

MALAYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

N.K.S. THARMASEELAN*1



MMA Council

The MMA Council comprising of 31 members includes the 9 key office bearers who are also members of the Executive Committee and 21 branch representatives from the 14 states in Malaysia.

Section Concerning House Officers, Medical Officers & Specialists (SCHOMOS)

The SCHOMOS have frequent meetings with the Ministry of Health to raise SCHOMOS issues.

- Its objective is to identify, address and seek the cooperation of the government to resolve issues relating to the welfare, pay, and allowances and working conditions of all grades of doctors in government service.
- SCHOMOS over the years has evolved into a powerful Section of the MMA which conducts periodic meetings with the Director General and other top Ministry of Health officers and has achieved many notable successes in its ventures.
- The issues discussed periodically includes: clinical allowance for medical officers, review of specialist allowance, overtime pay, promotion prospects for medical officers and specialists, housemen issues, etc.

The Private Practitioners Section (PPS)

The Private Practitioners Section of MMA was established to look after the needs of the private practitioners.

- PPS continues to be the negotiating arm of the Association in all matters relating to private practitioners, quality of pharmaceuticals, dispensing and labelling, disposal of clinical wastes, FOMEMA, SOCSO, MCOs, Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act and Regulations,

National Health Financing Scheme, Globalisation, to name a few.

- Currently, MMA is working with Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on how to address the increasing woes of the General Practitioners.

The 4 Societies Under the Umbrella of MMA Are:

- Public Health Society
- Society of Sports Medicine
- Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and
- MMA Society of Medical Students.

We also have 26 Committees and MMA is represented on 36 external bodies, government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

MMA Membership

Currently there are over 30,000 registered medical practitioners in the country and only about 14,000 (including students) are members of the association.

MMA Publications

We have two publications: the Berita MMA is printed monthly and the Medical Journal of Malaysia is printed quarterly.

51st MMA National Annual General Meeting

During the 51st MMA National AGM organised in May 2011 in Perak about 600 members were present. The election of the office bearers were carried out from the floor, unlike previous years it was done through postal ballot. Dr. Mary Suma Cardosa, President 2011/2012 was installed as the first Lady President.

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This article is based on a presentation made as the Report of Activities by each NMA at the 27th CMAAO General Assembly, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C., on November 11, 2011.

International Affairs

46th CMAAO Mid-Term Council Meeting, 16–18 September 2010, Kuala Lumpur

The 46th CMAAO Mid-Term Council Meeting was hosted by MMA on 16–18 September 2010 was attended by 43 foreign delegates from 12 countries participated. The theme of the scientific meeting was “Task Shifting.” Two Resolutions on “Tobacco Cessation” and “Drug Prescriptions” were also discussed. The conclusion of the meeting was collated as the unified opinion from CMAAO and submitted to the WMA.

14th MASEAN Council Meeting, 24–26 September 2010, Yangon, Myanmar

At the 14th MASEAN Council Meeting, MMA was represented by Dr. Mary Suma Cardosa and Dato’ Dr. N.K.S. Tharmaseelan.

The Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), 10–14 November 2010, Mediterranean Island of Malta

The Commonwealth Medical Association’s 21st Triennial Conference was attended by Dato’ Dr. N.K.S. Tharmaseelan, Datuk Dr. Kuljit Singh and Dr. Ravindran Naidu. Dr. David K.L. Quek was elected as Vice-President of South East Asia.

Current National Problems

Regular meetings are held between MMA and Ministry of Health to discuss current national problems.

1 Malaysia clinic

The setting up of 1 Malaysia clinics manned by medical assistants and nurses by the Government in aid of the urban poor in the country was strongly opposed by MMA because of our fear of subtle task-shifting and a possible reduction of standards or quality of medical care for the most indigent and marginalised in the urban areas.


Glut of medical doctors

By 2020, we expect that we might have as many as 80,000 doctors, which would mean that we cannot sustain their training even for their houseman ship years or retaining them in the public sector.

We are urging the government to quickly establish a moratorium on medical schools and programmes and enforce more stringent quality assessment of these schools and beyond.

Lynas rare earth plant

A company by the name of Lynas is currently building up the world’s largest rare earth refining factory in Gebeng about 25km from Kuantan, Pahang. The plant will import raw rare earth from Western Australia to be processed here before exporting to other countries. Lynas’s explanation on why they are bringing the rare earth plant to Malaysia instead of processing it in Australia, claims that the skills and engineering requirement cannot be met by the human resource in Australia. The long-term management of the enormous quantity of radioactive waste is the major factor concerning environmental and public safety and the MMA in its role to defend the people’s health has made several press statements to stop the operation.



