

Commission on Asian and Oceanian Affairs, Chapter Convention

Date: 22nd March 2012, 11:00-13:00
Venue: Rooms 8 & 9, 2nd Floor, SMX Convention Center, Philippines

Agenda:
11:00-11:15 Welcome Address and Opening Remarks
BI Lee, Chairman, CAO A

11:15-11:30 Introduction of Delegates
by JW Dunne ---Chapter and Non-chapter Representatives

11:30-11:40 Address by ILAE President
N Moshe, President, ILAE

11:40-11:50 Report from ILAE
S Wiebe, General Secretary, ILAE

11:50-12:35 Report from CAO A;
Annual Report -----BI Lee, Chairman, CAO A
Budget ----- JJ Tsai, Treasurer, CAO A
ASEPA -----SH Lim, Chairman, ASEPA
Information Committee-----S Kaneko, Chairman,
Information Committee
Research Task Force -----P Kwan, Chairman, RTF
GCAE -----E. Somerville, Chairman, GCAE
AOEA -----JW Dunne, Gen. Secretary, CAO A
Stand Up For Epilepsy (SUFE)-----A Gallagher, IDM Office

12:35-13:00 Q & A and general discussion

1. Welcoming address and opening remarks:

BI Lee welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting. He expressed his thanks to the Phillipine chapter for graciously hosting the 9th AEOC, his respect for the strong progress being made by regional Chapters since the last meeting in Melbourne 2010 and his hope for an even better future for us all. He noted that the Chapter Convention is the most important meeting for the Commission on Asian and Oceanian Affairs (CAOA) of the ILAE. He asked all present for their frank opinions how the CAO A can best assist the progress of the epilepsy community.

2. Introduction of Delegates:

JW Dunne welcomed all delegates from the Asian and Oceanian region, both chapter and non-chapter representatives, and took the roll call.

Australia - Present
Bangladesh - Absent
China - Present
Hong Kong - Present
India - Present
Indonesia - Present
Japan - Present
Malaysia - Present
Mongolia - Present
Nepal - Present
New Zealand - Present
Pakistan - Present

Philippines - Present
Singapore - Present
Sri Lanka - Present
Republic of Korea - Present
Taiwan - Present
Thailand – Present
Uzbekistan – Absent
Vietnam - Absent

(Countries invited without Chapters)
Laos - Present

3. Address by ILAE President:

N Moshé began by praising the major educational initiatives of the CAO, and gave particular thanks to CT Tan for his devoted service. He noted that 2012 is the election year for the ILAE leadership and that Presidential voting will finish in mid April. The nominations for the Management Committee will be called for in June with voting by September. Nominations for Regional Chairs will be called for in August with results in November. Any person running for the management committee may also run for a position as Regional Chair.

Next year will also see new editors for *Epilepsia*, and he praised S Shorvon and P Schwarzzkroin for their excellent work over the past 8 years. *Epilepsia* is more than just a prestigious journal, it is the face of the ILAE it may play a greater educational role in future, including via the web.

He described the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy (GCAE) and expressed his hopes for the development of further initiatives in the Asian and Oceanian Region. Successful campaigns in other parts of the world include the PAHO initiative in the Americas, the Epilepsy Advocates in Europe and the Institute of Medicine report in the US, all of which are increasing funding and awareness.

He finished by indicating that Ed Bertram, the ILAE information officer, was present at the meeting and that if anyone wanted to appear on video to showcase their work then they should talk to him after the meeting.

4. Report from ILAE Secretary General, S Wiebe

S Wiebe began asked the Meeting for advice on how best to encourage countries in the region that as yet not formed a Chapter to join the ILAE. He noted that creating a Chapter can be a complicated process, one that the ILAE is trying to streamline.

He praised the quality of the CAO website, and encouraged integration with ILAE website developments, directed by J Gotman.

He congratulated the region and its ability to achieve great advances.

