

MEDICAL PHYSICS EDUCATION AND PROFESSION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA: CHALLENGES FOR THE REGION

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Diversity, being the gem of pride in the South-East Asia region in reference to the abundance of culture and cuisine, becomes quite an issue when it comes to educational and professional standard. As faced by other regions, diversity lies in curricula, degree systems, as well as regulations. With specific international directives and recommendations, a spectrum in the system presents the region with lengthy difficulties in striving for recognition. As indicated by IOMP in its policy statements, a successful medical physics educational and professional state includes availability of formal education on postgraduate levels, working system of structured clinical training, procedure of certification and registration under national/internationally-recognized boards. In the region, there exists a challenging circumstances in which structured clinical training, standardized academic curricula, and regional accreditation system are all but exist.

As a member of the region, Indonesian medical physics community faces the challenges as well as invents new ways to subdue them. Academically, universities like University of Indonesia held workshops featuring world-renowned experts within the fields of radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology, and nuclear medicine. While the years 2005 – 2013 witnesses 20 visits from Medical Physics experts to University of Indonesia, 10 world-renowned scientists shared their

expertise in year 2014 alone to update the knowledge of the community. A one-of-a-kind clinical postgraduate program is currently under its way to establishment, foreseeing itself to operate the nation's professional training. On legal basis, a bill passed on 2014 presents governmental recognition of Medical Physics profession as to having 'medical physicist' enlisted under 'biomedical technology' category. Legal aspects are also being prepared to accommodate the effort of meeting the international standard; the Ministry of Education is currently preparing a set of academic rules, in which Medical Physics reserves a slot in postgraduate level. The rules, due published in 2015, will allow an opportunity to enhance the academic standard of Medical Physics in Indonesia.

Indonesia's case may, most probably, not apply elsewhere, even within the region of South-East Asia. There lies unique situation in each country, presenting medical physicists communities with broad range of different challenge and issues. The diverse opportunity and circumstances in South-East Asian region will present more chances encouraging to work together in harmony and common-fate spirit; which will be another gem for the region to be proud of.

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