“Achievement of AO in Asia... A Tribute to Professor Siegfried Weller”

My first encounter with Prof. Weller was one of apprehension and uneasiness. He had a very serious look, spoke with clarity and was quite straightforward. As I was tasked to build the AO education in Thailand, I soon realized that I had to communicate with this strict Professor quite often. He worked in a very systematic order with great discipline and dedication. As time went on we got to know more of each other as well Prof. Siegfried Weller as other members of his staff. I started to appreciate the value of his work ethics and his particular attention to the post course reports of his staff and faculty. In 1989, Prof. Weller asked me to join him as part of the international faculty in Taipei. The uneasiness and apprehension soon returned as I was reluctant to accept the invitation. Like a true teacher he sent me a letter assuring me that I was capable of the task and more important I had to do it to prove that the Asian surgeon can apply the AO principle as the European surgeon. Since then I have been more active and involved in the different AO course in Asia. I consider him as my role model of a surgeon, a hard worker on his craft, honest and sincere but most of all a great teacher. I am extremely grateful for what he has done and given not only to me personally but to the numerous Asian surgeons who benefited from missionary work of spreading the AO in Asia. Like a true Gardener, his 30 years of work and wisdom in nourishing the AO education in Asia is now bearing its fruits with the AO Asia Pacific forming one of the biggest regional divisions of the AO family. On his 80th birthday, I wish him good health and long life to continue imparting his wisdom amongst us. Succeeding in almost everything, he has shown us the life of a real surgeon.

Prof. Locshin / Manila

Dr. Suthorn Bavonratanavech
Education Chairman
AO Trauma Asia Pacific

AO-India 1975 - 2007

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The views and opinions expressed in the articles published in this newsletter are entirely those of the contributors. They are not the views of the Editorial Board nor AO-Asia Pacific unless specifically stated so in writing. The contents are not to be reprinted in whole or in part without prior written approval of the Editor.”
Chiangmai / Thailand

Kyoto Convention Centre 1992

Seoul / Korea

AO COURSE, SEOUL ’92

Prof. Kim and his active group

Japan

Kobe 1999

Kyoto Convention Centre 1992
Siegfried Weller:
More than 35 Years of Contribution to AO in Asia

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. mult. Siegfried Weller will celebrate his 80th birthday on July 28 in Tuebingen/Germany where he worked and lives since he was appointed to Head of the BG-Trauma-Hospital in 1969. But step by step:

Being trained as a youngster of 26 years in Kings County Hospital in New York City he realized his passion for trauma care and received his further medical training in Freiburg University Hospital in Germany. In 1958 AO was founded in Switzerland, Siegfried Weller became a member of AO Switzerland in 1961. With the development of AO techniques trauma care changed more and more from conservative to operative treatment. It was in 1966 when Siegfried Weller was promoted as Head of the first Department of Traumatology in Germany at Freiburg University Hospital. In 1969 he moved to Tuebingen/Germany to be Head of the BG-Unfallklinik (Trauma Hospital). In 1970 he was one of the founding members and President of the German AO section until 1991 and President of the AO Foundation from 1994 till 1996. In the same year Siegfried Weller retired at the age of 68 as Head of BG-Unfallklinik and chairholder for Traumatology at Tuebingen University but not as AO teacher mainly in Asia:

After a lecture tour to Osaka (Japan) in 1966 it was in 1974 when Siegfried Weller came for his first AO course to India together with Prof. Hans Willenegger, one of the AO founding members and AO teacher out of passion. In the following years Siegfried Weller was the AO missionary not only in India but also in other countries like Japan, Thailand, South Korea, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong or Indonesia. There he met and made very good friends who supported and continued the fruitful cooperation. It is impossible to mention all of them but Prof. Kashiwagi in Japan, Dr. Suthorn in Thailand, Prof. KY Kim in South Korea and Prof. Mohandas in India were and are companions who developed and formed AO philosophy and trauma care in their countries and all over Asia in an effective and lasting way. However, India remained the country where Siegfried Weller found at that time so much need of help that he returned once or several times a year not only to teach doctors and ORP but even to operate patients in various hospitals all over the subcontinent. In fact he spent most of his free time in Asia so that finally an Indian friend and colleague brought up the question “Why don’t you stay in India and once in a while visit Germany?”

