

## History of the ASEAN Federation of Cardiology: A 38-Year Journey

Review by:

Dr. Richard Ng

Singapore, Past President, ASEAN Federation of Cardiology, Founding Director, ASEAN College of Cardiology, July 2012

### CONCEPTION

The ASEAN Federation of Cardiology (AFC) was conceptualized in 1973, when all official representatives of the five cardiac societies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand agreed to form a nonpolitical federation for the advancement of cardiology practice and education in Southeast Asia.

### INAUGURAL MEETING

In October 1975, the first meeting of the AFC took place in Bali, Indonesia. It was organized by Dr. Sukaman Sumaryono of Indonesia and attended by Drs. Lily Rilantono, Boedi Darmajo and Asikin Hanafiah. Three ministers from the Republic of Indonesia — the Minister of Health, Prof. G.A. Siwabessy; the Minister of Education and Culture, Dr. Syarif Thayeb; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Adam Malik — graced the occasion. The representatives from Malaysia included Dr. Joseph Eravelly and Prof. R.P. Pillay; from the Philippines, Drs. H.B. Calleja, Avenilo Aventura and Yolando Sulit; from Singapore, Drs. Charles Toh, Low Lip Ping, Chia Boon Lock, Joseph Sheares, N.C. Tan, Dixie Tan, Lim Chin Hock and Lenny Tan; and from Thailand, Drs. Kamol Sindhavanonda, Kumpol Prachuabmoh and Prinya Sakiyalak.

Subsequent congresses, venues and organizing chairpersons are presented below. It was decided that a biennial congress would be held and rotated amongst the five original countries of ASEAN.

The organizing chairperson becomes the President of the AFC until the next congress.

### AFC CONGRESSES

These congresses have enjoyed increasing success with the thrust, focus and themes on cardiology practices, guidelines, education and research in all ASEAN countries.

The exchange of scientific and academic ideas amongst the ASEAN countries has been highly enriching and, together with the very cordial fellowship amongst doctors, nurses and technicians, has led to better and warmer relationships and even better understanding and appreciation within the cardiology fraternities of all the ASEAN countries.

Table 1.

No.	Year	Venue	Organizing Chairperson/ President of AFC
1.	1975	Bali, Indonesia	Dr. Sukaman Sumaryono
2.	1977	Manila, Philippines	Dr. Avenilo Aventura
3.	1980	Singapore	Dr. Tan Ngoh Chuan
4.	1982	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Dr. J.S. Eapen
5.	1984	Bangkok, Thailand	Dr. Kumpol Prachuabmoh
6.	1986	Jakarta, Indonesia	Dr. Lily I. Rilantono
7.	1988	Manila, Philippines	Dr. Ramiro M de Guia
8.	1990	Singapore	Dr. Joseph Sheares
9.	1992	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Dr. Kenneth Chin
10.	1994	Bangkok, Thailand	Dr. Prinya Sakiyalak
11.	1997	Jakarta, Indonesia	Dr. Dede Kusmana
12.	1998	Manila, Philippines	Dr. Antonio Sibulo
13.	2000	Singapore	Dr. Richard Ng
14.	2002	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Dr. David Quek
15.	2004	Pattaya, Thailand	Dr. Supachai Chaithiraphan
16.	2006	Bali, Indonesia	Dr. Idris Idham
17.	2008	Hanoi, Vietnam	Dr. Pham Gia Khai
18.	2010	Cebu, Philippines	Dr. Eleanor Lopez
19.	2012	Singapore	Dr. Kenny Sin

### SUKAMAN LECTURE

In 1986, the Sukaman Lecture was established to recognize and honor outstanding ASEAN cardiology doctors who have dedicated service, work and contributions to the advancement of ASEAN cardiology.

Following the tragic death of Dr. Sukaman in 1987 in a car accident, the lecture was renamed the “Sukaman Memorial Lecture.” The list of lectures is shown in Table 2.

### SCOPE

The scope of the congresses has increased steadily, and currently the delegates number around 2000.

