



International Scholarship Report

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Emergency Medicine is a fast growing specialty and continue to develop across the globe. ACEM plays a vital role in assisting the development of emergency medicine overseas through International Emergency Medicine (IEM) - Network. International Scholarship which is funded by ACEM foundation is such an invaluable opportunity for future leaders in the field from developing nations to share the knowledge and the experience with experts in the EM field. It was an honor and privilege to me to attend the 35th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of ACEM in Perth as one of international scholars, representing Sri Lanka and that made me to explore many opportunities to develop EM in my country.

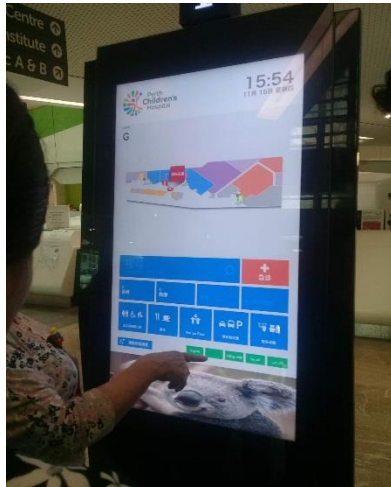
Visit to Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) and State Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service

On the first day of the visit, 15th November 2018, we visited RFDS, one of the largest and most comprehensive aeromedical organizations in the world. FACEM Dr. Chris Curry accompanied us for the site visit and FACEM Luke Pritchard did a very informative guided explanation about the emergency service and primary health care they provide throughout the Australia. It was a very inspiring tour and I was amazed by this well-organized Emergency Medical Service coordinates with the ambulance control center and simulation unit of air retrieval by using latest aviation and medical technology.



Perth Children Hospital

On the same day after the lunch at Matilda Bay, we visited the largest specialist pediatric hospital and trauma center in west Australia 'Perth Children Hospital'. FACEM Dr. Meredith Borland, Director of ED, hosted the visit by giving a very comprehensive overview about the ED setup, floor of patients and how the latest technology in cooperates for the ED management.



In the evening we enjoyed the time by exploring the native bush land and botanic garden in Kings Park which is one of the largest inner city parks in the world.

Fiona Stanley Hospital Emergency Department

On 16th November we had an opportunity to visit an adult ED in Fiona Stanley Hospital and it was hosted by FACEM Dr. Ngaire Caruso, a very enthusiastic and passionate emergency physician did a wonderful elaboration about the ED setup and it made me to learn more about decontamination area, triage, Fast track and Short Stay Unit.



Rottnest Island Nursing Post

On the way back from Fiona Stanley Hospital, we caught a Northport Ferry to Rottnest Island and went to Rottnest Island Nursing Post which was hosted by Claire Parsons. It was a good example how a small nursing unit gives emergency care service for visitors and residents in the island. We participated for leisure ride, beach bath in a cool evening and had a time to enjoy Australian cousins in Fremantle with all our nominators.



Pre-congress workshops

There were several pre-congress workshops providing CME points and I participated for palliative and end of life care workshop, paediatric emergency medicine radiology workshop and paediatric emergency procedures workshop. All these programs were well formulated and had opportunity to get hand on skills as well.

ACEM College Ceremony and Welcome Reception

College Ceremony was the most glamorous occasion for all the international scholars and it was held on 18th November 2019 in Riverside Theatre of Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre with the participation of local and foreign delegates and graduates. We represented our countries by the traditional attire which gained more attraction from participants and it was a memorable occasion for me as we were awarded by the president of ACEM Dr. Simon Judkins. The most eye catching moment of the ceremony was the occasion of commandment of all the past presidents of the college at 35th anniversary. Welcome reception was at State Reception Centre in Kings Park and had time to meet experts from all part of the world to share the experience in the midst of music.





ASM Sessions

Starting from 19th November, we spent very informative four days in Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre with the participation of highest number of registrations in Perth to date. All the symposiums were well organized up to date and were brain storming. There were two interactive sessions namely around the globe and global emergency care hosted by FACEM Dr. Georgina Phillips creates a wonderful platform to share the human resources among countries and I was able to build up a new network among FACEMs for the advancement of EM in Sri Lanka through research, clinical training, post graduate overseas attachments, pre-hospital care etc.



ACEM International Scholars Presentations

This was most awaiting moment of me as a guest speaker in this international forum and I did my speech under the title of “Unfinished Journey” with elaboration of the history of emergency medical system in Sri Lanka, war and tsunami as imminent factors to demand structured emergency response system, development of post graduate training of Emergency Medicine, national policy and pre-hospital care. This session was hosted by another true Sri Lankan Dr. Bishan Rajapakse and the audience was surprised to hear the rapid progress of EM in Sri Lanka. Not only that, it was an inspiring moment to hear how hard it was to develop EM in Nepal, Myanmar, Botswana and Papua New Guinea.

IEM Network Dinner at Gazette Restaurant was a truly networking evening for us as we were able to share many opportunities to develop EM in regions with members of the IEM Network and other interest personalities. It was really encouraging to hear the enthusiasm of all members including the president of ACEM towards supporting Sri Lanka in many ways.



Gala Dinner

Gala dinner was the most distinguished event in this forum and it was an evening with delicious three course dinner, live musical performances, lots of dancing and fun at Bellevue Ballroom.



The experience and knowledge gained from this 10-day journey were invaluable and it is a pleasure to convey my sincere gratitude to ACEM foundation and Dr. Anna Davis not only as my nominator to this forum but as a glorious personality works with great passion to uplift emergency medicine in Sri Lanka. Our coordinator Ms. Karen Eastwood, a lady with kind heart to make this event more fruitful and relevant to us and her tiring effort must be greatly appreciated. It was like a family the time I spent with all the other international scholars (Dr. Duncan Sengiromo from PNG, Dr. Kago Mokte from Botswana, Dr. Masum Poudel from Nepal, Dr. Maung Wunna and Dr. Htet Htet Win from Myanmar) and their mentors and I enjoyed a lot their companionship. Beyond the friendship we were agreed to help each other in developing EM in our regions and already we have stepped for the next level by getting the maximum benefit from this forum and credit should goes to ACEM foundation in creating space for that.