



## COUNTRY REPORTS

The meeting proper started on the second day. Each of the national medical associations (NMAs) presented their country report, gave an update on the key events organised and spoke about the challenges faced. The presentations showed how the NMAs operate in different healthcare systems, cultural contexts and population profiles as well as their response to the needs within their countries. SMA's presentation included an update on what was done in the past year and highlighted SMA's advocacy work on behalf of its members, such as raising and discussing issues with the Government. The sharing among the NMAs allowed the representatives to learn from one another's experiences and to build stronger ties, thus facilitating future collaborations among the associations.

## CHALLENGES IN TRAINING OUR FUTURE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Following the country reports was the Scientific Symposium, which demonstrated the power of meeting together to share experiences and ideas over common problems. Each country was given speaking slots to share how their respective country looks at the issue in relation to the theme. SMA touched on Singapore's system of training, focusing mainly on the transition to US style residency, as well as the advantages of incorporating family medicine into the residency system. Valuable insights were gathered from the robust discussions that followed.

The 16th Medical Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN) Mid-term Meeting was held from 1 to 3 May 2015 at Badi'ah Hotel, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. This year's meeting was hosted by the Brunei Medical Association and delegates from seven ASEAN medical associations attended; Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia sent their apologies as they were unable to provide representatives for this year's meeting. The SMA delegation comprised Dr Wong Tien Hua, Dr Lee Yik Voon, Dr Daniel Lee, Dr Tammy Chan, Dr Wong Chiang Yin and Dr Bertha Woon.

The theme for this year's Scientific Symposium was "Challenges in Training Our Future Healthcare Workforce".

## MASEAN DINNER

The MASEAN dinner was held on 2 May 2015 at the Polo Country Club in Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam. The guest of honour was Brunei's Minister of Health, Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Sraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof.

During the dinner, Dr Wong Tien Hua, Chairperson of MASEAN, summarised the main issues discussed over the past few days and reiterated the main objective of the MASEAN meeting – to re-establish the bond of friendship among the medical associations of ASEAN. He also thanked the host, Brunei Medical Association, for excellent hospitality.

## NEXT MASEAN MEETING

The Medical Association of Thailand will be hosting the 17th MASEAN Conference in 2016. ◆

