Executive Meeting as an Observer and to aid in the bidding for Sarawak to host the 2014 APOC led by none other than Dr Noraini Hj. Alwi, Executive Committee Member of the APOS representing the Malaysian Association of Orthodontists.

Tensions were running high even before I touch ground in Sydney at noon on 5th February 2010. While checking in at KLIA, I find out that the travel agent has messed up my travel visa online by exchanging my forename and my family name. Thanks to the efficient ground staff of SIA who managed to solve my problem online, I was given the green light to travel. Phew! Breathe a sigh of relieve! One can only imagine what Dr Noraini would do to me had I failed to turn up in Sydney!

5th to 8th July 2014, Sarawak! “EmBracing Orthodontic Discovery” was the theme the MAO had the intention of promoting during the 7th International Orthodontic Congress/7th APOC in Sydney 5th to 9th February 2010.
2014 APOC BID

Winifred Harding will also look at drawing the borders of the APOS belt to delineate the member countries of the Society within the ‘Asian-Pacific’ belt. This would simplify the criteria of acceptance in future of countries requesting to be members of APOS. The Nepal Orthodontic Society’s request to join APOS was accepted. The Committee will also look at the request of Sri Lanka joining the APOS.

Then the time came for the long awaited bid to host the 2014 APOC. The countries competing were Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. Each country was allowed 10 minute presentation to showcase their strong points. During the presentations, the other representatives of the other 2 competing countries were requested to leave the conference room. The MAO’s winning presentation was carried out proficiently and convincingly by the ECM of Malaysia, Dr Noraini Alwi who certainly did us proud on that day! Amongst our selling point was the support from the Ministry of Health as willing Co-Sponsors, monetary aid from the Sarawak State Government amounting to roughly RM 1 million and the provision of sponsorships for 5 well-deserved postgraduates from the region to attend the conference. Hoorah! Syabas Malaysia!

Where money matters were concern, Dr Loh was also given the green light to proceed with opening a bank account for APOS in Singapore. The outgoing President Dr Somchai form Thailand graciously donated USD 2000/xx from the Thai Association of Orthodontists. Dr Shane Fryer added that for every orthodontist from APOS that registered for the 7th IOC, USD 25/xx will be donated to APOS, hence the urgent need to open an account for APOS. Dr Loh has also asked the Committee to look into considering a small retaining fee for its member countries for the maintenance of APOS in the near future.

Other issues include the collective decision by the Committee to register the APOS Office in Singapore at a small reasonable price to APOS and Dr Loh Kai Wah who was voted in as the incoming President of APOS volunteered to oversee the paperwork required. The other office bearers who were voted in were Dr Kazuo Tanne as the Vice-President (Japan), Dr Girish Karandikar as Treasurer (India) and Dr Tanan Jaruprakom as Secretary-General (Thailand).

Right: The winning team with Dr Crissie Santayana, outgoing Sec. General APOS
Delegate Boosting

Working up to the day of the AGM, the MAO participants of the conference were requested to all join in and assist the committee in delegate boosting. Members as best as possible were contacted prior to Sydney to ascertain the numbers that would be attending and if they would participate in donning the MAO Custom made T-shirt. About 50 T-Shirts were printed and distributed to those attending on condition that the T-shirts were donned on the day of the 6th and 7th February.

No doubt one of the major attraction of the conference however were this special group of ladies led by none other than Dr Noraini herself clad in the Sarawak costume who wore their costumes all day leading up to the AGM on the 7th February 2010.

Village Day, 8th February 2010

The success of any conference will be largely based on its content of Scientific Programme. The Scientific Programme was challenging as delegates were faced with difficulties to choose between the quality and variety of the lectures. The World Village Day Program highlighted this aspect of the congress with the various concurrent sessions. These were the 22nd Australian Orthodontic congress, 7th APOC, Arab Orthodontic society, British Orthodontic Society, The European Village Day and the South American village Day. Closer to home, Dr Wey Mang Chek from Malaysia presented a comprehensive well researched summary of the Past, Present and Future trends in Orthodontics. Well done to Dr Wey for her contributions towards making the village day a successful one!

Pick of the Day!

Which talks did you go to? Did you find any of the talks useful? These were commons questions posed to me during the congress. Unfortunately, actively being involved in the bidding process precluded Dr Noraini, Dr Siti, Dr Wey and me from following the Scientific Programme closely. For me, the pick of the day where talks were concern was the WF O lecture that followed the opening ceremony by William Proffit giving his view on the new approaches and new technologies in the practice of Modern Orthodontics! Proffit shed some light into the science behind the latest approach in diagnostics from concepts of “pitch”, “yaw” and “roll” to the use of cone-beam technology. He also stressed increasing importance of the soft tissue paradigm in everyday Orthodontics! His take home message for the day on self-ligating brackets was that all brackets systems must be able to move teeth where you want it and prevent tooth movement when you don’t want it, pick one that you are comfortable with!

The author on behalf of MAO would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Sarawak Convention Bureau for their guidance & assistance to MAO for our winning bid! Well Done SCB! Well Done MAO! We look forward towards more smart partnership Bracing for the future!

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