

COMMISSION ON ASIAN AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS



Byung In Lee

Chair

Byung In Lee (Korea)

Members & Officers

As of October, 2014, CAOAA has 20 chapters in the Asian and Oceanian region, which includes Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Nomination and election of the CAOAA 2013-2017 Office Bearers occurred in the first and the second quarter of 2013. New members of CAOAA took office officially in July 2013 and Co-chairs of CAOAA-Research Task Force (A. Ikeda and CT Tan), Chair of Regional Committee of GCAE (E. Somerville), Chair of Pediatric Task Force (H.D. Kim), and Chair of Constitution Task Force (J. Dunne) joined the commission as Ex-officio members. In addition, Derrick Chan (Singapore) joined the Commission as co-chair of the Information committee (ex-officio) starting August 2014.

Officers of CAOAA (2009-2013)

Chair

Byung In Lee (Korea)

Secretary

Andrew Bleasel (Australia)

Treasurer

Leonor Cabral-Lim (Philippines)

Information Officer

Sunao Kaneko (Japan)

Members

Man Mohan Mehndiratta (India)

Guoming Luan (China)

Kheng Seang Lim (Malaysia)

Ex-Officio

Tatsuya Tanaka (Japan)

Shih Hui Lim (Singapore)

Derrick Chan (Singapore)

Task Forces

Constitution

John Dunne (Australia)

Research Task Force

Akio Ikeda (Japan)

Chong Tin Tan (Malaysia)

Global Campaign Task Force

Pediatric

Ernest Somerville (Australia)

Heung Dong Kim (Korea)

The Asian Epilepsy Academy (ASEPA) was formed in 2003, initially as the educational arm and now a sub-commission of CAOAA.

Officers of ASEPA (2007-2011)

Chair

Chong Tin Tan (Malaysia)

Secretary

Andrew Bleasel (Australia)

Members

Gourie Devi (India)

Yushi Inoue (Japan)

Weiping Liao (China)

Shih Hui Lim

Ex-Officio

Byung In Lee (Chair, CAOAA)

Office Bearers of ASEPA (September-2011-2015)

Chair

Shih Hui Lim (Singapore)

Members

Man Mohan Mehndiratta (India)

Yushi Inoue (Japan)

Weiping Liao (China)

Dede Gunawan (Indonesia)

Josephine C. Gutierrez (Philippines)

Ex-Officio

Byung In Lee (Korea)

Chong Tin Tan (Malaysia)

Aims and Missions of CAOAA

Aim

The aim of CAOAA is to develop, stimulate, and coordinate the epileptology agenda in the Asian and Oceanian regions

Mission

- To advance and disseminate knowledge concerning the epilepsies throughout the Asian and Oceanian region;
- To improve education and training in the field of the epilepsies in Asia via the formation of the Asian Epilepsy Academy;
- To organize the Asian Oceanian Epilepsy Congresses together with the International Director of Meetings (IDM) and IBE's Regional Executive Committees;

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- d. To facilitate clinically relevant epilepsy research in Asia;
 - e. To serve as a link between ILAE, IBE, WHO, and regional medical organizations to promote prevention, diagnosis, treatment, advocacy and care for all persons suffering from these disorders in the Asian and Oceanian region;
 - f. To promote the activities of local chapters, encourage similar policies and administrative structures and facilitate their involvement within the global ILAE agenda;
 - g. To review epilepsy services and the size of the treatment gap in each country and aim to improve the former and reduce the latter.
11. Implement CAO A - demonstration projects for reduction of treatment gap in the region
 12. Promote career development programs for talented young talented epileptologists in the region
 - (i) expand epilepsy fellowship programs
 - (ii) exchange programs for young research fellows
 - (iii) regional epilepsy school in collaboration with ILAE

Action Plans of CAO A: 2013 -2017

The following were formulated in the CAO A business meeting at Seoul, September 26, 2009, and newly added and revised at the business meeting at Seoul, September 27, 2013.