5. Report from CAO – Annual Report, BI Lee

Action Plan 1: CAO Website and Newsletter

To develop as a major source of information, education and communication

Action Plan 2: Enhance Education and Training in Epileptology

ASEPA teaching courses and workshops (~1/month), EEG certification, AOEC proceedings, epilepsy training fellowships, target-oriented teaching

Action Plan 3: Stimulate Clinical and Translational Research

Research priority document in preparation, promoting registries and collaborative research

Action Plan 4: Facilitate Global Campaign Against Epilepsy (GCAE) Activities

Primary communication role amongst chapters, continuing support of educational programmes in Laos and Timor Leste

Action Plan 5: Organise the AOEC every 2 years

Action Plan 6: Initiate the Asian and Oceanian Outstanding Achievement Epilepsy Award

Our highest honour, Awards in 2010 and 2012
 Action Plan 7: Facilitate interactions with local Chapters and other epilepsy organisations of the region

Includes Asian epilepsy surgery Congress, Infantile Spasm Society and Summer Schools

Action Plan 8: Promote New Chapter Formation

We welcome Sri Lanka, approved in September 2011, and in the future Myanmar and Cambodia.

(For more detailed information please see Presentation 1 - attached)

6. Report from CAO A – Budget, JJ Tsai

Commission on Asian and Oceanian Affairs 2012 Budget Allocation	
List of Expenses	2012 Allocated Budget US\$
Business Meetings Manila	14,000
Educational Initiatives (ASEPA teaching courses, Fellowships, EEG examinations, AOEC proceedings, Joint symposium with 6th AESC)	70,000
Newsletter	3,000
Project: Research Task Force Meeting	500
Project: GCAE meeting	5,500
Website	3,000
Epilepsy Award	3,000
Total	99,000

(For further information please see Presentation 2 – attached)

7. Report from CAO A – ASEPA, SH LIM

SH Lim is the 3rd ASEPA chaiperson, following Drs Seino and CT Tan.

ASEPA Activities include:

- Teaching courses and workshops
 - 2011, ten held throughout the region, most funded by ASEPA, the Japan Epilepsy Society and with local chapter contributions.
 - 2012, comprising:
 - conferences/courses endorsed by ASEPA
 - ASEPA organised activities sponsored by pharmaceutical companies
 - AOEC pre-congress workshops and didactic lectures
 - ILAE-CAOA sponsored activities
- ASEPA-ASNA EEG Certification Examination

The ASEPA-ASNA EEG certification examination commenced in 2005. Part I comprises a three-hour MCQ examination. Part II is oral examination. The number of candidates has increased substantially over the years, especially with the adoption of the EEG Certification Examination by China. For the part I examination, 263 of 419 have passed (62.7%). For the part II examination, 168 of 243 have passed (69.1%).

Arranging these examination has involved a lot of work, with many examiners from many chapters all giving freely of their time. SH Li invites increasing participation.

- ASEPA Epilepsy Fellowship
Two fellowships sponsored by Japan epilepsy Society, and two by ASEPA.
- AOEC Proceedings
Published on four occasions due to CT Tan's efforts and commitment.

8. Report from CAO A – Information Committee, S Kaneko

9.

The Information Committee has two main tasks:

- i. Website. S Kaneko asked all present to help with enhancing the website, and to send information about what is happening in their Chapters.
- ii. Newsletter. The Committee hopes to publish the first CAO A newsletter later this year.

10. Report from CAO A – Global Campaign Against Epilepsy (GCAE), E Somerville

The GCAE Task Force was created at the last AOEC in Melbourne, 2010, to review activities in the region. There are traditional treatments available but there are also many new initiatives in the region e.g. in India a train visits villages to provide treatment along with community education, in many countries educational videos have been developed, and educational street plays.

One of the first aims of the Task Force is to promote communication with people in the region, but unfortunately this has not worked very well. Passive communication and inviting people to communicate with each other is not enough. Ernie asked all present to provide suggestions to formulate a more active process to promote participation. The CAO A website may allow for more effective communication, acting as a portal for information rather than simply an archive.

