



## **Asian Congress of Nutrition (ACN)2027 – Bid process by Nutrition Society of Malaysia (NSM)**

NSM successfully won the bid to host the 15 ACN in 2027 in Kuala Lumpur!

Nutrition Society Malaysia last hosted the Asian Congress of Nutrition (ACN) in the year 1991. This series of 4-yearly congresses are under the auspices of the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS). After 32 years, the society unanimously agreed that it was time for Malaysia to be the next host of this prestigious regional conference. Preparation to bid for the next ACN started in 2021 and we formed the organising team. Our team started working on the bid document together with MyCEb representative 2 years ago and the process to finalise the document was lengthy as it was important to capture many aspects of hosting the conference in the next four years. One of the initial steps in drafting the proposal was to set the congress theme. After multiple brainstorming sessions, the team agreed that fostering closer ties within the region and working in tandem with other nutrition societies is important to advance nutrition sciences and finalised it at “Strengthening Regional Networks for Nutrition Action”.

During the proposal preparation, the team worked on the cost of the conference with a target of 2,000 attendees. The programme for the 3-day conference, 12-15 September 2027, was outlined after weighing in past ACN conferences to tie in with the objectives. The inclusion of breakfast workshops is a new offer by the team to provide participants with the opportunity to learn more skills and hands-on in specific contemporary topics. Besides that, organising team has proposed to conduct educational tours to cultural/indigenous villages, urban farming at low-cost flats, nutrition promotion in schools and visit Malaysia research institutes.

Some of the key points included in the proposal were travel awards for young researchers to attend the conference. In addition, Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture Malaysia pledged financial support for the team to host the next ACN, showing strong support from the government officials with support letters from Ministry of Health and some industries. In line with the goals of the series of Asian Congress of Nutrition, NSM aims to share evidence-based scientific findings, develop food and nutrition policies and programmes, enhance capacity building and strengthen regional ties in networking and collaborations.

One of the key preparations that were made for the bidding process was to finalise the bidding document. Printed copies of the document were disseminated to meeting attendees during the formal bidding session. Additionally, the team prepared some souvenirs, courtesy of KLCC Convention Centre as a memorable gesture for all attendees.

The bid presentation was scheduled after the FANS President's meeting on 14 September at 2 pm. During the FANS Assembly, Prof. Hardinsyah, the president of FANS (2019-2023), announced that three countries, India, Malaysia and Thailand, would be contending to host the forthcoming congress. These country representatives presented their bid during the meeting and Malaysia was represented by Dr Tee, president of NSM. A total of 12 country representatives were present and eligible to cast votes, including representatives from Mongolia, Pakistan, Thailand, India, Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, China, Japan, Singapore, and the Philippines. The voting outcome indicated a clear preference for Malaysia, given our good track record in hosting conferences.



In a move to celebrate our win and extend our gratitude to the support given to us, we hosted a tea ceremony at Cheng Du Yuan Zi, a tea house within the conference venue. We secured the venue on 17 September from 12-2 pm for our celebratory get-together. A total of 30 attendees from almost all the Asian nutrition societies were present to witness the tea-making and Kung-Fu Tea Master demonstrations. We had the privilege of savoring traditionally brewed tea and witnessing the act of serving tea from the 16th-generation tea master. At this networking session, we hoped to have cemented the support for our upcoming conference with key people from each country. Dr Tee and Prof Yang, the president of the Chinese Nutrition Society, exchanged tokens of appreciation during this event.

On a different note, Malaysia had the largest delegation at the congress compared to other countries. This can be attributed to the NSM Subsidy, which was provided to members interested in attending the congress. A further reason for celebrations was that several Malaysian delegates received prestigious awards during the event. Emeritus Professor Dr Mohd Ismail Noor was honoured with the Life Time Achievement Award; Professor Hamid Jan was honored with the Fellow Award; Assoc Prof. Dr. Chin Yit Siew was recognized with the Outstanding Nutritionist Award, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Satvinder Kaur was presented with the Young Nutrition Leader Award. Additionally, a number of Malaysians were recognized across various categories. In the Young Investigator Travel Award category, three Malaysians - Dr. Lee Siew Siew (University of Nottingham Malaysia), Dr. Ng Choon Ming (Monash University Malaysia), and Mr. Eow Shiang Yen (Universiti Putra Malaysia) - were recipients of the award, which supported their travel expenses to attend the conference. Moreover, two Malaysian students were also acknowledged for their research work and presentations. Mr. Yeo Giin Shang from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia received the Best Poster Award, while Ms. Mok Kai Ting from UCSI University was honored with the Best Oral Presentation Award. This impressive recognition highlights the significant contributions made by Malaysians in the field of nutrition at the congress.

25 November 2023



*The team bidding to host the 15 ACN during the FANS Executive Council meeting on 14 September 2023*



*The jubilant team after NSM won the bid.  
From left: Prof Hamid Jan (Scientific Chair), Dr Satvinder, Dr Tee, Mr Hatton-Jones (Deputy General Manager, KLCC Convention Centre), Dr Mahenderan, Mr Gomagan (MyCEB), Dr Wong, Dr Chin*



*Malaysian delegates and several Asian country representatives at the tea ceremony*



*Delegates from several Asian countries at the tea ceremony*



*Prof Yang, President of FANS (2023-2027) handed over the flag to Dr Tee, Vice-President of FANS and the next host for ACN 2027.*



*The NSM team announcing NSM as the host of 15 ACN at the closing ceremony of the 14 ACN*



*Prof Yang and Dr Tee exchanged tokens of appreciation.*



Emeritus Prof Dr Mohd Ismail Noor –Lifetime Achievement Recognition



Prof Dr Hamid Jan Jan Mohamed – Fellowship Award



Assoc Prof Dr Chin Yit Siew - Outstanding Nutritionist Award



Assoc Prof Dr Satvinder Kaur - Young Nutrition Leader Award