



THE MALAYSIAN THORACIC SOCIETY

MTS 2024 Annual Congress

Persada Johor International Convention Centre, Johor Bahru, Johor Organising Chairperson's Report

The MTS 2024 Annual Congress was held physically for the first time in the CITY of SOUTHERN TIGERS, at Persada Johor International Convention Centre, Johor Bahru, Johor, from the 29th of August to the 1st of September 2024 (Workshops were held at Amari Hotel, Johor Bahru). Despite Johor Bahru being the 2nd largest city in Malaysia, the MTS Annual Congress had never set foot here before. It is a city filled with great local food, laidback cafes, cultural heritage sites, great theme parks, and the busiest international border crossing between Malaysia and our neighbour, Singapore.

The MTS 2024 Organising Committee was led by Dr Liew Zheyi and Co-Chaired by Dr Lim Suat Yee, and the Business Manager was Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh (Assistant Business Managers were Dr Rozanah Abd Rahman and Dr Nurhayati Mohd Marzuki). The Scientific Committee was co-chaired by Dr Arvindran Alaga (Adult Scientific Programme) and Dr Su Siew Choo (Paediatric Scientific Programme). With the collective contributions of twelve other members of the Scientific Committee, they produced excellent International-level scientific topics for the 2024 Congress and skill workshops. Twenty-three other members were actively involved in the Organising Committee.

As a result of cohesive and collective teamwork, the MTS 2024 Congress recorded the highest number of registered participants (698) for a venue outside of KL/Selangor. We had participants from various parts of Malaysia, and an impressive number of 25 international delegates from Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and Singapore. We were honoured also to have world-renowned speakers from the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, India, Greece and the United States of America sharing their expertise and experience with us.

This year, our programme reflected our collective commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge, embracing new technologies, and fostering collaborations that will lead to better outcomes for our patients. The Congress kicked off with three full-day workshops on the 29th of August at the Amari Hotel, which were attended by 183 participants. The workshops were on Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis, Lung Physiology, and Paediatric Asthma.

The main Congress comprised of 3 Plenary Lectures and 9 Themed Symposia. The total abstracts received was 131, comprising adult case reports 68, paediatric case reports 7, adult papers 40 and paediatric papers 16. The best 6 papers were selected for oral presentation with another 16 adult papers and 8 paediatric papers chosen for thematic oral presentation. The Lung Foundation of Malaysia provided cash prizes for the scientific paper awards and best case report and poster paper awards.

The Annual General Meeting of the MTS was held on Friday evening, the 30th of August, 2024. This year was a non-election year. The secretary's report and financial statement were presented and matters pertaining to the society were discussed thoroughly.

MTS 2024 marked a new milestone as we recorded the highest sponsorship income. The pharmaceutical and equipment companies were invited to become platinum, gold, silver, and



pewter partners. A total of 39 companies provided sponsorship, and there were 52 exhibition booths and 2 display tables.

The Gala Dinner was held on Saturday evening, the MERDEKA day of Malaysia, on the 31st of August, 2024, in Amari Hotel, Johor Bahru. This year's gala dinner theme was "BANGSA MALAYSIA", designed to celebrate our country's birthday. Approximately 200 attendees attended the event, and the feedback for both food and performances was exceptionally good. A collection of special performances was presented, including three touching videos with special meaning:

1. **Breathe in Unity** - A video reminding us what we do as lung doctors and why we are here, and every breath tells a story. **TOGETHER, WE BUILD A FUTURE ANEW.**
(<https://youtu.be/Vn40SHNje00?si=xbE7fIEI6n4wHIRM>)
2. A memorable special speech specifically for MTS 2024. During the Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Annual Congress 2024 Gala Night, Datuk Mokhzani Ismail, the RTM Music Director, shared his thoughts on "**Malaysia Prihatin**," one of his many compositions, and the Koya Band of HSAJB performed it.
(<https://youtu.be/ik69O9GNTHA?si=Pr8PLybNaVkRRhWu>)
3. **Hana The Flower of Hope** - tells and witnesses the remarkable, incredible true story of how a life-threatening asthma attack nearly took a young life away (3 times CPR, 21 days in PICU, 8 days cerebral resuscitation, 7 days haemodialysis) and reminds us why we must continue to do our best for our patients.
(https://youtu.be/QuumMcTbj2o?si=_J6hjkDa5eit9vFT)

We were blessed to have our national cultural heritage group, the DRUM UP JB, start off our Gala night with a "WOW" opening performance, followed by Malay and Indian traditional dances. Lastly, a talented Hospital Sultanah Aminah Koya Band performed several national patriotic songs, namely Sejahtera Malaysia, Setia and Malaysia Prihatin. In short, the Gala Dinner was explicitly planned with deep meaning to celebrate our nation's big day as well as celebrate the unity of healthcare workers as one.

The annual Congress concluded on the 1st of September, 2024 with a lively debate session titled "ICS in COPD - Friend or Foe".

Overall, we received excellent feedback from our delegates for MTS 2024; Satisfaction is classified as above Good & Excellent, meaning scoring more than 4 out of 5.

- Overall General Evaluation: 94% satisfaction (60% 5/5; 34% 4/5)
- Workshop 1: 72% Excellent and 28% rated Good; Workshop 2: 68% Excellent and 32% rated Good; Workshop 3: 75% Excellent and 25% Good.
- Plenary Lectures: 97% satisfaction (49% Excellent; 48% Good; 3% Fair)
- Adult Scientific Programme: 95% satisfaction (52% Excellent; 43% Good)
- Paediatric Scientific Programme: 97% satisfaction (62% Excellent; 35% Good)
- Pre-congress Arrangements and Registration: 96% satisfaction
- Secretariat & Organising Committee: 98% satisfaction
- Congress Venue: 81% satisfaction
- Food at Congress: 60% satisfaction



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- Web Application: 93% satisfaction
- Audio Visual: 95% satisfaction
- Gala Dinner: 97% satisfaction
- Congress Bag: 93% satisfaction
- Bag Inserts & Souvenir: 78% satisfaction
- Recommendation: 99% stated will recommend MTS to other colleagues in future

Specific & Memorable Quotations:

1. What did you **MOST LIKE** about the Congress?

“Getting updates on latest management and practices in managing common respiratory conditions in children, also visiting the booths to get to know latest medical equipment used in management of patient”

“Local speakers are good and of international standard. Also including local cases which are relevant”

2. What did you **LEAST LIKE** about the Congress?

“Congress Food; Congress Venue Facilities especially toilets; Congress Venue Mouldy”

3. General Comments:

“I like the vibes created at the Gala dinner which was not like before. Relax and enjoyable.”

“Overall congratulations to the chairman and organising committee for a job well executed!”

“Johor MTS Congress should be the template on how we run the future MTS Congress.”



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Prepared by

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Organising Chairperson

MTS 2024

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Co-Organising Chairperson

MTS 2024

