

AOFOG NEWS

Volume 08

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President's Message

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Secretary General's Message

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AOFOG Congress 2019



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(Japan)



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(India)

President's Message....

Dear Members,

The 26th [AOFOG congress 2019](#) held in Manila, Philippines ended in great success. First of all, I want to congratulate the members of the Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecology Society (POGS), especially Dr. Mario A. Bernardino, President of POGS and Christia S. Padolina, Congress President and Vice-President of POGS and their team who organized and hosted the 26th [AOFOG congress 2019](#). From the opening ceremony till the closing ceremony, well thought out programs never bored us. Besides academic programs, various social events were so gorgeous and enjoyable. We will never forget the hospitality given by POGS.

I took office as the 28th President at the AOFOG General Assembly on 13th of November 2019. It is a great honor for me and I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the support of members, executive board members and council members of AOFOG, as well as Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

As you may know, AOFOG is much related to my home country Japan. The first congress was held in Tokyo in April 1957 and was established as the Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology, independent of the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 1979 Australia and New Zealand joined, and both name and reality became AOFOG (Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology). It has now grown to be composed of 28 countries and regions.

Prof. Hideo Yagi of Okayama University was the first president of AOFOG. After Prof. Yagi (1957-1962), the 8th President, Professor Shoichi Sakamoto (1979-1981), the 13th President, Professor Masahiko Mizuno (1989-1991), and the 21st President, Professor Yuji Murata (2006-2007) were appointed from Japan. Therefore, I am the fifth president from Japan.

I started my career serving for AOFOG in 1987. I was an editorial member of AOFOG Journal (former form of JOGR, AOFOG official journal) and Prof. Yoshinori Kuwabara was editor-in-chief at that time. He was my mentor and led me to the road of AOFOG. I wouldn't have been today without him. Then after for a while, I became an Oncology committee chair in 2011 and served for 2 terms. Then was elected as Vice-President in 2015 and as President-elect in 2017.

I enjoy working with many talented members in AOFOG. Last two years, the Executive Board was led by immediate past president Dr. Ravi Chandran. He is a thoughtful and courageous doctor who took AOFOG to a new dimension. That is, the organization that acts.



I would like to follow his policy and to continue to act for new generation. As I mentioned in my inaugural address, the challenges of AOFOG is to reduce perinatal mortality and to eliminate cervical cancer from our region. In order to achieve this goal, I asked to new executive board members and committee chairs to be SMART. Set the Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time bounded goal at the first council meeting,

AOFOG is, however, such a diverse society, ethnically, culturally and economically. I'd like to respect these diversities and strengthen AOFOG by the energy and passion produced by this non-uniformity. Today's AOFOG is impossible without the wisdom, leadership and action of its predecessors. I want to give them the greatest respect and I promise them and our members that I will do my best with my ability during my term.

Last but not least, I would like to wish our members a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous new year 2020.

Greetings from AOFOG for a Wonderful 2020.

Prof. Kazunori Ochiai



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Secretary General's Message.....

Yet another year has passed and a New Year is dawning.

When looking back we could be happy that AOFOG was able to participate in various activities in many of our member countries during the past year. I am thankful to all the Presidents, Secretaries and the National Society Representatives for all the assistance given to organize and conduct these activities. We were able to enhance the bonding between the AOFOG and the National Societies and I am certain that it will be further strengthened during coming years.



The highlight of the year was AOFOG 2019 which was held in November in Manila. This was attended by almost 4000 participants and this is the highest number we have had in any AOFOG conference. It was very encouraging to see FIGO, RCOG, ACOG & SAFOG participating. This has given us an opportunity to work together in conducting various activities for our members and women in our region without duplicating these activities.

The installation of the AOFOG President 2019-21 took place during the Banquet of [AOFOG 2019](#). We saw Prof Kazunori Ochiai of Japan been inducted as the new president by the outgoing president Dr. Ravi Chandran during the colourful ceremony. I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Ravi Chandran, President [AOFOG 2019](#) for guiding and steering the Federation to greater heights and making it more visible around the globe. We admire his capability to formulate clear guidelines and streamline the various activities making the working environment more pleasant and comfortable.