Over the years economy and health care systems in many Asian countries improved. The AO philosophy spread over the continent and Siegfried Weller was and is still a very important motor in that movement. Meanwhile AO celebrates its 50th anniversary all over the world, so is in many Asian countries like Japan or Thailand. It is a sign of high respect and recognition of his merits and efforts to Siegfried Weller over all these more than 35 years of transporting the AO spirit all over the world to be honoured on the occasion of his 80th birthday. You can be sure: as long as his health and his wife Karin allow him to travel he definitely will come to Asia!

From the depth of our heart we wish him all the best and thank Siegfried Weller for his tremendous contribution and efforts to improve trauma care to the benefit of all our patients.
Trustees Meeting 2008

Diarmuid De Faoite

The largest ever Trustees Meeting was held in Davos, Switzerland, from June 11 to June 14, 2008.

The Congress Center in Davos, Switzerland, was the main venue for the AO Foundation's Board of Trustees Meeting from June 11 to June 14, 2008. As part of the AO’s 50th anniversary celebrations, in addition to the currently serving Trustees, all Senior Trustees, Founding and Honorary Members, as well as AO Alumni Chapter Chairpersons were also invited along to participate in this very special event.

Wednesday, June 11

The traditional welcome cocktail and evening dinner was held at the Hotel Belvédère and helped set the tone of collegiality which was to permeate for the next few days. While the Trustees Meeting is always an opportunity for old friends to meet up, the presence of so many AO members from down through the decades lent the occasion an extra degree of piquancy.

The largest ever Trustees Meeting was held in Davos, Switzerland, from June 11 to June 14, 2008.

During the formal welcome by Chris van der Werken, the outgoing President of the AO Foundation, he outlined the organization’s commitment to Davos and the history of the AO which binds the two irrevocably.

There was a living legend present in the audience in the form of August Guggenbühl, one of the 13 Founders who created the AO and who took part in the entire Trustees Meeting.

When asked by AO World News did he ever imagine the AO would spread around the globe when he sat down with the twelve others at the Hotel Elite in Biel in 1958 to form the AO, August Guggenbühl replied, “I still can’t believe it. Everywhere you go in the world, even to the smallest hospital, they know the AO.”

Hans-Jörg Wyss paid tribute to Martin Allgöwer, another of the AO’s Founding Fathers who sadly passed away since last year’s Trustees Meeting which was held in China. The driving force behind the creation of the AO Foundation in 1984 was Martin Allgöwer according to Wyss, who then led all present in a minute’s silence for the man missed by so many.

In a session entitled “From a local idea to global recognition,” various speakers outlined how the AO developed from being a small working group of mostly Swiss surgeons to one of the world’s largest and most important networks of medical professionals.

After a short coffee break, it was time for the parallel sessions which repeated over the three days of the scientific program. This afforded everyone the opportunity to attend each lecture which covered the topics of imaging, endoscopic surgery, infection, medico-legal aspects of AO practice, and special trauma surgery.

The afternoon’s session changed the focus of the meeting so far by looking ahead to the next five years, more particularly the challenges and developments faced by AO Specialties and Institutes.

The evening’s dinner was held on the Schatzalp mountain, requiring the Trustees to board a funicular cable car to dine high above the city of Davos. The view was breathtaking and the restaurant a wonderful location for the Trustees to discuss the points the day’s meeting had raised.

Thursday, June 12

The morning began with the annual New Trustees breakfast and the following were welcomed to the fold: Haluk Agus, Felix Bonnaire, Friedrich Hahn, Dominik Heim, Bernhard J eanneret, Randall Matthew Chesnut, Robert Morton Kellman, Timothy G Weber, Marcelo Gruenberg, Bartolome Marré, and Yuan-Kun Tu.

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Friday, June 13
At various hotels around Davos, one hour long early morning sessions were held allowing the Trustees to select from a wide range of options which talk interested them the most. At nine o’clock sharp, the General Assembly for Trustees began. The Trustees act as the AO’s parliament and therefore play a critical role in deciding the direction the organization will go in. In addition to several reports on the current situation of the AO being presented, elections were also held.
Paul Manson was elected President of the AO Foundation and assumed the office from Chris van der Werken. Paul Manson, Professor and Chief of Plastic Surgery at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, USA, is a member of the AO Board of Directors (AOVA) and has already served as the president of the major surgical societies for maxillofacial and plastic surgeons in the United States.
The position of President-Elect was filled by Norbert Haas, currently the President of the TK-System and a Member of the Academic Council.