COUNTRY REPORT
By
MALYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Presented By
Dr Mary Suma Cardosa
President

At The
27TH CMAAO CONGRESS & 47TH COUNCIL MEETING

10 – 12 NOVEMBER 2011
GRAND HYATT TAIPEI,
TAIWAN



MMA COUNCIL 2011/2012
The MMA Council **comprising of 31 members** includes the key office-bearers who are also members of the Executive Committee; as well as 21 branch representatives from the 14 states in Malaysia.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- **CMAAO**
Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania
- **MASEAN**
Medical Associations of South East Asian Nations
- **CMA**
Commonwealth Medical Association
- **WMA**
World Medical Association

The 46th CMAAO Mid-Term Council Meeting
Le Meridien Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
16 – 18 September 2010





51st MMA National Annual General Meeting

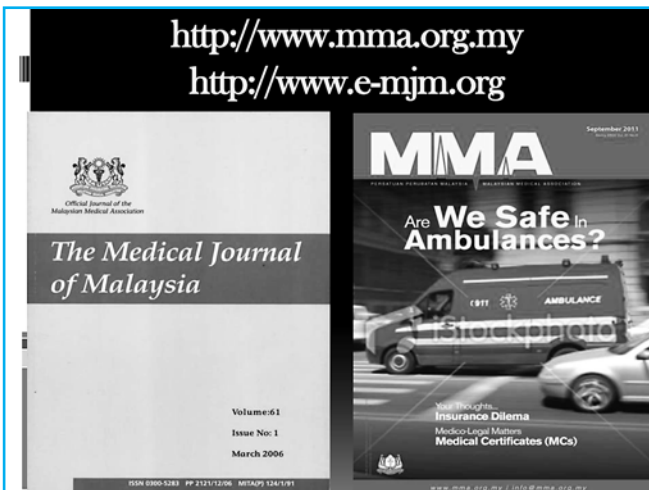
- The 51st MMA National AGM was organised in May 2011 in Perak.
- Election of the office bearers were carried out from the floor, unlike previous years when voting was through postal ballot.





Recent changes

- Change in method of voting for Executive Committee members
 - postal ballot to voting at the AGM
- Going electronic, going green
 - Email communication
 - Paperless council meetings
 - Online membership system
 - E-Journal (Medical Journal of Malaysia) – online submission and online access (open access)



Challenges: Membership

- Declining as a percentage of the total number of doctors in the country
- Now only about 25-30%
- Strategies to address this
 - Membership drives in all states
 - Recruitment at houseman orientation
 - Medical student membership
 - Online membership system