The workshops and the scientific programme covered almost all the areas in O & G. We were fortunate to have many renowned international and local speakers. The social activities were very exciting with the song and dance of our Philippine colleagues and was enjoyed by all.

I wish to thank Organising Committee Chair, Dr. Christia Padollina, Secretary General Dr. Brenda and their very energetic team for organizing this congress which was a tremendous success. Also I wish to thank Dr. Mario A. Bernardino, President Philippine O & G Society and its Officers for all the support given to organize [AOFOG 2019](#). For details refer [annexure....](#)

The 34th Annual Scientific Meeting of RTCOG



The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists was held in Pattaya, Thailand from 16th – 18th Oct 2019. AOFOG conducted a session on 'Current Controversies in O&G Practice'. We are thankful to

RTCOG President Air Marshal Karun Kengsaku, Secretary General Prof. Unnop Jaisamrarn, Prof Pisake Lumbigoanon, Past President RTCOG and Prof Ounjai, AOFOG MFM Committee Chair for all the assistance in organizing the programme.

ICOE programme in Cambodia.



[Intensive Course in Obstetric Emergencies \(ICOE\)](#) was organised in Cambodia by the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) in collaboration with the Cambodian Society of

Gynaecology and Obstetrics (SCGO) and the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOFOG) from the 6th to the 8th of December 2019, at the National Centre for Maternal Health, Phnom Penh. The programme was well attended and the participants were very enthusiastic. The programme was conducted by Cambodian trainers with the assistance of the OGSM group.

It was encouraging to see that the Cambodian doctors had benefited very much from the programme and the knowledge and skills learnt has been very helpful in their practice.

I am thankful to Prof. Koum Kanal and Prof. Pech Sothy of SCGO for all the assistance given to organise the programme and Dr. Patricia Lim, Team leader of the OGSM group for conducting the programme so efficiently.

Once again I wish to place on record the commitment of the OGSM to carry out this [ICOE](#) programme.

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AOFOG 2021

27th AOFOG congress, [AOFOG 2021](#) will be held in Bali, Indonesia from 8th -11th March, 2021. It will be hosted by the Indonesian Society of Obstetrics & Gynecology. The theme of the conference is “From bench to bedside: between the culture, tradition and technology in women’s health”.

The organizing committee chaired by Dr. Andon Hestiantoro is busy already making preparations for a grand conference with a comprehensive up to date academic programme, exciting social events.

This will be a memorable conference for everyone, not to be missed.

So Kindly Block the Dates immediately. March 8 -11th 2021.

Looking forward to working with you more closely in 2020.

Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa.

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ICOE Programme - Cambodia

On the 6th to the 8th of December 2019 the Intensive Course in Obstetric Emergencies (ICOE) was organised in Cambodia by the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) in collaboration with the Cambodian Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (SCGO) and the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOFOG). It was a 2-day course comprising of lectures, breakout stations with hands-on simulation stations held at the National Centre for Maternal Health, Phnom Penh. A total of 20 participants participated in this course comprising of senior and junior doctors from big towns to smaller provinces. The Malaysian team comprised of 3 doctors, one administration staff and a junior IT assistant. This complemented the local Cambodia trainers which consisted of 8 doctors and two administration staff.



The first day began with a pre-course knowledge and skills test followed by the Opening Ceremony which was attended by Prof. Koum Kanal and Prof. Pech Sothy of SCGO, Dr. Rohana, Secretary-General of AOFOG and myself Dr. Patricia Lim, team leader for the ICOE team from OGSM. All

parties expressed their delight in how far the course has accomplished in Cambodia by reducing their maternal mortality rates. It is hoped that the course will continue to train more trainers and doctors in the years to come with collaboration from all the said societies.