Scientific presentations, both oral and poster abstracts have enjoyed great popularity.

A Young Investigator's Award (<40 years old) for original research has also been established to encourage ASEAN scientific pursuits.

### FACULTY FROM AFAR

Besides various key leaders and speakers from ASEAN, outstanding cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from America,

Table 2.

## Sukaman Lecture

<i>No.</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Host Country</i>	<i>Sukaman Lecturer</i>	<i>Topic</i>
6 <sup>th</sup> ACC	1986	Singapore	Dr. Charles Toh	Challenges of Cardiac Practice in ASEAN
7 <sup>th</sup> ACC	1988	Indonesia	Dr. Lily I. Rilantono	ASEAN Cardiology: Today and Tomorrow
8 <sup>th</sup> ACC	1990	Singapore	Dr. Kampol Prachuabmoh	Changing Patterns of Cardiac Surgery in ASEAN Countries
9 <sup>th</sup> ACC	1992	Malaysia	Dr. Yolando Sulit	Development of Philippine Cardiology and Cardiology in ASEAN Setting
10 <sup>th</sup> ACC	1994	Thailand	Dr. Nik Zainal	The Development of a Cardiac Service for a Developing Country — A Personal Perspective
11 <sup>th</sup> ACC	1997	Indonesia	Dr. Richard Ng	The Growth of PTCA in ASEAN
12 <sup>th</sup> ACC	1998	Philippines	Dr. Boede Damajo	Visit to Geriatric Cardiology
13 <sup>th</sup> ACC	2000	Singapore	Dr. Boonchob Pongspanich	Congenital Heart Disease in Thailand, Implications of Future Health Burden of ASEAN Populations
14 <sup>th</sup> ACC	2002	Malaysia	Dr. H.B. Calleja	Einthoven ECG and Cardiovascular Medicine
15 <sup>th</sup> ACC	2004	Thailand	Dr. Joseph Eravelly	30 Years of the ASEAN Federation of Cardiology: What Is the Big Picture?
16 <sup>th</sup> ACC	2007	Indonesia	Dr. Prinya Sakiyalak	Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Training in ASEAN
17 <sup>th</sup> ACC	2008	Vietnam	Dr. Wu Dar Ching	Impact of ASEAN Common Market on the Practice of Cardiology in ASEAN Countries
18 <sup>th</sup> ACC	2010	Philippines	Dr. Pham Gia Khai	Confronting Changes and Challenges in Cardiology: An ASEAN Perspective
19 <sup>th</sup> ACC	2012	Indonesia	Dr. Santoso Karo Karo	Sudden Cardiac Death in ASEAN Countries: Early Management & Prevention

Europe, Australia and Asia have all been invited to deliver keynote lectures, state-of-the-art dissertations, and participate in valuable scientific and academic symposia.

#### FROM 5 TO 8 ASEAN COUNTRIES

Expanding from the original five ASEAN countries in the AFC, the following were admitted:

1. Vietnam in 2006;
2. Laos and Myanmar in 2007.

#### ASEAN HEART JOURNAL

Documentation and publications are vital expressions of any educational and academic federation, and especially of a college.

To this end, the *ASEAN Heart Journal* has been published and distributed. It is hoped that the journal will be approved by the Index Medicus in the near future.

This journal may be going electronic, so as to allow easier dissemination, and more effective interaction, and to be more environmentally supportive.

**Table 3.**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Editor</i>	<i>Establishment (Years)</i>
1.	Dr. H.B. Calleja (Philippines)	1992–1999
2.	Dr. Mak Koon Hau/ Dr. Lau Kean Wah (Singapore)	1999–2006
3.	Dr. Rungroj Krittayaphong (Thailand)	2006–2012
4.	Dr. Carolyn Lam (Singapore)	2012–

### CENTRAL SECRETARIAT/TREASURER

A central rotating AFC secretariat was established in 1997. The first central secretariat is in Bangkok, Thailand, under:

1. Secretary General — Dr. Prasart Laothavorn (1997–2010).
2. Secretary General — Dr. Nithi Mahanonda (2010–).
3. Treasurer — Dr. Wacin Buddhari (2010–).
4. Executive Secretary — Ms Arpaporn (2001–).

