

Summary Report on 14th ASCoN Conference for SPIRIT

Livability's partner in Nepal, the Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC) hosted the 14th Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN) Conference from 3-5 December, 2015. The theme of this year's conference was "Quality of Life and Inclusion after Spinal Cord Injury." The conference venue was Hyatt Regency on Day 1 and 3 whereas SIRC facility on Day 2.

The ASCoN Conference is an event that brings people together, engaging different stakeholders including government policy making bodies, healthcare professionals, managers and persons with disabilities (Spinal Cord Injury - SCI). During this year's ASCoN conference, we reviewed existing policies related to rehabilitation in various countries, strengthened spinal injury services and human resources for organisations and people working in spinal injury management in the Asia region; and engaged persons with disabilities and SCI in decision making processes to ensure accessibility. We also shared information, ideas and knowledge of best practices in SCI management among members.

During the conference we conducted 9 practical workshops, scientific sessions, a poster exhibition, a prevention poster competition, the ASCoN Observership Award, a sports competition and cultural programme.

The conference was attended by 220 delegates from 19 different countries. New members were welcomed on to the ASCoN Executive Committee including Dr Khin, Myanmar, Dr Luh, Indonesia and Dr B S Lee from Korea. We are confident that through the conference, we encouraged more professionals in Nepal to become interested in SCI management and rehabilitation. This was an enriching experience for the health professionals working in this field.



Table 1. Delegates and countries represented

Australia	6
Bangladesh	12
Belgium	1
Canada	4
India	11
Indonesia	2
Ireland	3
Italy	1
Korea	3
Laos	2
Malaysia	1
Myanmar	1
Nepal	149
Netherlands	2
Sri Lanka	3
Sweden	1
Thailand	3
UK	10
USA	5
Total	220

HIGHLIGHTS

One of the major highlights of the 14th ASCoN Conference 2015 was the inaugural ceremony of the conference, inaugurated by the newly elected President of Nepal, H.E Bidhya Devi Bhandari. Other highlights included:

- Scientific sessions and paper presentations on Complication Management; Urological Management; Interprofessional/Disciplinary approach for SCI; Recent Advancements in the Field of SCI management; Community Based Rehabilitation; Psycho-social Rehabilitation and a Free Paper Section
- Discipline specific and team-based workshops (see Table 2)
- Session on IDAPP project (ISCoS Database ASCoN Pilot Project)
- ASCoN Observership Award (Euros 1,000) for best paper presentation. This was awarded to Imdadul Hoque, from CRP Bangladesh who will use the funds to undertake his observership at the ASCoN Training Centre in Malaysia.
- ASCoN Star Award for a person who has displayed outstanding contribution to SCI management – awarded to Valerie Taylor from CRP Bangladesh
- Poster Exhibition and award – awarded to Ms. Raveenan Jindamaneesirikul from Thailand
- Prevention Art Poster Competition – awarded to Ms. Rokhana Hoque from Bangladesh.
- Policy workshop to support the development of a national policy on the design, establishment and standardised operation of injury and rehabilitation service facilities in Nepal
- Practical Workshop on Urodynamics, facilitated by Prof JJ Wyndaele, ISCoS President, and Dr Apichana Kovindha
- Mini Symposium 1: Prevention of SCI due to falls/carrying heavy loads on the head; Mini Symposium 2: PMR development in association with Nepalese society of PMR; Symposium 3: Surgical Management; Symposium 4: ASCoN Consumers to develop module for www.elearnSCI.org; Symposium 5: Assistive Technology in low income countries
- Launch of ASCoN Psycho-social guidelines; ISCoS Textbook on comprehensive management of SCI; and SIRC's patients' profile book "Memoirs – fractured spines dreams unbroken"
- Wheelchair Sports competition
- Cultural Exchange Programme
- International Seminar on Injury and Rehabilitation management in Disasters.

Table 2 Workshops conducted on Day 2 of the 14th ASCoN Conference

Workshop Title	Workshop Conductor
Goal setting in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation – Whose goal is it anyway?	Dr. Ruth Marshall, Srijana Manandhar, Soni Pahiju
IDAPP Workshop: The Beginning of a Spinal Injury Free World	Dr. H.S. Chhabra, Chanda Rana
International Standards Examination for the Classification of Spinal Cord Injury	Dr. Ronald Reeves, Lisa Harvey
Quality of Life and Inclusion - A Nursing Perspective	Fiona Stephenson, Mandira Baniya
Does it matter if my patients like me? Looking at patient motivation and rehab outcomes.	Association of Nepal Occupational Therapist (ANOT)
Physiotherapy management of SCI	Prof. Lisa Harvey, Chanda Rana
Monitoring and Evaluation: The Road to Lessons Learned	Dr. Katrina Collins, Durga Prasad Bhattarai
Sexuality and Spinal Cord Injury: A Workshop for Consumers, their Partners and Health Care Providers	Dr. Stanley Ducharme, Shivjeet Singh Raghav
Wheelchair activity training workshop for SCI patients	Dr. Wang-Jae Lee, Keshab Sitaula, Udaya Adhikari, Kshetra Gurung

WHEELCHAIR SPORTS COMPETITION

Two games were organized on Day 2 before the lunch break - a Wheelchair Relay Race and a Bottle Hitting Competition. In total 30 patients of SIRC competed. There was great excitement among the crowded audience, cheering on the sports competitors. The skilled winners were awarded with certificates, gift hampers and medals.

SPONSORS

The organisers are grateful to the sponsors of the 14th ASCoN Conference - DFID/UKAID, Direct Relief, Fisher Foundation, Livability, SPIRIT, International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), Himalayan Bank Limited, Himalayan Brewery Limited and Pernod Ricard for their financial or in-kind support.

FINANCIAL REPORT ON SPIRIT EXPENDITURE

Please see below the report on expenditure relating to the Spirit Grant. Funding was utilised to support attendance of 12 faculty, speakers and workshop facilitators (£1,266.55) from 4 Asian countries, including people with SCI; and the ASCoN Observership Award (€1,000/£735.29). Livability is extremely grateful to Spirit for its grant of £2,000 towards these costs.

Country	Name	Role	Units	Rate NRS	Accomm NRS	Food NRS	Total NRS	Total GBP £
India	Shivjeet Singh Raghav, Hemant, Brahm Jeet Singh	Workshop facilitator (Sexuality)	5	7079.65	35398.25	12750	48148.25	307.07
	Dr Komal Kamra, Nurse	Speaker	5	5068.38	25341.9	4250	29591.90	188.72
	Capt Dr Dilip Kumar Sinha, Dr Arnab Sinha	Speaker	4	5068.38	20273.52	8500	28773.52	183.50
	Dr Nekram Upadhyaya, Dr. Gaurav Sachdev**	Workshop facilitators (Assistive Devices and IDAPP Project)	4	4183.43 dbi; 3346.74 sgl	18407.08	8500	26907.08	171.60
Thailand	Dr. Apichana	Faculty	5	2500	12500	0	12500.00	79.72
Laos	Dr. Bouathep	Faculty	5	4183.43	20917.15	9550	30467.15	194.31
Myanmar	Dr. Khin	Faculty	5	2500	12500	9550	22050.00	140.63
Sub-Total					145337.9	53100	198437.90	1265.55
ASCoN Observership Award								
Country	Name	Role		Rate €	ASCoN Observership Award		Total €	Total GBP £
Bangladesh	Imdadul Hoque	Winner	1	1,000	For best paper presentation		1000	735.29
Total								2000.84

Note: Exchange Rate:

£1 = NRS 156.8

£1 = €1.36