This was followed by lectures and a breakout station. The highlight of the day was the faculty dinner which was held in a quaint local Cambodia restaurant that was cosy for all of us to enjoy the local cuisine. We were certainly spoilt by the marvelous variety of food ranging from fresh rice roll salads, soup, fried rice, noodles and morning glory.

The second day started bright and early with lectures and breakout stations. Positive feedback was received from both the trainers and participants with many learning new skills especially in the resuscitation of a collapsed mother, post-partum haemorrhage and eclampsia.



The final day was left to wrap up topics such as instrumental deliveries and sepsis to name a few. Prior to the closing, a post-course knowledge and skills test were performed. The results show a marked improvement where the pre-course scores of below 5 were boosted to scores above 8 indicating a marked increase in both knowledge and skills after having attended the course. The Closing Ceremony was officiated by Prof. Kanal and Prof. Sothy and myself

followed by the presentation of certificates and tokens of appreciation to the Malaysian team and AOFOG.

Overall it is very promising to see the commitment of the SCGO as they have embarked to purchase mannequins and equipment of their own. The local trainers also showed dedication and interests in imparting knowledge and skills to their fellow colleagues. It is with hope that future courses can be led independently by the local team and the Malaysian team need only to supervise with support from all the three societies.



Wishing everyone a happy new year 2020.

Dr. Patricia Lim Su-Lyn

ICOE team leader for Cambodia ICOE December 2019



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Few Glimpses of AOFOG 2019

For details refer [annexure...](#)



From the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecological Research (The AOFOG Journal)

Editor's choice articles from Issue 8 are as follows;

JOGR Vol.46 No.1 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated here;

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14128>

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14143>

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14129>

JOGR issue 12 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated here;

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>

Editor's choice articles from Issue 12 are as follows;

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14124>

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14132>

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14116>

JOGR Vol.46 No.1 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated here; <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>

We hope these articles will be useful as references and updates for our members.



Prof. Kiyoko Kato
Editor-in-Chief,
JOGR

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AOFOG 2021

Dear colleagues

Warm greetings from Bali – Indonesia.

As a chairperson of AOFOG 27th Congress we welcome you all to our prestigious biennial meeting that will be held in Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC), Bali – Indonesia, March 8th to 11th 2021.

Our theme of congress is “From bench to bedside: between the culture, tradition and technology in women’s health”, which we believe will put AOFOG as the frontier reproductive health organization in Asia Oceania. Attractive pre-congress workshop followed by excellent scientific program and outstanding speakers will accompany you during your stay in Bali.

Several hot topic discussions, debate, controversies and many more will increase your knowledge and experience in giving better service for our patients in the future. Bali is an Island of Paradise that is rich of culture, tradition, beauty places and scenery is able to make your stay become very valuable and memorable.

We also thank a lot to all scientific committee, sponsors and our partner in making this event success.

See you in AOFOG 2021 – Bali

Andon Hestiantoro

Chair person

AOFOG 2021, Congress



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www.aofog2021.com



8th - 11th March 2021
Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center
Nusa Dua, Bali - Indonesia

**From Bench to Bedside ;
Between The Culture, Tradition &
Technology in Women's Health**



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27th AFOG Congress

8th - 11th March 2021

Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center

Nusa Dua, Bali - Indonesia



Registration

Category	Early Bird	Regular	Late & On Site
	January 6, until September 30, 2020	October 1, 2020 until January 31, 2021	February 1, 2021 until On-Site
Physician International	USD 320	USD 400	USD 500
Physician Local	USD 280	USD 320	USD 360
Physician LRC *	USD 260	USD 260	N /A
Trainee / Nurse / Allied Healthcare **	USD 200	USD 260	USD 320
Fellows / Past Presidents ***	Complimentary		
Accompanying Person	USD 120	USD 160	USD 200
Banquet ****			

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Annexure



THE AOFOG 2019 CONGRESS IN MANILA . . . ONE FUNTASTIC RIDE INDEED!