Together, this central secretariat will coordinate AFC and College activities, as well as keeping the financial and fixed assets of the AFC in a healthy state.

### ASEAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

This was inaugurated in 2006 as an academic arm of AFC under the Founding Director, Dr. Richard Ng. Four convocations have been held:

1. First convocation: Bali, 2006; 38 Fellows
2. Second convocation: Hanoi, 2008; 78 Fellows
3. Third convocation: Cebu, 2010; 100 Fellows
4. Fourth convocation: Singapore, 2012; 85 Fellows

### HOSPITALITY AND FELLOWSHIP

The hospitality of every host country has been outstanding and the fellowship developed has been invaluable in our cooperation and appreciation of our cardiac practices and research and education in ASEAN.

### THE FUTURE

With the ASEAN College of Cardiology and the *ASEAN Heart Journal* gaining strength and stature and value, the future AFC as an academic and scientific educational institution combining ASEAN cardiology in a common union is becoming more and more promising.

Despite the great richness of our diversity in ASEAN with differences in heritage, culture, traditions, currency and

language, the continuing growth and success of the AFC and the ASEAN College can propel our countries into a distinctive and valuable region of “cardiology without borders” in the near future.



### 1975 Inaugural AFC Meeting in Bali

1) *Standing:* Joseph Sheares (Singapore), Lim Chin Hock (Singapore), Asikin Hanafiah (Indonesia), Chia Boon Lock (Singapore), Lenny Tan (Singapore), Joseph Eravelly (Malaysia), Low Lip Ping (Singapore), Boonchap (Thailand).  
*Sitting:* R.P. Pillay (Malaysia), H.B. Calleja (Philippines), Lily Rilantono (Indonesia), Avenilo Aventura (Philippines), N.C. Tan (Singapore), Kammol Sindhavanonda (Thailand), Yolando Sulit (Philippines).



2) N.C. Tan and Dixie Tan (Singapore).





3) Robayaah Zambahari (Malaysia), Ng Swee Choon (Malaysia), Hanafi Trisnohadi (Indonesia).



6) Richard Ng (Singapore) and David Kelly (President, WHF) with the winners of the YIA Competition 2002 in Singapore.



4) David Quek (Malaysia), Arumugam (Malaysia), Kumpol Prachaboh (Thailand).



7) Gala Night performance from Indonesia, 2002.

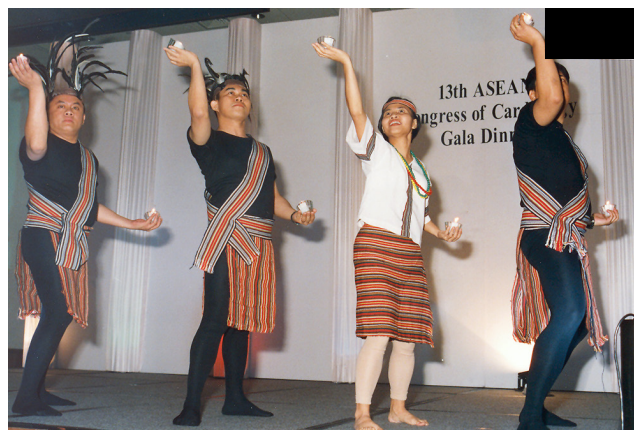


5) Yolando Sulit (Philippines) and Wu Dar Ching (Singapore).



8) Gala Night performance from Thailand, 2002.





9) Gala Night performance from the Philippines, 2002.



12) Gala Night performance from Singapore cardiologists, 2002.



10) Gala Night performance from Malaysia, 2002.



11) Gala Night performance from Vietnam, 2002.