He discussed specific regional projects:

- i. the China Demonstration Project
- ii. training of neurologists in Laos by CT Tan, supported by the Japan Epilepsy Society.
- iii.

He invited all present to attend the stakeholders meeting to be held the following day where a clearer picture will develop of future prospects for GCAE and Global Outreach.

He indicated that many ASEPA educational activities already contribute to the goals of the global campaign

11. Report from CAO A – Asian and Oceanian Outstanding Achievement Epilepsy Award (AOEA), JW Dunne

The AOEA was introduced by the CAO A in 2010. The purpose of the Award is to recognise and pay tribute to medical or non-medical professionals for their extraordinary contributions to Epilepsy Care. It is our highest honour, and is given for the lifetime of the recipient. Recipients have been invited to attend the 9th Asian and Oceanian Epilepsy Congress in Manila 2012 to receive the Award, a plaque and a small gift. They and the 2010 Award recipients have also been invited to a special Award dinner.

The nomination applications and process are available on the CAO A website. John described how the Award application process had been amended and refined, including the potential for advocacy of candidates by the nominating chapter when required. The award rules will be amended to emphasise that the Award process is not a chapter election - nominations from each chapter are assessed on their own merits by the CAO A members, and voting endorsements from non-related chapters are not a part of the assessment process.

The presentation of the Awards will be one of the highlights of today's AOEC opening ceremony, and will serve to publically honour these outstanding people.

12. Report from CAO A – Research Task Force, P Kwan

P Kwan stated that the Research Task Force is redrafting a document on research priorities for our region. The Taskforce met last July to put an outline together; the document will be focus driven in the following areas: tackling the causes, consequences and treatment of epilepsy.

A report is to be completed, circulated to all chapters for comment, revised and hopefully completed by the end of the year. The aim is publication in *Epilepsia*. He recognised the need for the task force to put in place a better structure for networking and researching. A proposed page on the CAO A website will detail the different research being undertaken in the region. He invited all present for comments and opinions.

13. Stand Up for Epilepsy – A Gallagher

Stand up for Epilepsy (SUFE) is a new exciting and innovative project that will involve famous personalities from the world of sport. The aim is to create a collection of images of famous sport persons willing to be photographed with people who have epilepsy (to date 125 images from 20 countries). This initiative will reduce the stigma of epilepsy, and show that people with epilepsy can achieve their goals, lead a full and active life and engage in sports. The collection of images will be presented at the London European Epilepsy Congress in 2012, which takes place shortly after the London Olympics.

He invited all present to recruit famous sports people if possible, and to join the SUFE Facebook page and to follow SUFE on Twitter. There is also a promotional video from the Chair of the ILAE's Sports Committee, Pippo Capovilla, on the 'epilepsycongress' Youtube account.

(For more information see Presentation 4 - attached).

At this point in the proceedings BI Lee asked if any Chapter representatives would like to talk about activities in their Chapter.

14. Developments in the Philippines – J Casanova-Gutierrez

10 years ago the PLAE launched the GCAE in the Philippines to raise awareness and reduce the treatment gap, with government endorsement and approval of national epilepsy week, but without substantive support. Yesterday the Dept of Health and PLAE announced a Memorandum of Understanding with a formal partnership supporting the global campaign. The current Undersecretary of Health supports epilepsy being covered under the national universal health scheme. Much development will be required, and the government has undertaken to assist the PLAE with formation of a taskforce to assist in creating a data registry on incidence, prevalence and the treatment gap.

BI Lee congratulated the PLAE, and hoped to have this important information disseminated.

15. Epilepsy Ambassador Awards – E Bertram

The ILAE's Information Officer, E Bertram announced the forthcoming Ambassador Awards at the 30th International Epilepsy Congress in Montréal, 2013. He asked everyone to carefully consider nominations, and explained how this is another opportunity to recognise people from the region. Emails will soon be sent out giving more information on how to nominate.

