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# ASPOA

[www.ostomyasiasouthpacific.org](http://www.ostomyasiasouthpacific.org)

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## Asia South Pacific Ostomy Association Magazine



# President's Message

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## Invitation to the first ASPOA Conference in Tehran, Iran, October 2011

### Dear Presidents of Member Associations of Asia and South Pacific Ostomy Association (ASPOA)

It is my great honor to inform you that the Iranian Ostomy Society (IOS) has announced the programme of the first conference of the Asia and South Pacific Ostomy Association (ASPOA), held from 19th to 21st October this year in Tehran, Iran. This is the first regional Conference of IOA organized in a middle eastern country and I can expect it will offer a good chance to expand our network to the region and Central Asian countries, where IOS is sole member of ASPOA.

IOS has originally been chosen, two years ago, as the host of the 7th Conference of the Asian Ostomy Association (AOA), but after a resolution that South Pacific members, Australia and New Zealand, be merged with AOA adopted at the IOA World Council Meeting in Frankfurt last November, the House of Delegates meeting of newly formed bigger regional association, ASPOA, agreed the planned conference in Iran would be the first one of ASPOA.

I do hope all the member associations will be represented at the Iranian Conference and it will be a step board

for future development of better quality of life of ostomy patients in Asian and South Pacific countries.

Please note that the Conference Programme, forms to register to the Conference, to apply visa to enter Iran and hotel information are uploaded on the IOS web site; <http://www.iranostomy.com/>. You are advised to send the registration and visa application forms to IOS as soon as possible.

#### HOUSE of DELEGATES Meeting:

I would like to invite delegates of the member associations shall participate to the HOD Meeting held in the afternoon of 20th October. HOD Meeting is the most important meeting to discuss organization, activities and future plans of ASPOA. New officers of ASPOA will be elected at the meeting, as well.

In this regard, all the member associations could make proposals to modify ASPOA Constitution and could nominate candidates of four members of the Coordination Committee, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Please notify to our secretary, Mr. Ronaldo S. Lora, if you wish to make proposals and/or nominations. His e-mail address is; [ronald.s.lora@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.s.lora@gmail.com)

#### COUNTRY REPORTS:

##### Iran Ostomy Society

Please inform IOS about your date of arrival and departure and if you are interested to join meeting tour to Shiraz and Isfahan. (Details are in [www.iranostomy.com](http://www.iranostomy.com)) .

All the participating associations are required to submit country reports to the secretary of the Conference, Dr. Nanaie of IOS by 15th September, 2011. Country reports are expected to describe the development of your associations for last three years, in English. His e-mail address is; [info@iranostomy.com](mailto:info@iranostomy.com)

#### CONTRIBUTION to ASPOA NEWSLETTER:

As we have published Newsletter of AOA regularly, I wish to edit the first ASPOA Newsletter as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of June. I ask you to send latest news of your associations to Ronaldo by mid-June.

Finally, Iran is a stable and safe country with full of cultural attraction, tasty foods and hospitality. When I visited Iran last September, I have found that the Iranian Ostomy Society is well organized and active group of more than 3000 ostomates, doctors and nurses. I am very much looking forwards to seeing you all in Tehran.

With warmest regards,

Prof. Michiaki Takaishi  
ASPOA President  
JOA Vice President

# Japan Ostomy Association

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## JOA helps ostomates in trouble by the earthquake and tsunami

March 11th 2011 will surely be remembered for decades in all the hearts of Japanese people. As of end of June, it is reported that 15,500 died and 7,300 are still missing by the big earthquake and tsunami attacked the north-eastern part of Japanese main island. The Japan Ostomy Association (JOA) has taken immediate action to help ostomates living in the devastated region and in trouble to obtain ostomy goods, in cooperation with the Japan Association of Ostomy Appliances Industry (JAOAI). Four days after the shock, JAOAI has transported stoma bags for 3,700 ostomates x 2 weeks quantity and a week later 5,500 x 2 weeks to three major cities in the region because about 8,000 ostomates are living there. It was agreed between JOA and JAOAI that the latter provides with free ostomy goods to the ostomates in need for a month after a disaster.

Collaboration with health and welfare authorities, central and regional, was also important to distribute those goods to

ostomates who have lost their houses and are living in thousands of shelters. Ostomy appliance retail sellers and JOA local chapters were eligible for traffic permission and priority gasoline purchase coupons by the recommendation made by the administration.