1. Construct CAO A and ASEPA website with its link with ILAE web and regional Chapter's web, and publish newsletter
2. Enhance education and training efforts and activities
 - (i) continue to provide teaching courses and workshops in regions in need
 - (ii) provide epilepsy fellowship (~6 months) for the nurturing of future epilepsy specialists of the region
 - (iii) continue to conduct EEG certification examination for the purpose of enhancing the standard of EEG recording and interpretation skills.
3. Organize the Asian and Oceanian Epilepsy Congresses every 2 years
4. Stimulate clinical and translational research
5. Promote new chapter formation
6. Facilitate Global Campaign Against Epilepsy (GCAE) activities
7. Facilitate interactions and communications among chapters and commissions
8. Initiate the "Asian and Oceanian Outstanding Achievement in Epilepsy Award"

Newly added action plans at the Initiation Meeting on September 27, 2014

9. Enact written BylawS of CAO A
10. Promote diagnosis and treatment of neonatal and childhood epilepsies in the region

Commission Activities

Communication and Business Meetings

A. Communication amongst members of CAO A and ASEPA were mainly through e-mails and during teaching courses/workshops/Congresses in the region.

(1) CAO A initiation business meeting was held on September 27, 2013, at Lotte City Hotel Mapo in Seoul, Korea. The discussion points included: Progress reports of CAO A and adoption of new action plans for 2013-2017; progress reports of ASEPA (SH Lim); Budget for 2012 (J.J. Tsai); report of Research TF (C.T. Tan and A. Ikeda); report of Information Committee (S. Kaneko); report of GCAE TF (E. Somerville); report of Constitution TF (J. Dunne); report of Pediatric TF (H.D. Kim); budget plan of 2014 (L. Cabral-Lim); Myanmar Project (E. Somerville); and ASEPA Fellowships (C.T. Tan)

(2) Joint CAO A and ASEPA business meeting was held on August 6, 2014, at the Waterfront Hotel in Singapore. The discussion points included: Report of CAO A activities (B.I. Lee); report of ASEPA activities (S.H. Lim); budget for 2014 (L. Cabral-Lim); report of Information Committee (S Kaneko); report of Research TF (C.T. Tan and A. Ikeda); report of GCAE-TF (E. Somerville); report of Constitution TF (J. Dunne); report of Pediatric TF (H.D. Kim); report of 10th AOEC (K. Hodgson); message from ILAE (H. Cross); report from Indian Epilepsy Society (M.M. Mehndiratta); venue for the 11th AOEC; presentation by applying chapter: Hong Kong chapter (C. Lui) and Indonesian Chapter (K. Kusmasututi), IDM Perspectives (R. Holmes).

B. Communications with ILAE have been made mainly through e-mail, conference calls, and at the Executive meetings.

C. New Chapter Formation

- i. Application of Myanmar Chapter was approved at IEC in Montreal, June 23-27, 2013

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- ii. Cambodia is in the process of applying for a chapter approval.

Chapter Convention: 7 August 2014, 12:00-13:45, at the 10th AOEC in Singapore
Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore

The convention included Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks introduction of chapter delegates including Laos, address by ILAE President, report from ILAE, report from CAOAO, budget of CAOAO, report of ASEPA, report of Information committee, Global Campaign Against Epilepsy, report of Asian and Oceanian Outstanding Achievement Award, report of Research Task Force, and report of Pediatric TF.

Information Committee (Chair: S Kaneko)

Information Committee meetings have been held every year to seek advice, suggestions, or comments for improvement.

Project 1. Construct CAOAO Website

CAOAO website (<http://www.caoa-epilepsy.org>) was opened in 2011. It is managed by JSE Company. Structures were remodeled by suggestions from the ILAE and it has been linked to the ILAE website. A previous attempt to link individual chapters was not successful due to lack of reply from each chapter. This will be attempted again. Contents include: a hands-on summary of epilepsy meetings in the region; slides of didactic lectures and workshops; information on meetings or epilepsy related events in the AO region; epilepsy treatment guidelines of each chapter, if there is any; reports and documents from CAOAO, ASEPA, TFs, or other organizations; news and advocacy from individual chapters.