Two more parallel sessions took up the bulk of the day until it was time to bestow awards upon two worthy recipients. Further information on the prizewinners and their activities will be made available online in the near future. Till then, here are the prizewinners and a short description of why they were awarded their prizes.

The AO Research Fund Prize Award went to Dr. Wolfgang Köstler for the project ‘Clinical applicability of computer-assisted arthroplasty using bio-engineered autografts.’

The AO Recognition Prize, the highest award the AO can bestow upon one of its members, was awarded to Professor Jörg Auer for his outstanding contributions and long standing leadership in the Veterinary TK-System and AO Vet Specialty.

Friday evening’s social program was one which also drew in the populace of Davos. One of the main roads through the alpine resort was blocked off, with parked cars for one night only being replaced by refreshment stands and stalls run by local businesses and organizations.
At the Town Hall of Davos (Rathaus), Hans Peter Michel, the mayor of Davos (Landammann), held a reception to celebrate the symbiotic relationship the AO and Davos have enjoyed for decades. The mayor spoke about ‘our common future’ and noted how Davos has a lot to offer the AO and vice versa. The reception was held in the magnificent surroundings of the large council chamber (Die Grosse Ratstube).

The final summation was a chance to officially draw the scientific proceedings to a close and to recognize some of those who have contributed so much to the AO. There is a maximum limit of five years for someone to serve as a Trustee. This ensures a constant flow of new blood and ideas into the AO Foundation. Chris van der Werken thanked the following who had reached the end of their terms as Trustees for all they had achieved and their service over the past few years: Ernesto Bersusky, Joseph Borelli, Yu-Ray Chen, Sergio Fernandez, Dante Marchesi, Michael Stürmer, Clifford Turen, Mark Vrahas, Klaus Wenda, and Rico Vannini.

A brass band parade from the Town Hall began the proceedings for the evening’s festivities.

The importance of the AO to the community was noted by one local who commented, “50 years is a long time. The AO has helped make Davos famous all around the world. It is great that the party is open to everyone, it really gives you a new perspective on the AO.”

**Saturday, June 14**

Once again, the day began with an early morning breakfast session in various hotels. The two parallel sessions in the Congress Center ensured the morning of the final day was very informative. A special treat was guest lecturer Stephan Perren’s very engaging talk on his *flight around the world to stimulate awareness and support for research on the scientific and clinical aspects of osteoporosis*. His anecdotes were very amusing and the aerial photography taken by his son Nicolas spectacular. The basis for his talk was his *recently released book* on the same trip.

There was more levity in the afternoon session as the topic of ‘Did AO improve patient care?’ was tackled. Contributors from CMF, Veterinary, Spine, and Trauma analyzed the results of decades of engagement by the AO in these areas. The overall summation was largely positive, with the speakers not afraid to shy away from sharing what went less well—a spirit of openness they inherited from the Founders of the AO who always emphasized detailing both good and bad experiences.

Three Trustees were awarded honorary membership of the AO Foundation. **Thomas Rüedi**, a founding member of the AO Foundation in 1984 and a pupil of Martin Allgöwer’s was the first to be recognized. Hans-Jörg Wyss, who has had an AO connection since 1975, was the second recipient of this award. Jim Kellam, Past President of the AO Foundation and editor-in-chief of the AO Dialogue magazine was similarly honored.

Chris van der Werken, in his last official act as President of the AO Foundation, outlined the role the president plays and sketched some of the highlights from his two year term. He delivered a humorous presentation to prepare the new President of the AO Foundation, Paul Manson, for the challenges he will face. Paul Manson responded with a similarly tongue in cheek presentation in which he thanked Chris van der Werken for all he had done as President—apparently he was able to cope with the extra workload caused by the anniversary celebrations with the help of his superhuman powers.

Joking aside, Paul Manson drew attention to the fact that as a craniomaxillofacial surgeon he is the first ‘minority’ president. While aware of the challenges ahead of him in his new role, he addressed the Trustees saying, “I rely on you … and because of your excellence I don’t think I can fail.”