Mabuhay!

All were warmly welcomed to the 26th Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology Congress held in Manila, the capital city of the Philippines. The congress was graciously hosted by the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) under the driving force of the Congress President, Dr. Christia S. Padolina and the POGS President, Dr. Mario A. Bernardino together with the leadership of AOFOG President Dr. Ravi Chandran. The congress venue was at the historic Philippine International Convention Center capably equipped with highly advanced conferencing equipment and support facilities.

Over 3000 local delegates and about 500 foreign delegates registered to the congress. Pre-registration was facilitated online as it opened a year prior and continued to fill up until days of the congress on-site. Local delegates were composed of POGS members and non-members as well as trainees. The largest foreign delegation was from Poland with 55 delegates, followed by Bangladesh with 45 delegates and placing third is Japan with 43 delegates. Aside from AOFOG member countries, there were also delegates from Afghanistan, Argentina, Bhutan, Bolivia, Canada, Guatemala, Ireland, Lebanon, Maldives, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Each delegate received their congress materials fittingly placed in multicolored Filipino-themed congress bags.

Registration counters were manned by courteous POGS members and staff and RFIDs were issued accordingly facilitating ease of registration and pick up of congress materials. Various information counters were strategically placed all over the congress venue and gallant ushers were always ready to render assistance.





All the conference rooms of the PICC from the major halls of the Plenary Hall and Reception Hall to the Banquet Halls and all the Meeting Rooms including Discussion Rooms were occupied for the scientific sessions. Each session venue was fully equipped and manned by a professional audio-visual and technical team, AT3 Events. The foyer and bridgways were allotted for the food distribution for the snack and lunch breaks sumptuously prepared by Via Mare, PICC's in-house caterer. Truly the delegates' minds and appetites were adequately nourished during the congress.







Various local pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical companies and diverse generous organizations reinforced the fruitful execution of the AOFOG Congress in Manila. The Exhibition Hall was filled to the brim with POGS sponsors, supporting organizations, colleagues and friends.

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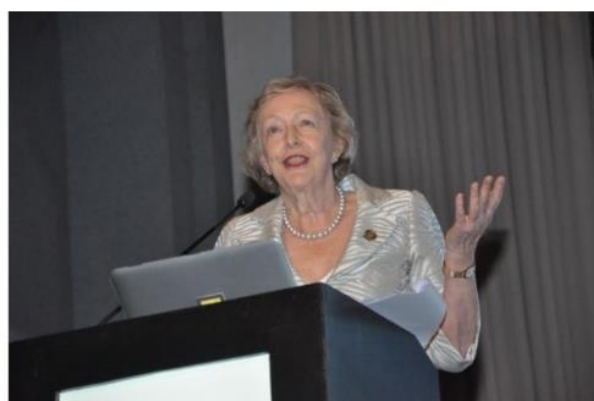
The heart and soul of the brilliant ride in the AOFOG 2019 Congress was the Scientific Program. Pre-Congress Activities were organized by the various subspecialty societies of the POGS that included both didactic and workshop sessions. November 10 was opened by the sessions on “Meet the Experts: Gynecologic Ultrasound for the Clinicians _ Approach to Diagnosis and Management” by the Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology (PSUOG); “Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries (OASIS) Hand-On Workshop” by the Philippine Society of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery (PSURPS); “Managing Infertility: Bridging Evidence and Practice” by the Philippine Society for Reproductive Medicine (PSRM); “As Easy as 1-2-3: A Clinician’s Guide to Pediatric Gynecology” by the Pediatric and Adolescent Society of the Philippines (PAGSPHIL); “Introduction to Functional Aesthetic Gynecologic Procedures” by the Aesthetic Gynecology Society of the Philippines, Inc. (AGSPi); “Master’s Class on Surgical Site Infection: Prevention and Management” by the Philippine Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology (PIDSOG); “PSGE Addendum Workshop on MIGS” by the Philippine Society of Gynecologic Endoscopy (PSGE) and “Updates in the Management of Common Obstetric Complications” by the Philippine Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine (PSMFM).

