

USICON 2020 Report

USICON 2020 was held at Lulu Bolgatty International Convention Centre, Kochi, Kerala on 23-26 January 2020. The conference was hosted by Urological Association of Kerala with Dr George P Abraham as the organizing chairman and Dr. Vinod.K.V as the organizing Secretary

Totally 2487 delegates attended the conference (Excluding Trade participants). USI members- 1369, Non-Members- 132; Accompanying persons- 283; Post Graduates- 404; SAARC members – 162; Other Foreign Delegates – 41; Nurses – 96.

The mammoth scientific agenda including 24 panel discussions/symposiums, 518 talks, 221 Paper presentations (Podium-72, Poster-108, Video-41), 45 papers in prize sessions and two BOE paid courses were conducted in eight halls. The Audiovisual arrangements were of high quality. The posters were in electronic format with touch screen. USI Skill labs were done on Ultrasound, PCNL, TURP, RIRS and Urologic Laparoscopy. All these sessions were well attended. The Technology sessions invited lot of interest. Around 100 delegates participated in the Continuing Nurses Education Programme. The UROMET Museum organised in 'Nalukettu' (Trade Exhibition Hall B) depicted the history of evolution of UROMET programme of USI

Two Trade exhibition halls had booths from seventy-seven trade participants. There was representation from all the major companies in Urology.

The delegates were given a warm Malayali Welcome by the art forms of Kerala on the first day morning of the conference. The inauguration of the SAARC Conference was done by Prof. P.Venugopal, Past President, USI. The inauguration of the USICON 2020 was done by Prof. Roy Chally, Past President of USI and senior most urologist in Kerala. Hon. Supreme Court Judge (retd) Shri. Kurien Joseph was the Guest of Honour. A cultural programme showcasing the culture of Kerala followed the inaugural function. IJU/BOE/ISU Evening was conducted on 25th January. Past Presidents of USI were honoured during the meeting. Entertainment programmes by the members which followed the function was a cherishable experience.

The Theme of the Conference was 'Share Organs, Save Life'. Awareness meeting on Organ Donation was held on 22nd January. Mr Kochouseph Chittilappilly (Chairman, KCF & V Guard & social activist for Organ Donation) was the chief Guest. Interzonal Cricket Match, Cycling Race & Inter zonal Boat Race were unique entertainment events of the conference. Yoga training sessions were organised on all days to motivate the members to adopt the yogic way of stress free life. MILAN- the dance and music show led by Mr Naresh Iyer & Team captivated the audience on the Banquet Day. On the Republic Day, National Flag Hoisting was done by the Hon President, USI- Dr Madhu S Agrawal. The delegates enjoyed the traditional sit down lunch of Kerala on that day.

The USICON 2020 App was helpful in accessing the details about the conference and the venue. The VIBGYOR Quiz conducted through the app was attended by many delegates. The scientific programme of the conference is recorded and is made available on USI- Omnicuris platform. Meet the Professor at Lunch was a unique programme for the Post graduates and Junior Consultants to meet the invited foreign faculty and have useful interactions. The Conference concluded with valedictory function on 26th January.

The conference was well appreciated by all the national and international delegates. Many of them have eloquently praised the international standards of conference organization. The accounts were finalized in June and presented at the council meetings of UAK and USI. The total income was 7,51,09,313/- and expenditure 6,72,62,289/-. There was a surplus of 78,47,024/- of which TDS credit is 13,02,431(in the credit of USI) . There is bank balance of 65,44,593/-. The GST filings were done at appropriate time, but official procedures are ongoing as there is delay of 1-2 yrs in the department. If any objections are raised by the authorities and final settlement arrived after discussion, we may have to pay the additional amounts as agreed upon. USI Council has agreed to bear the responsibility of further proceedings and financial liabilities as the GST account is connected to the PAN of USI and their address.

The united effort of all the members of our association, the hard work with meticulous planning and efficient execution were the reason behind the great success of the conference. We could raise the standards of our national conference and our collective effort created the unique ambience of hospitality, professionalism and academics.