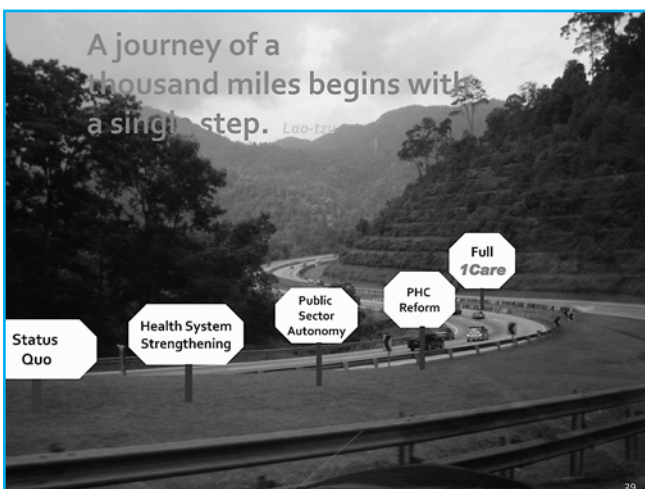
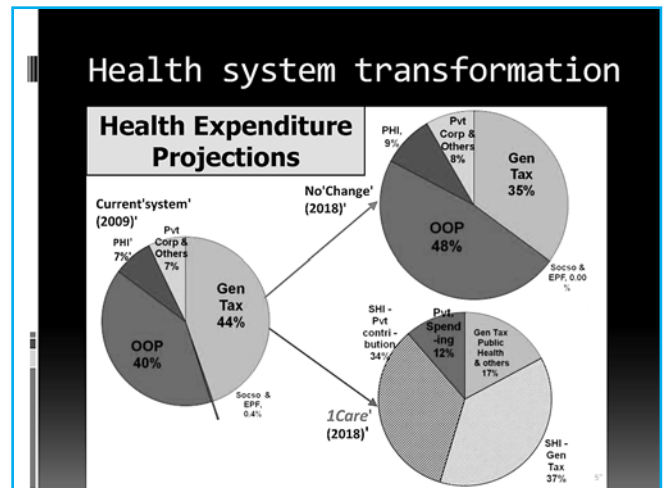
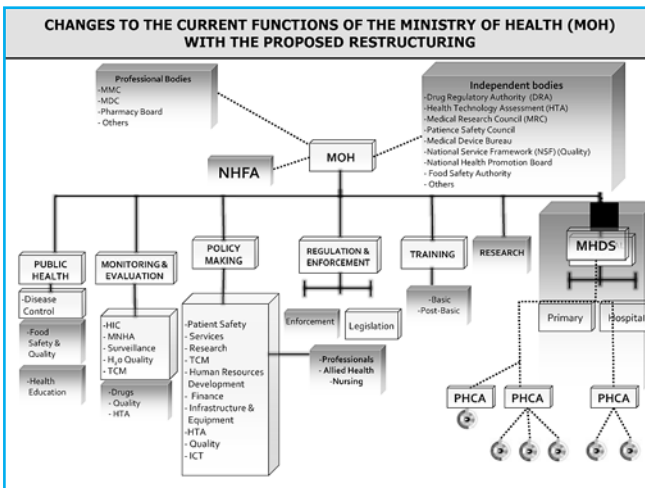
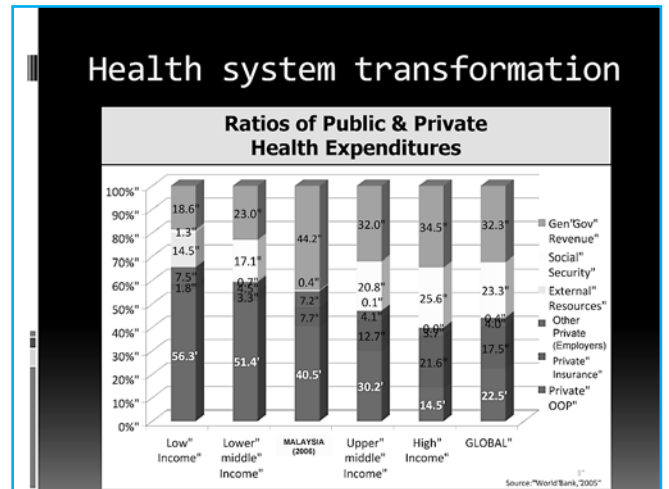
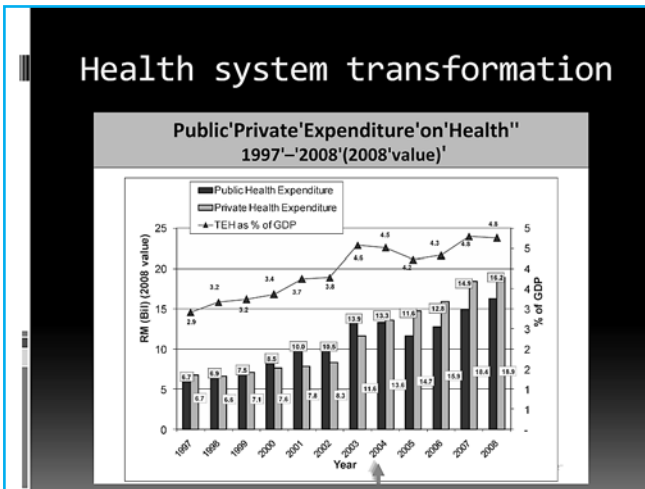
National issues

Health System Transformation

1CARE FOR 1MALAYSIA



1MALAYSIA
PEOPLE FIRST
PERFORMANCE NOW



National issues

Klinik 1Malaysia
Urban based clinics
run by "Assistant Medical Officers"

National Issues: Glut of Medical Doctors

- Current no. of doctors >30,000 (1:900)
- By 2015: 1:600
- By 2020 1:400 or less???
- Issues
 - Training of housemen, young Medical officers
 - Quality of care
 - Opportunities for specialisation
 - ?future unemployment for doctors

National Issues: Private Practitioners' Woes

- Increasing regulations
 - Fee schedule
- Shrinking rice bowl esp for GPs
 - Calls for "specialisation" and "accreditation"
 - Concern about their place in the new healthcare system

National Issues: Government Dr's Woes

- Housemanship training
 - Shift system
- Promised increases in allowances etc not forthcoming
- Change in "top management"

National Issues: Lynas Rare Earth Plant

- Plans to build the world's largest rare earth refining factory in Gebeng, Pahang.
- The long-term management of the enormous quantity of radioactive waste is the major factor concerning environmental and public safety
- The MMA in its role to defend the people's health has made several press statements to stop the operation.

Liberalisation of Health services

- AFTA, AFAS, MRA
- Full liberalisation by 2012
 - Practice and ownership of hospitals and healthcare facilities
 - too fast and not enough check & balance mechanisms in place