Project 2. Publication of CAOAO Newsletter

The first CAOAO newsletter was published in December 2012. The original plan was to publish two times/year, but the second newsletter is delayed due to a lack of content. Need to organize a network consisting of information officers from each chapter to gather appropriate, relevant information for the newsletter as well as website.

Action Plans

- Organize a network consisting of information officers from each of the chapters (mail was sent to each chapter asking for the names and the address of information officers)

- Operation of CAOAO - Website, including: maintenance of website by JSE monthly; renewal of website this year; linkage between CAOAO website and that of each chapter; expand website contents to accommodate CAOAO action plans
- Publication of newsletter; two times/year starting in 2014
- Information Committee meeting will be held once a year.

Business Meeting in Singapore

- Derrick Chan was appointed co-chair of the Information Committee
- Discussion of the proposal for absorbing CAOAO website into the ILAE website indicated that we need further observation before a final decision. Pro issues include cost savings. Con issues include less freedom and diversity. Need to look at number of visits to the CAOAO website. If low then should go with the ILAE website umbrella.

CAOAO - Research Task Force (co-chairs A. Ikeda and C.T. Tan)

Scope of Actions

- improve research infrastructure
- understand etiologies and epileptogenesis
- decreasing psychosocial comorbidities
- achieve better treatment outcome

Recent activity:

- P Kwan (former chair of RTF) submitted the AO Research Priorities document to *Epilepsia*
- Pre-congress basic research programs in collaboration with ASEPA at each AOEC

Plan for 2013-2017:

- Promote research in the region by initiating multiple joint research projects dealing with clinically important questions related to epilepsy that do not require funding. Sound methodology that is publishable and experienced investigators to lead the projects.
- Some possible projects:
 - relationship between public attitude and stigma in different communities;
 - Multi-center studies related to various women's issues in the region;
 - Multi-center study to assess the traditional methods of treatment and their physiological basis;

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- Other projects related to HLA-typing and skin rashes, rare diseases, surgery, and economic cost of epilepsy

GCAE - Task Force (Chair; E. Somerville)

Encourage Groups outside of official Global Campaign to speak at the 10th AOEC

- Action against Untreated Epilepsy (AAUE) run by an Irish neurologist, Victor Patterson, running a clinic in Nepal
- An Indian woman doctor who works in a train going around India allied with AAUE
- ES has joined AAUE but they are not keen to join Global campaign.

Myanmar Project:

- CAOAO met with local neurologists for setting up a project, then WHO announced they were doing a project. CAOAO's offer to collaborate was turned down; this caused some disquiet: CTT and ES attended WHO planning meeting as observers and had input.
- Other neurologists in Mandalay were keen to go ahead with CAOAO and a proposal was made, met with local physician, and Minister of Health, other health administrator. Project was based upon GP who provides care. Budget was \$1,200.

Laos Project:

The project is based on that undertaken by the Francophone Tropical Medicine Institute, where the CAOAO's role is to provide education, mainly to train neurologists, and thus help to make the project long-term sustainable. To - date, have helped to train two neurologists.

Cambodian Project:

This project is also mainly by the French group. It has resulted in some scientific publications. Cambodia has eight neurologists. Plan to have information network to share projects with those in the region. Strategy is to present overview of different activities; there are a great number of disconnected activities. A WHO sponsored meeting is scheduled in Europe to look at drug prices in low income areas.

Constitution Task Force (by J. Dunne)

- Review of election rule of CAOAO memberships
- Harmonization Meeting with H. Cross to comprise election rules of regional commission on August 9, 2014, at the 10th AOEC
- Election rules finalized by H. Cross and circulated in September 2014 by ILAE-Exc.