The scientific and administrative part of the meeting over,
it was time for what was probably the highlight of the AO’s jubilee year—the gala dinner for Trustees, Senior Trustees, AO employees, and invited guests—a total of approximately 800 people.

The transformed ice stadium in Davos

The ice hockey stadium in Davos, the only venue in town large enough to accommodate so many people, was transformed into a lavish dining hall. Huge black drapes, a multimedia show, and entertainment in between courses meant that the scoreboard hanging down from the roof was the only reminder of the venue’s true purpose.

Everyone present took home a commemorative issue of the specially commissioned book called ‘Transforming Surgery—Changing Lives’. The book is a mixture of facts and anecdotes which adds a splash of color to the AO’s history and really brings it to life.

For one night only, almost every member of the AO Family was gathered in the one place. Everywhere you looked you could see people who have given so much to the AO and who have gained so much from the AO too. Despite the cold weather in Davos, the warmth the AO Family generated that night was more than sufficient to fill the cavernous venue. It was an evening the likes of which we will never see again and a fitting peak of the AO’s 50th anniversary year celebrations.

The next Trustees Meeting will be held in Chicago, the United States, in 2009.

Martin Richardson, Australia
“It’s been fantastic. I’m getting to know so many famous people within the AO and I’ve had a chance to speak with them—it’s great!”

In addition to the already full scientific and social program, a lot of Trustees used the opportunity to hold face to face meetings. Here the forthcoming courses in Dubai are being discussed.

Shantharam Shetty, India
“It has been a fascinating meeting where we had abundant fellowship, understanding, and also the latest trends in trauma management. All of the meetings were very well arranged and so were the evening events under the personal stewardship of Chris van der Werken.”

Suthorn Bavonratanavech, Thailand
“It’s been so nice to meet a lot of Senior Trustees, it’s like a family reunion. The Senior Trustees can see what the next generation has done and that the future is very promising. We are now in a very stable situation—everyone works well as a team. We are unique. We are one. And thanks to the AO Spirit, we’ll continue.”

The Senior Trustees and guests group picture
AO Fellowship Centers in Focus

Bhumibol Adulyadej Royal Airforce Hospital

On August 21st 2003 the first AO Teaching Center in Thailand was inaugurated by signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the official representatives of the Bhumibol Adulyadej Royal Airforce Hospital, Group Captain and Deputy Director Dr. Yongyudh Vonglertvidhya and Group Captain, Head of Orthopedic Department Dr. Montri Suwakorn on one side and the President of AO International Prof. Thomas Ruedi and AO Trustee Dr. Suthorn Bavonratanavech on the other. Such an appointment to become an AO Teaching Center is based on a careful evaluation of the objectives and activities, as well as the staff and educational program of an institution. It permits to train AO fellows and exchange faculty with the AO community, while AO International gives support in providing educational material.

Bhumibol Adulyadej Hospital is a 700 bed general hospital which is a training center for many specialties including orthopaedic surgery. The hospital is associated with Chulalongkorn University. There are about 2500 orthopedic surgical cases each year, half of those are trauma, which include small fractures, severe complex fractures and polytrauma. They are managed by both minimal invasive surgery and also conventional methods. The non trauma cases include arthroscopy, arthroplasty, spine surgery as well as hand and microsurgery.

The Director of the AO Fellowship Unit is AO Trustee, Group Captain Vajara Phiphobmongkol.

Singapore General Hospital

On October 16th, 2002 the Memorandum of Understanding between SGH and AOI was renewed by Prof. Thomas Ruedi, President of AOI and Prof. Boon Keng Tay, Prof. Y.Y. Ong and Dr. Seang Beng Tan at the SGH. The first Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 13th Feb 1990.

The Singapore General Hospital (SGH) is with 1600 beds the largest hospital in Singapore. The orthopaedic department has 200 beds and provides services for orthopaedic trauma, adult reconstruction, spine surgery, sports medicine, musculoskeletal tumor, and foot & ankle.

AO Centre at SGH is installing intra-operative MRI, CT and iso3D with integrated computer navigation within the next 10 months. This will leapfrog our current Medivision, Metronic navigation which is not real-time MR and CT enabled. It is an excellent place for surgeons to deepen their knowledge in minimal invasive surgery using computer guided surgical navigation besides covering all subspecialties in orthopaedic trauma surgery. We hope this will bring computer navigation to the next level in terms of real-time resolution. The orthopaedic department is also involved in a number of research projects, namely: tissue engineering, articular cartilage regeneration, biomechanics of joints and surgical navigation. It is a place experienced in performing and monitoring high-quality clinical trials.

