



Singapore Medical Association Hosts 16th MASEAN Conference

“Pandemic Preparedness & Response in South East Asian Nations”

Guest-of-Honour

Dr Amy Khor

**Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Manpower,
Mayor, South West District and Deputy Government Whip**

Singapore, May 9, 2014 – The Singapore Medical Association (SMA) will host the 16th MASEAN Conference held here in Singapore from May 9 to 11, 2014.

A total of 60 delegates are expected to attend the conference which opens this afternoon at the Regent Hotel. Among them, will be the leadership of the national medical associations from Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore. Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Manpower will grace the opening ceremony as its guest-of-honour.

The Medical Association of the South-East Asian Nations (MASEAN) was formed on March 1, 1980. It seeks to build closer ties among the national medical associations in ASEAN. MASEAN aims to assist the ASEAN region in attaining the highest possible level of health, and realise the need for mutual cooperation and collective effort in maintaining the dignity and standards of the medical profession in ASEAN.

Apart from promoting close ties among the national medical associations and physicians in ASEAN and establishing common policies in attaining the highest possible level of healthcare, the association aims to foster the study and dissemination of all aspects of medical knowledge and to study and report on the problems which confront the profession in the region.

The theme for the 16th MASEAN meeting, “Pandemic Preparedness & Response in South East Asian Nations”, is timely and relevant. The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic affected more than 30 countries globally including Singapore. In the age of international air travel, the world was also affected by the 2009 Influenza A(H1N1) pandemic. Healthcare institutions and medical professionals play an important role in

pandemic preparedness. The MASEAN community sees its role in being constantly alert to the threat of emerging disease outbreaks and being ready to respond with a unified strategy.

SMA is also delighted to announce that its 1st Vice President, Dr Wong Tien Hua has been appointed the incoming Chairperson of MASEAN. Dr Wong takes over the chairmanship from the outgoing chairman of MASEAN, Dr Jose Asa Sabili.

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About The Singapore Medical Association

Formed in 1959, the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) is the national medical organisation representing the majority of medical practitioners in both the public and private sectors.

The objectives of the SMA are:

- to promote the medical and allied sciences in Singapore;
- to maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession;
- to foster and preserve the unity and aim of purpose of the medical profession as a whole;
- to voice its opinion and to acquaint the Government and other relevant bodies with the policies and attitudes of the profession;
- to support a higher standard of medical ethics and conduct; to enlighten and direct public opinion on problems of health in Singapore; and
- to publish papers, journals and other materials in furtherance of these objectives.

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