

ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION  
of

MEDICAL INFORMATICS

(INAUGURAL MEETING)

5th October 1988  
SINGAPORE

MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductory Remarks and Welcome
2. Message President IMIA (Prof. S. Kaihara)
3. Apologies
4. Addenda
5. Draft Constitution/By-Laws
6. Subscription Fee determination
7. Election Office Bearers
8. Presidential Address
9. 2nd Pan-Pacific Conference
10. Application to IMIA
11. General Business

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DRAFT CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS

The intention of these articles is to facilitate the operations and organisation of the regional association. Once adopted, these shall constitute the Articles of Association of the body corporate.

## ARTICLE 1

### TITLE, OBJECTIVES

#### 1.1 Name

The Association shall be:

**The Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Informatics**

#### 1.2 Objectives

The fundamental objectives of the Association are:

- a) to disseminate and promote Medical Informatics in the Asia-Pacific region
- b) to organise regional meetings and support joint activities involving member countries
- c) to support and liaise with International and Regional bodies dedicated to the organisation and promotion of standards in Medical Informatics.

#### 1.3 Seat

The Registered Office of the Association shall be in \_\_\_\_\_.

## ARTICLE 2

### MEMBERSHIP

#### 2.1 *Full Membership*

Full Membership shall be restricted to ONE representative delegate per country. The delegate would represent one or more formal groups within the country dedicated to Medical Informatics nationally.

Council shall be comprised of Full Members of the Association.

Where there are applications for Full Membership from more than one such group within a country, the Association shall encourage resolution by the parties concerned. At its discretion, the Association may determine the question of national representation.

#### 2.2 *Associate Membership*

Bona fide bodies associated with Medical Informatics in each member country would be encouraged to become Associate Members.

#### 2.3 *Admission of Membership*

At least a two-third majority of Council is required in all admissions of membership.

#### 2.4 *Termination of Membership*

Termination of Membership shall be effected on request of a member OR by a two-third majority of Council OR by default resulting from lapse of membership from non-payment of dues for two consecutive subscription periods (except where declared exempt by Council).

## ARTICLE 3

### RIGHTS OF FULL MEMBERS

#### 3.1 *Voting*

Only Full Members have voting rights, and this shall be restricted to one per country.

Voting rights shall be suspended where a member is in arrears of subscription to the Association for more than twelve months.

#### 3.2 *Term of Membership*

National representatives shall be elected to Council by each country for a term of three years. In general, the same delegate shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

#### 3.3 *Subscriptions*

Council shall fix the subscriptions payable by Members. All subscriptions shall fall due and payable on 1st January each year.

Pro rata subscriptions are payable by new members on admission.

#### 3.4 *Terms of Reference*

The governing body of the Association shall be Council, comprising Full Members of the Association.

Council shall determine all affairs of the Association.

Council is empowered to form select committees and working parties which will report direct to it.

Council is empowered to amend the By-Laws and Constitution of the Association on a two-third majority at any meeting, due notice having being served upon member countries as specified (4.1).

\_\_\_\_\_ Law shall be the basis of interpretation of any Statutes specified herein or otherwise.



## ARTICLE 4

### RIGHTS OF FULL MEMBERS

#### 4.1 *Notice*

Notice of Meetings and call for Agenda items shall be circulated to Council at least two calendar months in advance. The Agenda shall be circulated at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

#### 4.2 *Quorum*

At least half of Council members present (or represented by proxy) is necessary to transact business at any meeting.

Where the quorum at a meeting is not achieved, an extraordinary meeting shall be called within three months, with due notice. Such a meeting shall not have a quorum restriction.

#### 4.3 *Conduct of Meetings*

Unless Council directs otherwise, the President shall chair all meetings.

Voting shall be based on simple majority, except where specified otherwise in these by-laws. The Chairperson shall have an additional casting vote in the event of a deadlock.

At least one meeting shall be convened each year. The Executive shall nominate time and place of meetings.

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened within three months by a majority of Council with due notice (4.1).

In the event of Termination of Association, a two-third majority is required to determine the distribution of assets.

## ARTICLE 5

### EXECUTIVE

Council shall elect the Executive Committee. The term of office shall not exceed three years.

No delegate may be elected to the same Office for two consecutive full terms.

The Executive shall comprise a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one other member.

An Executive member may be discharged for misdemeanour by a two-third majority of Council.

The Executive will administer the Association and shall be responsible to Council.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING

The meeting was held on Tuesday, 4th October 1988, at the Carnation Suite of the Pan Pacific Singapore Hotel, commencing at 7.30 pm.

In attendance were:

Dr Patrick Nugawela (in the Chair): AUSTRALIA

*Royal Australian College of General Practitioners/  
Australian Medical Informatics Association*

Dr Alfred Tang: HONG KONG

*Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics*

Mr Ouyang Zhineng: PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

*China Medical Informatics Association*

Mr Ian Symonds: NEW ZEALAND

*New Zealand Computer Society*

Mr Khin Maung Lwin: WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

*Health Information Systems, S.E.A. Regional Office*

Dr Sriati da Costa: REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

*Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia*

Professor Ken Goulding: By invitation

*Hong Kong Polytechnic*

Mr Teo Moh Gin: By invitation

*Arthur Andersen & Co., Singapore <sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup>Major Sponsors of the conference



Proxies Recorded:

Mr Ouyang Zhineng for Professor S Kaihara  
*Japan Society for Medical Informatics*

Mr Ouyang Zhineng (Trustee)  
*International Medical Informatics Association*

Dr Rames Wacharasin, MD for Dr Ouichai Pleangprasiti, MD  
*The Medical Association of Thailand*

Ass. Prof. K C Lun for Dr Wong Poi Kwong  
*Association for Informatics in Medicine*  
*Singapore Medical Association*

Dr P Nugawela for Dr E Isahak & Dr F Tan  
*College of General Practitioners of Malaysia*

Appended (herewith):

Message from the Japanese Society of Medical Informatics  
Opening address of Mr Yeo Cheow Tong, Minister for Health, Singapore  
Opening address of Professor S Kaihara, President, IMIA<sup>2</sup>

Absent:

Representation from Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Burma.