There was a total of 129 foreign speakers and 45 local speakers who comprised the formidable speakers’ pool of the main congress. The Congress proper was highlighted by remarkable and noteworthy Plenary Sessions that included the following on Day 1: “AOFOG President’s Lecture: Paradigm Shift in Obstetric Practice” by Dr. Ravi Chandran (Malaysia); “Chien-Tien Hsu Memorial Lecture: Controversial Issues in Gynecologic Oncology” by Prof. Neville F. Hacker (Australia); “Malaysia Lecture: Impact of Pregnancy on Long Term Women’s Health” by Prof. Haywood L. Brown (USA); “Achieving an Appropriate Cesarean Section Rate” by Dr. Michael S. Robson (Ireland) and “RCOG President’s Lecture: How Can We Achieve SDG5: Ensuring Gender Equality by 2030” by Prof. Lesley Regan. Day 2 opened with the following sessions: “FIGO Lecture: Every Woman, Every Time, Every Where” by Dr Jeanne A. Conry (USA); “ACOG President’s Lecture: Obesity and Cancer: Link to Incidence and Recurrence” by Prof. Eva Chalas (USA); “From ASPRE to FIGO: Implementation of Preeclampsia Prevention Strategy” by Prof. Liona CY. Poon (Hong Kong) and “Innovations to Reduce Postpartum Bleeding and Postpartum Hemorrhage-Related Deaths” by Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran (United Kingdom).

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The last day was closed by the following plenary sessions: “A Career Reflection: Myths, Realities and Rewards” by Prof. Christine Tippet (Australia); “Paradigm Shift in the Treatment of Endometriosis” by Prof. Tasuku Harada (Japan); “Saving Mothers: The Global Health Perspective” by Prof. Mario Philip R. Festin (Philippines) and “Shan S. Ratnam Memorial Oration: Through Fifty-One Years” by Prof. Walfrido W. Sumpaico (Philippines).





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There were three Debate Sessions included: (1) Controversies in Urogynecology – (a) Physiotherapy is a better option for the treatment of mild stress urinary incontinence compared to laser and (b) Native-tissue repair is superior to mesh-augmented repair for recurrent pelvic organ prolapse; (2) Cervical Cancer Control: HPV screening and vaccination is superior to screening and early treatment; and (3) Hormone Replacement Therapy in Menopause – (a) Early menopause symptoms are best managed by hormonal medications and (b) Topically administered hormone replacement therapy is safer than systemic hormone replacement therapy.

Panel Discussions were also organized on the following topics: PCOS New Guidelines; Improving Safe Obstetric Surgical Care: Lessons Learned from Safe Surgery 2020 (JHPIEGO) and Emerging Options in the Management of Myoma and AUB. Participation of Asian subspecialty societies APAGE, AOSPAG, AOGIN, ASEA and ASPIRE were commendable.



The abstracts submission was a huge success with an actual count of 112 oral presenters and 159 poster presenters who came from over 20 countries. Top presenting countries were the Philippines, Japan and India for the oral presenters and Philippines, Japan, Indonesia and Bangladesh for the poster presenters.

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The POGS welcomed 39 recipients of the S S Ratnam Young Gynecologist Award (YGA) for 2019. The award enables promising young obstetricians and gynecologists from all member countries of AOFOG to attend the congress. Among this year's awardees, 28 participated in the Community Fellowship Program (CFP) that was conducted by the POGS from November 4 to 10 entitled "POGS 2019 International Leadership Training Program in Maternal Health." In this leadership program the YGAs completed five modules in cooperation with the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office, the Philippines' Department of Health and five leading medical schools in the country. Module 1: Leadership in Maternal Health that focused on the OB GYN leader as an advocate was conducted at the University of Santo Tomas and at the Far Eastern University-Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation. Module 2: Maternal Health in Asia and Oceania was on the OB GYN leader as a public health champion was steered by the Philippines' Department of Health and the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office. Module 3: Best Practices for Leaders in Maternal Health focused on the OB GYN leader as an innovator was facilitated at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital and at the St. Luke's Medical Center-Bonifacio Global City. Module 4: Maternal Health Promotion and Education that emphasizes on the OB GYN leader as