Pediatric Task Force (by HD Kim)

Plans for 2013-2017

- Network formation among pediatric representatives in chapters of CAOAO
- Pediatric expert meeting in Singapore after pediatric parallel session on 8 August to discuss future plan of pediatric TF in our region
- Communication with chapters to support treatment gap in resource poor countries
- Conduct ILAE pediatric commission activities to our region
- Increase the number/proportion/quality of international exchange fellowship training
- Handling treatment and educational gaps
 - (1) Enhancing co-work with ASEPA
 - (2) Need increased proportion in educational subject/bursaries
 - (3) Develop new educational courses
 - Pediatric EEG teaching course and certificate
 - Joined local chapters and local child neurology society, e.g. KPEP joined with ASEPA in 2010, China-Korea PEP in Beijing in 2011
 - (4) Facilitate interaction and communication with well developed educational courses
- More teaching in line with ASEPA

ASEPA Report (by S.H. Lim)

ASEPA, the educational arm of CAOAO, has been conducting enormous educational and training activities consisting of 4 major activities:

- workshops/teaching courses,
- fellowships,
- EEG certifications, and
- publications of proceedings.

Asian and Oceanian Outstanding Achievement Award in 2014 (Third Award)

Awarded at the opening ceremony of the 10th AOEC in Manila, Philippines, on August 7, 2014. Award Recipients: Maria Felicidad Soto (Philippines); Ming-shung Su (Taiwan); John Dunne (Australia); and Qifu Tan (China).

10th AOEC (by K. Hodgson)

Scientific Organizing Committee:

Co-chairs: B.I. Lee, S.H. Lim, V. Saxena

Members: T. Tanaka, R. Cole, D. Chan, C.T. Tan

The 10th Asian Oceanian Epilepsy Congress was held in Singapore 7 to 10 August 2014. There were 1307 registrations from 49 countries. The program covered a broad range of topics selected from recommendations

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from Asian and Oceanian ILAE chapters and IBE members. The Chairman's Symposium was on drug resistant epilepsy and the three main sessions were on the burden of epilepsy, neurostimulation in epilepsy and neurophysiological markers of the epileptogenic zone. The main sessions were complemented by a comprehensive mix of post main and parallel sessions, didactic lectures, video quizzes, debates, forums, workshops and teaching courses. The Tournament of the Brainwaves quiz was a new feature to the program and was well received, pitting teams from across the region against each other in friendly rivalry.

- The Epilepsy & Society Symposium saw 150 attendees from Singapore and across the region. Topics ranged from anticonvulsants to stigma at work and school, and the truth about reflexology and stem cell therapy for epilepsy as well as heartfelt sharing from people with epilepsy and caregivers. The Epilepsy & Society Symposium was rounded off with an innovative mini fair.
- There were 105 speakers and chairs involved in the program.
- In total 400 abstracts were submitted of which 40 were selected for platform sessions and the rest were put up as posters. The Tadokoro Prize was awarded to the two best poster and platform presentations.
- Out of 114 travel bursary submissions, 45 received a travel bursary. For most, the travel bursary was only a contribution to the awardee's travel and accommodation but this did not seem to pose a problem.
- The Asian and Oceanian Outstanding Achievement Epilepsy Awards and the Outstanding Persons with Epilepsy Awards were handed out to recipients from across the region.
- Five satellite symposia were taken and the exhibition area was busy.
- Despite pre-congress operational issues with the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, it proved to be an excellent venue for the 10th AOEC.
- Singapore has always been an engaging city but it was enhanced by the ongoing celebrations for its National Day including a tremendous firework display.
- Members of the Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) worked arduously on the full program. Particular credit goes to Shih Hui Lim for his unfaltering dedication to the congress.

11th AOEC

Two chapters (Hong Kong and Indonesia) applied for the venue of 11th AOEC in 2016 and they presented their facilities and strength of their hosting cities at the CAO-A-ASEPA business meeting on August 6, 2014. Following some debate, it was decided that the choice will be made by the IDM office and ILAE-IBE management committee after site - visits and negotiation with the tourist board of each country. The decision will be made by the end of October 2014.

It was also decided that two chapters will be chosen as the venue of either 11th or 12th AOEC with the order depending upon the final determination of the venue of the 11th AOEC in 2016.