Apologies:

As per proxies recorded above.

Drs. Tan & Isahak (Malaysia) conferred in detail with Dr Nugawela prior and subsequent to the meeting (which they were unable to attend due to the amended time of the meeting). Drs. Tan & Isahak registered and attended the conference as representatives of Malaysia.

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<sup>2</sup>International Medical Informatics Association

PROCEEDINGSIntroductory Remarks and Welcome

Dr. Nugawela (in the chair) thanked the delegates and representatives for accommodating the change in meeting time - to the convenience of most of the representatives and welcomed participants to the Inaugural Meeting of the *Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Informatics*.

Dr. Nugawela stressed that the meeting would not seek to ratify any constitution but was essentially an opportunity for Asia-Pacific countries to be acquainted with each other and to discuss various matters with a view to formalising some proposals by the next meeting.

The meeting then proceeded to examine an overview of Information Technology in medicine in each region represented. Mr Symonds, the IMIA representative for New Zealand, outlined the role of the New Zealand Computer Society in MI activities in his country. Dr Da Costa noted that no formal medical informatics organisation existed in the Republic of Indonesia, though several foci of interest and expertise were evident, particularly at Governmental level. Dr Tang advised that the Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics had some 500 members. The Society was very well placed with a professionally published journal, bulletin board and ongoing MI activities. Mr Lwin noted the substantial endeavours of WHO in the regional support for health information technology. The role of WHO in IMIA was noted by the meeting. Ass. Prof. Lun confirmed Singapore's recent formal entry into the sphere of MI. Mr Ouyang Zhineng distributed material relating to MedInfo '89 and discussed the Republic of China's substantial role in the region, with some 2000 members in the country's MI fraternity. On instruction from representatives of Malaysia, Dr. Nugawela reiterated the activities in that country. Whilst no formal separate MI body was in place, the College of General Practitioners in Malaysia showed considerable interest in the organisation and further promotion of MI activities within the medical profession. Dr Wacharasin indicated Thailand Medical Association's promotion of MI within his country. Dr. Nugawela confirmed the preeminence of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Medical Computing for some 15 years. The formation of the Australian Medical Informatics Association, supported both by the RACGP and the Australian Computer Society, was confirmed. Professor Kaihara's message (appended) was read and distributed at the meeting, on behalf of IMIA and the Japan Society of Medical Informatics.

Dr. Nugawela thanked Arthur Andersen & Co. (Singapore) for their special interest and sponsorship of the conference, which made possible the inaugural meeting of the *Asia Pacific Association of Medical Informatics*. Mr Teo Moh Gin, from Arthur Andersen, Singapore, acknowledged the commitment of the world-wide company to Health Information Technology internationally and regionally, and offered to assist further in any way the company could.



ELECTION OF INAUGURAL COMMITTEE

Singapore was nominated President, People's Republic of China was nominated Vice-President and Hong Kong nominated Hon. Secretary. The meeting ratified the nominations and representatives to these positions were considered duly elected.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

The Draft Constitution (pre-circulated) was discussed in general terms. Various amendments were proposed for further consideration, in particular some items pertaining to Article #3 and #4.

SUBSCRIPTION FEE

No fee was determined. However, it was felt that a fee in the vicinity of US\$50 per annum per country would be reasonable. This would be ratified at the next meeting (of the Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Informatics).

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

This was dispensed with, in the absence of the elected President (Dr P K Wong).


SECOND PAN-PACIFIC CONFERENCE/IMIA Application

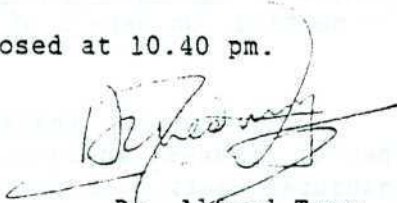
To be ratified at a later meeting.

NEXT MEETING

At MedInfo '89 at Beijing<sup>4</sup>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.40 pm.

  
Dr P Nugawela  
Conference Chairman

  
Dr Alfred Tang  
Secretary  
Asia Pacific Association of Medical Informatics

## APPENDIX

### Countries invited to participate in the regional association

Korea  
\*Japan  
\*People's Republic of China  
\*Hong Kong  
Taiwan  
\*Thailand  
India  
Pakistan  
\*Malaysia  
\*Singapore  
Philippines  
\*Republic of Indonesia  
\*New Zealand  
Sri Lanka  
\*Australia

### Professional Bodies invited

\*W.H.O. (Pacific Region; SE Asian Region)  
\*I.M.I.A.  
E.F.M.I. (regional body in IMIA)

\* *Represented at inaugural meeting (October 1988)*