JOA has made effort to use mass-media to let them know how hard the lives of ostomy patients are in case stoma bags are not available and asked them to report that JOA's helping hands are extended to the damaged areas.

Colorectal surgeons, urologists and nurses were very much cooperative with JOA in giving aids to the ostomates who were in trouble. Their vivid report from the hospitals and shelters sent through internet to JOA were quite useful and were shared by many people concerned.

Finally I thank to all friends of ostomy world who have sent me messages expressing their sympathy to the Japanese ostomates who lost their own or family lives or properties.

## JOA holds 23rd Annual General Assembly

The Japan Ostomy Association (JOA) had its 23rd annual general assembly in Hiroshima on 4th and 5th June, 2011. 250 members gathered and the House of Delegates meeting approved previous year's activity and financial reports, endorsed programme and budget for the year 2011-2012 and elected 20 directors and 3 auditors for the term of two years. Most notable was that among the directors elected three were in age of 30s and 40s. JOA has never had such young directors in its history. The new Board of Directors has elected Prof. Takaishi the President of JOA. He made congratulatory address at the opening ceremony as the president of ASPOA.

He also chaired a symposium to discuss how the ostomates operate peer support programmes. Prof. Shindo was one of the discussants and he introduced the Ostomy Visitors Guideline of IOA as an important method of peer support.



## Australia and ASPOA

By: Peter McQueen

In November 2010 a historic decision was made in Frankfurt Germany to restructure IOA and with that the redefining of the regional system of IOA. The South Pacific Ostomy Association and the Asian Ostomy Association were amalgamated to form the Asia South Pacific Ostomy Association (ASPOA). This region not only covers a huge area geographically but represents a vast population of Ostomates with the member countries coming from all corners of the region. We in Australia are looking forward to working with our fellow member countries to develop and foster support for those Ostomates in disadvantaged circumstances. Currently donated appliances are being sent to many areas in our region including Indonesia, Philippines Iran and Fiji.

In Australia we are fortunate that there is a well funded Ostomy support Scheme that is administered by the Federal Department of Health. The Australian council of Stoma Associations (ACSA) represents approximately 36,000 Ostomates and as one of the principal stakeholders is very much involved in the Schemes management.

The Annual conference of the 22 Australian Associations will be held this year in Sydney early October full details are on the ACSA website. The conference will be held just prior to the Asia South Pacific Ostomy Association conference in Tehran.

The conference in Tehran will be the first conference of the ASPOA and will establish the framework for the development of regional support programs. It will give all delegates attending the opportunity to put forward and assess any proposals that may be presented by focussing on providing support to those in need, for after all this is the principal reason the region exists.



By: Bong Kyu Chun

K.O.A had struggled against the government for "purchasing pouches". Since September, 2005, government has given us the benefit in purchasing pouches as 5% on our expense, with 95% government subsidy. But this law is limited for only 5 years after surgical operation of colorectal cancer. After the 5 years is finished, many beneficiaries must pay 60%.

KOA protested that term will not be limited to 5 years or the rate of our expense will be down to 10 - 20%. Recently government announced "The rate of our expense will be 20% from October this year." It is on the process of being made into law.

K.O.A attended 2012 APDF (Asia and Pacific Disabled Forum) Conference Organizing Committee Meeting held in Incheon, Korea, on 26th -27th of May. K.O.A joins the Organizing Committee as a member. It will be held for disabled persons as a world meeting in Incheon slated on October 2012. The Organizing Committee Meeting includes UNESCAP, APDF, DPI A.P, RI World Congress for preparing next years meeting.

## HIGHLIGHTS for the APDF Planning for May 2012





# Federation of New Zealand Ostomy Societies

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## New Zealand Country Report 2011

By: Richard McNair

Over the last three years New Zealand has experienced a change to the way in which Ostomates receive their Ostomy supplies with a standardised purchasing system being introduced. We are extremely lucky in this country in as much as we do get free supply of products which are all paid for by the Government. The governing body, the Federation of New Zealand Ostomy Societies Inc has in the last twelve months forged a much closer relationship with the New Zealand Health Dept including face to face meetings with the Minister of Health in order to insure that the current situation remains unchanged.