He hoped that the achievements in the Philippines recently would serve as an inspiration to other countries in the region and globally. He pointed to the other excellent work done by Japan and Pakistan amid natural disasters, and in South Korea where epilepsy was renamed from a negative to a neutral term. The ILAE wants to put these and other achievements on the website and in *Epigraph*.

16. Official welcome to Laos – CT Tan

CT Tan officially welcomed S Vorachit, Vice President of the Laos Epilepsy Society. He explained that Laos has completed the first step of its development in estimating the prevalence of epilepsy in the country, lead by the Institute of Tropical Medicine. A treatment project has been implemented with the support of Sanofi and the Japan Epilepsy Society.

S Vorachit spoke briefly about the research carried out in 2010 amongst patients and doctors. Some doctors had misconceptions about epilepsy, including that epilepsy was transmitted or a form of psychosis, and some without the knowledge to diagnose epilepsy. Epilepsy has a high stigma in Laotian society, and most patients are isolated and without treatment or support.

CT Tan added that with a population of 6 million people, there are 60,000 patients with epilepsy. Laos has only 2 neurologists. A grant from Sanofi has meant that the Laos Epilepsy Society can, as part of the treatment project, employ three people, two of whom are full time. They started the project in places close to the capital city, Vientiane, and so far have seen three hundred patients alone in clinic. He thanked the Japan Epilepsy Society for their generous support. They plan to training another neurologist and build a sustainable team.

17. Sri Lanka – J Wanigasinghe

With a population 20 million people there were initially only 5 neurologists in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Chapter formed the Epilepsy Task Force, and 10 years of hard work has lead to the developments of epilepsy services, focussing on comprehensive care and also addressing psychosocial issues. She noted that, as in other parts of Asia, people with epilepsy in Sri Lanka have low prospects of

education, employment and marriage. To combat this specifically the Sri Lankan Chapter developed an annual National Epilepsy Day in 2003. An epilepsy surgery programme has commenced, with invaluable support provided by Prof Radhakrishnan from Trivandrum, Kerala, India (Prof Radhakrishnan is one of the AOEA Award recipients for 2012). They are building a national epilepsy centre at a cost of US\$20m which they hope to complete in a couple of years and the strength of neurologists has increased to 26. She finally wished to thank the ILAE, CAO, CT Tan for their support and those who came to Sri Lanka to attend their workshops.

18. EpiNet – P Bergin

An International pilot study has been completed. This was undertaken to test the website and database, and to strengthen the research group. Improvements have been made and there is enormous potential for large cohort studies to be supported by EpiNet, particularly large pragmatic trials

The EpiNet Project is now operating in 13 countries and the aim is to have people from all countries in the region involved. Please go to the updated website for more information <http://www.epinet.co.nz/> He urged all to attend the EpiNet meeting the following day at 10:30am in Room 1 and to spread the word to enable the project to grow.

19. Clinical Epileptology Summer Course – SC Li, China

SC Li of China announced the Second Clinical Epileptology Summer School to be held in China, in Chengdu, Sichuan Province from 12-18 August 2012. He encouraged every Chapter to send their young epileptologists to Chengdu to participate in this clinically-oriented course that will provide participants with up-to-date information on clinical epileptology. A faculty of international and local experts will be available for the teaching and clinical case discussions.

20. Korean Epilepsy Congress

The Korean Epilepsy Society will hold its annual Congress from 7-9 June, and encourages international delegates, with 60% of the sessions in English. More information is available from the desk in the exhibition hall.

21. Proceedings of the 9th AOEC, Melbourne 2010

CT Tan announced that the Proceedings are now freely available, both in hardcopy from CT here at the Meeting, and also downloadable for free from the Neurology Asia website.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm with a group photo.

Minutes recorded by Gus Egan, Chapter Services Office, ILAE, and John Dunne, Secretary, CAO