13) 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Congress: Jakarta, July 6–10, 1997  
*Standing:* Idris Idham (Indonesia), Prasat (Thailand), David Quek (Malaysia), H.B. Calleja (Philippines), Lily Rilantoro (Indonesia), James Wong (Singapore), Antonio Sibulo (Philippines), Jara (Philippines).  
*Sitting:* Kenneth Chin (Malaysia), Nithi (Thailand), Samuel Ong (Malaysia), Supachai C. (Thailand), Prinya S. (Thailand), Dede Kusmana (Indonesia), Richard Ng (Singapore), Pham N. Khai (Vietnam).





**THE 12th ASEAN CONGRESS OF CARDIOLOGY**  
Theme: ASEAN Cardiology in the Heart of the Next Millennium  
December 6-10, 1998 Edsa Shangri-la Hotel Manila, Philippines

- 14) 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Congress  
Dede Kusmana (Indonesia), David Quek (Malaysia), Antonio Sibulo (Philippines), Boedi Darmajo (Indonesia), Richard Ng (Singapore), Sukri Karim (Indonesia).



- 15) AFC in Singapore  
1990 President Wee Kim Wee, Richard Ng, Joseph Sheares (Organizing Chairman), Amy Ng.



- 16) AFC: Singing contest — Supachai C. (Thailand).



- 17) AFC: Singing contest — Prinya S. (Thailand).



- 18) AFC: Drinking contest — Fisher (USA), Prasat (Thailand), T. Santoso (Thailand), Hanafi T. (Indonesia), Richard Ng (Singapore), S.J. Park (South Korea).



- 19) Tennis.

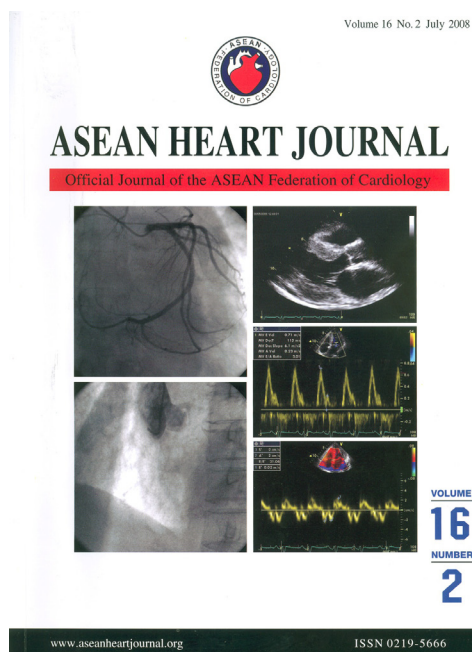




20) Golf.



21) Golf.



22) *ASEAN Heart Journal*. Editor: H.B. Calleja (Philippines).

ASEAN Heart Journal (AHJ) is the official journal of the ASEAN Federation of Cardiology



23) Permanent Secretariat: Prasart L. (Thailand) and Nithi M. (Thailand).

## AFC Permanent Secretariat

1. Secretary-General : Dr Prasart Laothavorn  
1997 – 2010
2. Secretary-General : Dr Nithi Mahanonda  
2010 –
3. Hon. Treasurer : Dr Wasan Buddhari  
2010 –
4. Executive Secretary : Ms Arporn  
1997 -

24) 3<sup>rd</sup> Convocation, 2010.



25) Visit to Vietnam, 1994  
Tjinh, Joseph Sheares, Richard Ng.



26) Visit to Vietnam, 1994.





27) Visit to Ho Chi Minh City, Alain Carpentier Hospital: Joseph Sheares.



28) Visit to Gucci Tunnels.



29) Young Vietnamese doctors: Hung and Quong.



30) First Laos Cardiology Conference, organized jointly with AFC 2002.



31) Vang Chu and Pantpis (Laos).

Visitors from Overseas Inspirational to the AFC:



1) Professor Magdi Yacoub from the UK to Singapore, 1990.



2) Professor Christiaan Barnard from South Africa to Singapore, 1982.



3) Professor Valentino Fuster, representing ACC (USA) and ESC, to Singapore, 2008.