New Zealand took part in the last IOA World Ostomy Day and we considered that this was a very successful event for us with many societies reporting a large amount of increased awareness from the public. FNZOS Vice President Geoff Booth was our national co-ordinator for WOD and also arranged the New Zealand entry in the Coloplast Merit Award which I am proud to say we won for the second time in a row. One of the things that we were able to do was to arrange the printing of World Ostomy Day postage stamps and I believe that New Zealand may be the only country that is able to do this and these were received very well by all societies.

Every year in August New Zealand holds the National Ostomy Conference in a different city and these are always enthusiastically attended by 100+ Ostomates from around the country. The FNZOS holds two Executive meetings annually; one at the time of the annual meeting and one in late February and it

does take the best part of a day and a half to cover our agenda. This year due to the devastating earthquakes in Christchurch, which is where our midterm meet is held, this had to be cancelled as not only was the venue damaged but several of our Executive were involved in the civil defines emergency.

In November 2010 three members of our Executive (Barry Maughan, Jill Newton and I) travelled to Frankfurt Germany to participate in the IOA World Council meeting which was an event of world significance and New Zealand is proud to be a part of the newly formed Asia & South Pacific Ostomy Association and we look for wards to doing our part in assisting Ostomates in the region.

As a country New Zealand is now on the brink of starting a Government sponsored National Bowel Screening Program which will be rolled out over the next few years.

New Zealand looks forward to the future with confidence as we have a strong Ostomy movement with good links to the Government and the supply companies.



A group of Ostomates from the Western Bay of Plenty Ostomy Society

# Ostomy Association of the Philippines

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The OAP officers attending to a woman newly operated at the Philippine General Hospital giving advise and counselling. min ut iustis nonsequeliquat.

By: Gregorio Oculito

The Ostomy Association of the Philippines is composed of cancer survivors and people with colorectal diseases who are now living with a colostomy bag.

Every last Tuesday of the month is the regular meeting of the OAP at the conference room on the 3rd floor of the out patient department building of the Philippine General Hospital and likewise at the Philippine Cancer Society of the Philippines inside Malacanang Palace. We have two venues for the meeting upon the discretion of the officers. During these meetings, there is a joyful for every members as they share food and share experiences where words of encouragement and prayers are shared. This strengthens the groups relationship and camaraderie making life easier and happy for OAP ostomates. Agendas and order of business are discussed by the officers to the members for the continuing implementation of its programs, activities and advocacy.

We advocate that all of its member will live their life to the fullest fighting the BIG C with positive energies. We the officers conduct hospital visits at the Philippine General Hospital and

other government hospitals to give counseling, healing prayer for the patients in order to boost their moral and spirit and likewise give colostomy supplies.

We also distribute among the association free ostomy appliances that came from Astrid Graham of FOW-Canada and likewise from Lennie Mirasol, a Filipina based in Australia.

Presently, our association is soliciting funds in order to receive a donation from FOW-USA through Ruth Salinger. I have spoken with Ronaldo Lora, 20 40 representative, who was able to secure a donation which was distributed to four government hospitals and to new members of the association but the expenses incurred was big because of unavoidable circumstances with regards to government hospital recipient and likewise documentation. We are positive that this will be possible in the near future.



# Ostomates India

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We are Self-help Group of Ostomates, dedicated to Rehabilitation of Ostomy Patients

By: Manohar

These are some photos during the distribution of free ostomy equipment to our members who are poor. The supplies were from FOW Canada. The distribution was held last May 2011.





## **From the Editors Desk**

**We carry the color green. This color symbolizes: life, nature, fertility and well being. It also means learning, growth and harmony.**

**As such, we are proud to present the first edition of the Asia South Pacific Ostomy Association e-Newsletter vis-a-vis magazine.**

**This publication is something special because it is the result of the merging between two regional associations that has been validated and approved in the recent IOA meeting held in Frankfurt, Germany.**

**We are one Regional Association alive, growing and harmonious.**

**We look forward meeting again in the first regional conference in Tehran, Iran as the ASPOA.**

**We encourage others to take part in the success of this conference and likewise continue in the advocacy and supporting the programmes of the ASPOA for the quality of life for ostomates especially the poor and the indigents.**

**For other matters, we hopefully can also decide on a new logo for the ASPOA. May I also make the reminder that associations that has not paid up in advance for the Iran conference will not have voting rights.**

**Happy reading to all.**

**Editor  
RSL July 2011**