The Director of the AO Unit is Dr. Wong Merng Koon.
AO Education article

The basic strength of the AO which distinguishes it from other organizations is the comprehensive and systematic manner it pursues its educational programs in the different regions of the world. Though miles apart the course in one region can deliver the same quality of education to orthopaedic surgeons in another hemisphere. If there are two words to describe the AO....it would be Excellence in Education.

In this section of the newsletter, we have compiled excerpts from articles submitted to the editors desk to give us an overview of how such courses evolved in the Asian region. We have specifically highlighted how the experience of Dr.Suthorn, the current chairman of the education committee in AO Trauma Asia Pacific in his own native Thailand. We have also chosen excerpts from 2 young newly appointed faculty from the region to relate their first course experience.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the AO courses in Thailand and to celebrate this event the AO regional combined courses will be held in Changmai, Thailand

Let us turn back the page of time and look at the “First AO course” in Thailand

Dr.Suthorn Bavonratanavech
Bumrungrad Hospital

The First Course........

On 22 - 24 June 1985, the first AO Basic Course was held in Thailand at Prajuab Meeting Room, Maha Vajiralongkorn Building, Pramongkutklao Royal Thai Army Hospital, followed by another on 10 - 12 August in the same year. We had encountered a lot of problems in organizing the course and they should be recorded for the awareness of the younger generation. The process was not as smooth as it is today. Starting from the course name, it was prohibited to use the word “AO”, which was deemed as advertisement. The person who opposed this point had attended AO Course in Davos and also sent his student to attend the AO fellowship program. So the course had to be named “Operative Treatment of Fracture”. When the AO concept and principles became more accepted, then the course name was changed to “AO Principles of Operative Fracture Management” as it is nowadays.

For the issue of lecturers, each training institute wished to have their senior surgeons taking most involvement in the lecture session. In order to reduce conflicts, we attempted to meet the requirements. The problems also occurred with the evaluation as the participants were asked to fill in the evaluation form to evaluate each lecturer. Some surgeons complained that we had no right to evaluate them. Nevertheless, the lecturers and their presentation have improved gradually since then.

The greatest difficulty in the course arrangement related to the practical exercises, as there was only one set of instruments for each procedure. So the participants could not simultaneously practise the same exercise. When arranging the course program, we had to set the lectures on Thursday and Friday whereas Saturday and Sunday were for practical exercises. The residents travelling from upcountry would be arranged to perform the exercises first so that they could travel back for work on Monday. The residents in Bangkok would be allocated to do the exercises on the following Saturdays and Sundays. As a result, the complete arrangement took 4 weeks. Each workshop could only take 18 persons i.e. 2 persons per exercise and there were 9 exercises. In the first 2-3 years, we spent both Saturday and Sunday for one group. Later on we attempted to shorten the timing and took only one day to complete 9 exercises. The number of lecturers and table instructors gradually decreased despite only once per year for course arrangement. They were quite tired because courses were consistently held for several years. Recently, only 2-3 surgeons helped to support the teaching of practical exercises as well as giving lectures. I could only request for their generosity for the sake of young surgeons. If we did not organize this teaching activity, using the insufficiency of instruments as the reason, we had to arrange the course 3-4 years per time due to the requirements for instruments from Switzerland. Here I would like to take this chance to express my gratitude to the colleagues who kindly contribute their valuable time for giving lectures, particularly during the weekend. Thus, the course can be continuously conducted till today.
“Learning and Teaching.... The AO way of EDUCATION !”

Ernesto C. Tenorio  J. r. M.D. F.P.O.A.
Philippines

The principles course held at the Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taoyuan, Taiwan last May 2-4, 2008 for surgeons and operating room personnel was indeed a great success.

My first involvement with the AO was when I attended the Symposium on Practical Solutions to Complex Fractures & Difficult Periarticular Injuries last July 2005 in Manila Philippines. Since then I became active in all the other AO courses held in Manila Philippines. The first international AO course I attended was the AO Minimally Invasive Surgery course in Chiangmai, Thailand last April 2006. All the experiences and wisdom that I got from these courses made a lot of difference in my practice for fracture fixation.