an educator was rendered by the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center and by the Manila Central University-Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation. Module 5: Maternal Health Promotion in the Community that encourages the OB GYN leader as a community mobilizer was conducted by the POGS Region 3 at the Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center. The culminating activities included a community outreach, visit to Mt. Samat National Shrine of Valour and Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar (collection of heritage houses of the Philippines) and participation in the AOFOG Fun Run to fight cervical cancer.

University of Santo Tomas



Far Eastern University - Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation



Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) Office



Department of Health



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World Health Organization - Western Pacific Regional Office



Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital



University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital



St. Luke's Medical Center Bonifacio Global City



University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center



Manila Central University - Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation



Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center



Mt. Samat National Shrine of Valour



POGS Region 3 (Central Luzon) Fellowship Night



Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar



Dr. Jose P. Rizal National Monument



POGS Run Against Cervical Cancer



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To promote the AOFOG 2019 Congress in Manila, publicity was in full gear starting off with the dynamic congress website, www.aofog2019.com. A full description of the event was made available from the venue, schedule of activities, scientific program, list of invited speakers, supporting organizations, announcements and up to the details of hotel accommodations, hospitality matters and local tours. Scientific program pages were made dynamic for easy reference. Online registration was accessible and online abstract submissions were facilitated. Announcements and updates were regularly posted. The “InPOGSgraphics,” a new innovation to congress announcements and reminders, was made available on the website too. Regular posting of new video presentations that included several Congress invitations and the very popular congress jingle aptly entitled “Ride with Us!” was also available for public viewing. The congress jingle was composed by Dr. Ryan Capitulo and the lovely voices were that of Drs. Ana Dy Echo, Renee Sicam and Maris Yap.

The publicity and promotional machineries were nonstop with the production of flyers and initial primers which were distributed in several international conventions and likewise local conferences and meetings. The AOFOG 2019 Congress Team attended the AOCOG 2017 in Hong Kong, FIGO Brazil in 2018 and the 27th International Congress of the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Malaysia in July 2019 to participate in the congress exhibition to promote the AOFOG 2019 Congress. There were different phases of the distribution of flyers and was reinforced by regular updated eblasts to AOFOG member societies. During the congress proper, a mini program was printed out to help delegates navigate through all the activities of the congress. Interestingly, the souvenir program contained all the cordial messages and the complete scientific program including the curriculum vitae of the congress speakers. The souvenir program showed the various year-long activities of the POGS and all the supporting subspecialty societies, regional groups, local hospitals and organizations together with the congress sponsors as well. Documentation services through photos and videos were vital in this historical scientific event. A congress mobile app under MSD Meetings, sponsored by Merck Sharp & Dohme, was also made available and was most helpful for the delegates’ organization of daily and minute by minute attendance to the scientific sessions. It also served as a dynamic platform for both scientific and social interaction amongst delegates.

The AOFOG 2019 Congress in Manila showed off the grandest and most significant of social affairs in the metropolis. The President’s Night suitably entitled “One Asia Oceania” was held at the Mindanao Ballroom of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila. Guests were astounded with the stunning view of the world-famous Manila Bay sunset amidst the colorful and enchanting entertainment of the Banda Kawayan (Bamboo Band). A festive welcome of various cultural dances paved the way to a sumptuous banquet. The guests witnessed the YGA presentation on the Community Fellowship Program and their subsequent presentation of certificates. The night was highlighted by the performance of multi-awarded sand artist, Ms. Monica Regalario, whose artistic sand story-telling prowess illuminated the mission vision of both the AOFOG and the POGS. The sand artist’s story telling was magnificently capped off by an

alluring song number from POGS doctor-specialist-professor-singer Dr. Eileen Manalo to highlight “One Asia Oceania” as it calls to “Stand Up for Life.” It was a night of cheers of warm welcome and merriment of international reunions and camaraderie.

