

Report on the Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Annual Congress 2025

14th – 17th August 2025, KLCC Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur

The 2025th edition of the Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Annual Congress was held at the prestigious KLCC Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur from August 14th to 17th. This marked the first time the MTS congress was hosted at KLCC. The choice of venue was driven by the growth in participant numbers and the need for an expansive, accessible location capable of accommodating the increasing interest in respiratory medicine.

The MTS 2025 Organising Committee was led by Dr Wan Jen Lye and the Business Manager was Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh (Assistant Business Managers were Dr Alison Ting and Dr Nurhayati Mohd Marzuki). The Scientific Committee was co- chaired by Dr. Syazatul Syakirin Sirol Aflah (Adult Programme) and Dr. N. Fafwati Faridatul Akmar (Paediatric Programme). With the collective contributions of sixteen other members of the Scientific Committee, they produced excellent International-level scientific topics for the 2025 Congress and skill workshops. Twenty-three other members were actively involved in the Organising Committee. The congress attracted a record-breaking total of 1,034 participants, comprising 692 local delegates and 54 international attendees from 17 countries. The event further had 288 exhibitor attendees, bringing to a grand assembly of over a thousand attendees including speakers, judges, and secretariat staff.

The congress commenced with a vibrant day of congress workshops on August 14th, featuring sessions on Endobronchial Biopsy & Cryobiopsy, Bronchiectasis in Adults, and Chronic Suppurative Lung Disease in Children. These hands-on workshops were conducted in collaboration with industry partners and international faculty, including experts from the Italy, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Australia. The enthusiastic participation of 97 delegates reflected the high demand and invaluable practical training offered.

Scientific and Academic Highlights

The congress's scientific programme comprised four plenary lectures, a broad spectrum of symposia spanning adult and paediatric respiratory medicine, as well as engaging abstract presentations and poster sessions. A total of 187 abstracts were submitted, covering topics such as AI, tuberculosis, COPD, interstitial lung disease, asthma, and interventional pulmonology. Feedback indicated that the content was highly regarded, with participants praising the quality of lectures, workshops, and scientific discourse. Suggestions for future sessions include increasing interactive formats and expanding focus on pediatric topics and allied health disciplines.

Industry and Collaboration

A key feature of the congress was the robust industry participation, with over 300 participants (include exhibitors, delegates and workshop staff) from pharmaceutical, medical device, and healthcare sectors showcasing innovations and facilitating networking opportunities. Sponsorship contributions exceeded RM 1.35 million, with notable support from Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and GlaxoSmithKline. Additionally, the congress benefitted from travel grants provided by APSR and APIPA, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Participant Engagement and Feedback

Participant satisfaction was evident, with the majority rating the organization, scientific content, and venue highly. While many expressed appreciation, constructive feedback highlighted areas for enhancement, notably food quality, logistical arrangements, signage, and venue comfort. Participants emphasized the importance of more pediatric-focused activities, improved virtual content sharing, and better accessibility.

Achievements and Challenges

The congress was marked by excellent planning, international participation, industry engagement, and a lively scientific environment. Challenges encountered included managing the surge in delegate numbers, ensuring logistical smoothness, and providing satisfactory amenities. Addressing these will be key to future success.

Future Directions

Recommendations for future congresses include refining logistical planning, broadening academic content—particularly in pediatric and emerging fields like AI and telemedicine—and enhancing virtual accessibility. Upgrading venue facilities, increasing travel grants, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration are also priorities.

Special Highlights

The 2025 Congress coincided with an election year, resulting in the induction of a new council for the 2025–2027 term. The Gala Dinner, themed ‘Denim & Glitters,’ was a resounding success, fostering camaraderie and celebrating achievements. Despite minor logistical issues, the event's lively atmosphere and generous distribution of awards and prizes epitomized the event's festive spirit.

Recognition and Appreciation

This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of every member of the organising committee, including those involved in scientific sessions, publications, social events, conference logistics, audiovisual support, and secretariat services. Their relentless efforts, professionalism, and commitment have set a high standard for future events. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Dr Hooi Lai Ngoh for overseeing this congress organisation, thus ensuring it a smooth and successful one. Your guidance and experience are much appreciated.

As we look forward to APSR 2026 in Penang, we remain committed to continuous improvement, building on past successes, addressing shortcomings, and striving for an even more impactful and inspiring congress.

Prepared by,



Dr Wan Jen Lye,

MTS 2025 Congress Organising Chairperson