It was a great challenge and honor for me when I learned that I was invited for a series of lectures as regional faculty for Taiwan AO principles course. With series of communications thru E-mail from Dr.Suthorn, Dr.Urs and Philip from Synthes everything ended up well prior to the course. I made a lot of consultations with some of our AO mentors such as Dr.Miles dela Rosa and Dr.Bill Lavadia. Their experiences and expertise was of utmost importance for preparation of my lectures.

The pre course meeting was of big help. I met the other local and international faculties where we were briefed for some minor changes in the sessions and orientation in the hospital facility. The Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, the venue of the course is a big and beautiful hospital, our host Dr.Tu and Dr.Chen made everyone feel very much at home. During the pre course meeting a welcome address was given by Dr.Suthorn as well as tips and strategies to guide the faculty in their duties. It was very much like a basketball game....just before the the championship match.

May 2, 2008—First day of the course. All the faculty and staff were introduced to the delegates. I was a bit nervous since this was my first time to give a lecture in an international setting but after I delivered my first topic everything went on smoothly. There was an ARS after every lecture which was a good parameter for the faculty if the delegates understood the topics clearly. As expected questions and clarifications were brought up, issues were settled with the opinions given by the faculties. At the end of the day and the course itself, the faculty and staff gather to analyze the course outcome and what else could be improved or changed for the betterment of the succeeding courses.

My deepest thanks to AO for giving me the opportunity to be part of this principles course in Taiwan and the privilege to bring home the good ideas and wisdom that will surely keep the spirit of AO burning in me.

Practical Exercises

With Drs.Schwab, Suthom, Wong, Tu
It's my great honor for being a local faculty and a speaker at this AO Principles Course in Taipei. This was a really wonderful and highly educative conference. During the 3-day course, I do learn a lot through the interaction with the other speakers and the participants. I also found most of the speakers were very experienced teachers, who had their lectures very concise and understandable. In addition to the very educative course, we also had a lot of fun in the dinner time. I would like to thank the Congress Committee for inviting me and to thank the AO staffs and the table instructors for all of their support in the workshop.

“Experiences as a regional faculty in Mumbai, India”

I am working as an Assistant Professor in the Trauma unit at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. We have a very strong relationship with AO organization, since many AO events have been held in Chiang Mai. I became a local instructor teaching young Thai Orthopedics surgeons for many years. One day I got an unexpected surprise call from AO asking me whether I could be an instructor for principle and advanced courses in Mumbai. I did not hesitate to say “Yes”. To be a speaker outside my country made me a little nervous. I prepared all the talk very carefully, reading all the course syllabus several times to make sure that all the messages I wanted to convey to participants were appropriate and correct. I arrived Mumbai one day earlier. The next day I had a chanced to meet Dr.Ma and Dr.Journeaux who were also instructors from Taiwan and Australia. At Hinduja hospital, we also met Dr.Sanjai who is a chairman of principle course, along with many Indian doctors who would be working with us as instructors of the course. We had a successfully pre-course meeting. During the principle course, participants in basic course were very enthusiastic. They were eager to learn as much as they could every moment of the day. The course was loaded with questions. All the participants enjoyed “case discussion” very much. I would proudly say, as one of the instructor, that the principle course was enthusiastically welcomed by all the participants and ended with flying colors.

We had one day break between the courses. We visited downtown Mumbai for sightseeing. Although the traffic in Mumbai gave me a headache but downtown Mumbai was worth while seeing. We visited gateway and took a short boat trip along the bay to see the skyline view of Mumbai. That afternoon we came back for pre-course meeting of the advanced course. We met Dr.Buckley he is very energetic and precise. Working with him was a wonderful experience, all the efforts we put in went directly to the participants. Again the course ended successfully. Lots of Indian doctors had a lot of experiences before joining the course, they liked “cases discussion” part most, even when we ran out of time, they still want to complete the discussion cases. I think being an instructor outside the country is very challenging and also give you a wonderful experience. You will have the chance to get to know orthopedics surgeons from many parts of the world, giving you channels to exchange ideas and share experience. I suggest like anyone who would like to have a wonderful experience like me, please keep in touch with the AO Organization. One day when the opportunity comes, you will enjoy it. Thank you very much.
AO maintains his prestigious reputation in Trauma Fracture Management for more than 50 years. For an orthopedic surgeon, AO Principle would be the basic concept in Trauma Fracture Management. AO principle has been deeply planted in my mind since I was a registrar. Fortunately my mentor and also my chief, Dr. Tu leads me to involve in AO educational activities and shows me how AO foundation has been running its four pillars which include teaching, research, documentation and instrumentation.