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The social event that captured the attention of the Asia Oceania region on the night of November 12th was the AOFOG Welcome Reception and Fellowship Night fittingly entitled "Festival of Festivals!" The world-acclaimed shadow performers, El Gamma Penumbra opened

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the night of festivities with a distinctive AOFOG-POGS-themed presentation and a magnificent shadow-tour of the different islands of the Philippines. The Festival rocked the PICC as POGS doctors from Metro Manila and the major islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao performed their hearts out in an outstanding show of various songs and dances from all over the Philippine archipelago. It was as realistic amalgamation of history, cultures and traditions! The Festival also served as a prelude to the longest Christmas celebration in the world with the distribution of festive sparkling Philippine capiz shell lanterns to the audience as the night ended in merriment with the singing of Filipino Christmas carols.





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Another highlight of the AOFOG 2019 Congress was the Congress Banquet held last November 13th at the Grand Ballroom of the Sofitel. This witnessed the installation of the Incoming AOFOG President Prof. Kazunori Ochiai and the Immediate Past President Dr. Ravi Chandran. The AOFOG Executive Board and Committee Chairs were introduced. The entertainment provided was truly a spectacle as world renowned Filipino composer-singer Mr. Ogie Alcasid serenaded and danced with the audience while Asia's Queen of Soul Ms. Jaya mesmerized their senses. A very significant event in the Congress Banquet was the launching of the "AOFOG Manila Declaration: Call to Action Against Cervical Cancer." This is a collaboration of health care professionals with the civil society, the academic and public health communities and with the AOFOG countries established in order to prevent cervical cancer, control its incidence and the resulting morbidity and mortality. The banquet witnessed the signing of the AOFOG Manila Declaration as signed by Dr. Ravi Chandran (AOFOG Immediate Past President), Prof. Kazunori Ochiai (AOFOG President), Dr. Mario Bernardino (POGS President), Dr. Christia Padolina (POGS Vice President and AOFOG 2019 Congress President), Dr. Cecilia Llave (Chair of the Cervical Center Prevention Network of the Philippines, CECAP) and the guest of honor, Dr. Francisco Duque (Philippine Department of Health Secretary).



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A pre-congress event not to be forgotten is the “POGS Run 2019: Outrun Cervical Cancer” with its beneficiaries: “I Live” Cervical Cancer Support Group, Kabalikat Foundation of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center and the UP-PGH Cancer Survivors’ Organization. The participation of 1000 runners from all over the country including the YGA CFP participants made the occasion a success.



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The AOFOG 2019 Congress will not come into full circle without the accommodations made available by the partner hotels: Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila (Speakers' Hotel), Diamond Hotel, New World Hotel, Pan Pacific Hotel, Hotel Jen, Century Park Hotel, Rizal Park Hotel, Manila Hotel, Conrad Hotel, TRYP by Wyndham, NOBU Hotel and Hotel 101. Riding to and from the congress venue was made easy and fun too with the shuttle services provided per set of hotel

routes. The delegates were also treated to a local jeepney ride to the congress venue. Through the partnership with Rajah Tours, local tours were made available for the delegates to the following sites: Manila, Sicogon, Cebu, Puerto Princessa, Bohol, El Nido, Boracay, Coron, Siargao and many more.

On behalf of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, the AOFOG 2019 Congress Organizing Committee would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to ALL for making this meeting of the minds a historical success. As we listen to the AOFOG 2019 Congress jingle, it was truly a gathering where we learned, a meeting where we shared and together we strengthened the road to women's health. Indeed, together we reached new heights!

Maraming salamat po!

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