

ICOE

Intensive Course in Obstetric Emergencies

This Course was developed by the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) in 2014 and formally endorsed by the AOFOG in 2015. OGSM provides the equipment and faculty while the funding for these courses is shared equally by OGSM and AOFOG. To date, these courses have been successfully conducted in Myanmar, Cambodia, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Laos, Pakistan and Nepal.

ICOE Programme Mongolia

Intensive Course in Obstetric Emergencies (ICOE) in Mongolia was held on the 4th & 5th Oct 2017, in Selenge Aimag General Hospital Mongolia, 400 km away from Ulanbataar, Northern most point of Mongolia. The Faculty from the OGSM had 5 members and the AOFOG was represented by the President Dr. Ravi Chandran. There had been 17 participants for the course and 7 for the Training of the Trainers. The programme had been very successful and appreciated by everybody in spite of the very cold weather and traveling difficulties.

The Mongolian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (MSOG) and the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) jointly organized the ICOE on May 20th - 21st 2019 in collaboration with and supported by AOFOG. The OGSM trainers comprising of Drs. Guna, Munis, Patricia, Alysa and Harris were joined by Mr. Baskeran who attended as an ICOE executive flew by China Air from KL International Airport at just past midnight on May 19th to Ulaanbataar via Beijing, and was supposed to arrive just past noon. The OGSM trainers had planned to have trainer's update session for the Mongolian ICOE trainers on new development in the curriculum that afternoon, but a 12-hour delay in Beijing International Airport for our connecting flight meant that this had to be cancelled. The team only arrived at 8.45pm. This meant some 'crisis' management was necessary for the Day 1 programme which had to be delayed slightly to allow for equipment set up which was otherwise meant to be completed on 19th May.



The course was conducted at the Mongolia National Centre for Maternal and Child Health (NCMCH) where 23 participants attended. The participants were obstetricians from the provinces around Ulaanbaatar, except for two who were from other parts of Mongolia. The AOFOG was represented by Dr. Rohana (Secretary General of AOFOG) and the MSOG by Dr. Tsedmaa (President). Dr. Gunasegaran was the course director, who also represented OGSM. The Mongolian trainers were Dr. Naraa, Sansar, Sarantuya, Batnasan, Enkhee and Ganaa. Dr. Rohana was the guest of honour and during the opening speech, commented on the benefits that ICOE brings to the AOFOG member countries and the continuous support from AOFOG for ICOE activities. Drs Kishgee (Head of department O & G) and the NCMCH Hospital Director also spoke on their support for ICOE during the opening ceremony.



Language was an obvious challenge; the breakout sessions were expertly handled by the dedicated Mongolian trainers who have matured into trainers of calibre. The lecture slides were in English with Mongolian translation by the trainers where necessary. The course was successful as noted by the continuous feedback provided by the interactive Mentimeter internet software. The participants were tested on 7 obstetric emergencies skills and the post-test skills scores in all 7 skills showed a huge improvement in the scores obtained by the participants, indicating the objective of acquiring and

improving of skills were achieved. The participants also commented that their objectives of attending the course were achieved.



The course once again proved popular and there is a demand for the ICOE to continue. Lack of funding and equipment however remain a challenge for the continuation of the course in Mongolia, as well as other AOFOG countries where ICOE have gone.

Recommendations

1. MSOG take a leadership role in ICOE for 2020 onwards with a clear plan of action on the number of courses and the target participants to be trained
2. The next TOT should be done in 2020 to train the next cohort of trainers and OGSM can assist in the TOT training module
3. The Simulation center at the NCMHC has some equipment and this should be sufficient to start an ICOE independently while budgeting for additional equipment
4. MSOG to seek funding from relevant agencies e.g. USAID, UNFPA, AOFOG for the future sustainability of the course

ICOE Programme Nepal

In November 2018, the very first ICOE was held at the Kathmandu Medical College, Nepal through a collaboration between the Nepal Society of O&G (NESOG), OGSM and AOFOG. The course was an overwhelming success resulting in a second course from 15-16th February 2019. During this course, NESOG, OGSM and AOFOG signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct four courses in Nepal over the next two years. The signatories were Dr Kusum (President NESOG), Dr Gunasegaran (ICOE Director OGSM) and Dr Rohana (Secretary General AOFOG).



ICOE is a hands-on simulation course using equipment of various fidelities. The course aims to equip specialist-grade doctors with skills to handle emergencies in the labour ward and reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. Training methodology focuses on small group engagement rather than traditional didactic teaching. The course consists of short lectures supplemented with multiple group breakout sessions comprising impartation of skills, simulation of clinical scenarios and case discussions.



A day prior to the main course, twelve local trainers spent an afternoon attending a Training-Of-Trainers course to be equipped to conduct ICOE. Six then became probationary trainers for the next two days; the remaining six participated as observers and were designated to be trainers for the subsequent ICOE.

The two-day ICOE training covered a wide range of topics including maternal resuscitation, management of post-partum haemorrhage, sepsis and hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, essential labour ward skills and handling complicated caesarean section. In addition, there were sessions on team dynamics, handling bad outcomes and 'how to do a drill'. Information technology (IT) was incorporated in innovative ways to conduct participant's assessment and feedback, e-learning and simulation of clinical scenarios. A faculty meeting was held at the end of each day to elicit feedbacks and ideas for improvement.





Participants commented that the course was practical, well-structured and conducted efficiently. They also found the method of learning interesting and useful, especially in learning to do things systematically in an organised way. Pre and post-course assessments showed marked improvement in knowledge and skills. The OGSM handbook on Obstetric Emergencies was popular and well received.

NESOG, AOFOG, Kathmandu Medical College and the Nepal National Health Training Centre has pledged to continue to support the conduct of ICOE in Nepal. It is anticipated that the team of Nepali ICOE trainers would take the course forward and be champions of maternal healthcare in their respective places of service.