I have been invited as the table instructor & local speaker of AO Courses for several times. When I was invited for the first time as AO regional speaker, I felt so honored to be recognized as a qualified trauma surgeon and teacher by AO. Of course, to disappoint participants and AO will be the last thing for me to let it happen. Selecting presentable and educational cases, studying the textbook, consulting the other expert’s opinions, revising the slides again and again and rehearsing this presentation takes me two months before I attended this course in India. The responsibility of offering the foremost interests for participants holds the first priority in my mind. After participating the AO educational activities as one of the speakers, I cherish every courses or symposium that I have attended and listen to the other faculty more carefully than before. The pros and cons or every advantage in every lecture I have attended will refresh my presentation skill and content.

I was junior to the other AO speakers in this course, so to be humble to learn from the other senior surgeons from all over the world no matter how young or old speakers were was my way to get acquaintance with them. Most of the participants have good command of spoken English, are able to speak quite fast and love raising their hands to query and discuss. Those really impressed me and drove me crazy in the beginning of this event. I got used to their living style and quick speaking soon after several days and found a way to be their friends.

The precourse was compulsory for regional speakers and was also the most effective way for me to know how to be a good teacher and learn the teaching skill. If AOAP can provide a coaching program for the new speakers, they may learn more on how to coach and teach more effectively to the participants. When I attended the precourse every time, every chairman always shares his experience in AO educational activities and let us know how they are dedicated to the course. They are all my role models to mimic. It also indicates if you don’t want to humiliate AO reputation, you have to devote yourself very much in every educational event and make things right as possible as you can.

As a surgeon, the first obligation is to treat your patients professionally in right way and let them recover as soon as possible. As a decent orthopedic surgeon and AO member, you should be willing to share the experience & skill of appropriate treatment principle and state-of-the-art surgical techniques with the other ones, which will let most of the patients receive the correct treatment. To become one of the speakers in AO is the best way for every good orthopedic surgeon to achieve aforementioned wills. It is also my way to persuade them to join AO. If you are enthusiastic and ambitious in educations of traumatology and willing to share what you know and learn in your surgical skill, AO will be the only organization which will evolve you into a good orthopedic surgeon and good teacher.
AO Principles Course in Linkou, Taiwan

Wong Merng Koon

Linkou is a suburb about 60 km from Taipei and on May 2nd to 4th the 2008 Taiwan AO Principles course was held there in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital. AOE and AOAP were very grateful to Chang Gung Memorial Hospital for providing excellent lecture and practical venues for this course.

The course organization was excellent and efficient. A precourse for faculties both local and international and regional was held on the 1st May. For 3 hours, Dr. Suthorn, the international course chairperson and Dr. Tu and Dr. Chen, the local course chairpersons oversaw every minute details from concepts of lectures, the videos of the practical exercises to the facilities and computer connections.

The first day saw great enthusiasm in participation especially in the discussion session. Faculties were very happy that ARS questionnaires at the end of the lectures showed good participants understanding of the concepts of AO Principles for fracture management.

Speaking of the ARS immediate response system, I find participants rating of the effectiveness of the faculty’s lecture challenges me to improve my presentation even more. As Dr. Suthorn said, most of our lectures had easily 6 to 10 hours of preparation distilled into a 20 minute talk. The tendency is to include every one of the exciting and challenging cases we have ever done. Clearly in an AO Principles course this is not appropriate, chief of the contraindications would be confusion of the participants as to the basic tenets of AO Principles of fracture fixation. All faculties were advised to keep to their allocated time and more important to have no more than 6 major points in each lecture.

The fireside discussions have certainly become more structured with the same sets of material being used for all discussion groups. In addition, every participant is encouraged to express their opinions and thoughts.

The feed back consequently has been tremendously positive.

All great courses have good social events and from the day of the precourse to the last day we have wonderful food every night and with even better company.

There were 60 participants each of the AO Principles Course as well as AO ORP course. Mostly Taiwanese, there were also Indians, Singaporeans and Koreans. I believe everyone went away much more knowledgeable about current AO Principles of management of fractures. Much more than that, participants are rejuvenated with better understanding of standard of fracture care, infected with the enthusiasm of the faculties both local and international to improve patient care, the paramount aim of AO.
The AO Principles and Advanced Courses for Surgeons were held in conjunction with ORP courses in Brisbane, Australia from the 30th March until the 5th April 2008. 95 surgeons and 95 ORP personal attended the courses. International faculty included Anthony Ward from the UK and David Stephen from Canada. AOAP was represented by Tet Sen Howe from Singapore and Vajara Phiphobmongkol from Thailand. Our local faculty was our largest ever at 23 with several new faces. The Sebel Hotel in central Brisbane was the course venue and provided excellent facilities for multiple lecture rooms, discussion groups and practicals to be run simultaneously.

Each lecture session was closed with a case discussion moderated by the session chairman using audience response via ARS and was very popular. In the practical session for the Principles group a tutorial on the use of the traction table was trialled for the first time and was very well received. The discussion groups were rotated so as to give the participants maximum exposure to various faculty members.

It was interesting to note that the level of experience in the participants in both courses was varied. There were several interns in the Principles group and the majority of the advanced course was made up of non-training or service registrars. We will be looking at this in the future because of high demand for the courses to restrict the Principles course to non-training and 1st year training registrars and the advanced course to training registrars and consultants. The demand by consultant orthopaedic surgeons is not high and a plan for a master’s course in the near future is underway.

On a social note the welcoming drinks were held at the Sebel on the Monday night with ORP group and a faculty dinner was held at Customs House on the Wednesday evening. Certainly the fellowship among the faculty was a highlight and everyone enjoyed each others company.

Next years courses will be held in Sydney with Mathew Porteus and Michael Wagner the international faculty and Frankie Leung and Wong Memg Koon representing AOAP.
Asia Pacific AOAA Jubilee Symposium

Main Auditorium
Imperial Mae Ping Hotel, Chiangmai / Thailand

Saturday, September 27, 2008
Management of the Geriatric Fracture Patient
Moderator: Suthorn Bavonratanazech

13.30-13.50 The AO’s story, the first 50 years
Chris van der Werken

13.50-14.10 Dimensions of the problem
Suthorn Bavonratanazech

14.10-14.30 Biomechanics of osteoporotic bone
Piet De Boer

14.30-15.00 Co-managed approach
Michael Blauth

15.00-15.20 Protocol driven geriatric assessment
Frankie Leung

15.20-15.40 Discussion

15.40-16.00 Coffee break

Moderator: Piet de Boer

16.00-16.20 Rational use of standard implants in osteoporotic fractures
Chris van der Werken

16.20-16.35 Spinal augmentation
Michael Blauth

16.35-16.50 Periprosthetic fractures
Michael Blauth

16.50-17.10 Bisphosphonate associated necrosis of the jaws, problems and therapeutic options.
Michael Ehrenfeld

17.10-17.20 Discussion

17.20-18.20 Interactive Case Discussions
Michael Blauth, Suthorn Bavonratanazech

18.30-21.00 Jubilee Dinner

Sunday, September 28, 2008
New developments within the TK system
Moderator: Michael Blauth

8.20-8.40 Proximal humerus
Michael Blauth

8.40-9.00 Distal Humerus
Andrew Vincent

9.00-9.20 Proximal femur
Chris van der Werken

9.20-9.40 Distal femur
Michael Schütz

9.40-10.00 Proximal tibia
Takeshi Sawaguchi

10.00-10.20 Distal tibia
Suthorn Bavonratanazech

10.20-10.40 Discussion

10.40-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-11.20 Distal radius
Frankie Leung

11.20-11.40 Removal of Locked Plates
Michael Schütz

11.40-12.00 Discussion

12.00-12.10 Summary of the meeting
Chris van der Werken

http://www.aofoundation.org/anniversary/events/chiangmai
The registration form soon will be on-line.
Please also prominently mention the following sentence:
“Because of the 50th anniversary fo the AO the registration fee has been waived”
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Kind regards
The Editor in Chief