

7TH SAARC ENT CONFERENCE

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The society of Otolaryngologists of Nepal (SOL Nepal) successfully hosted the 7th SAARC ENT Congress in Tribhuvan Army Officer's Club, Kathmandu from 25th–27th May 2011. It was inaugurated by the Right Honorable President of Republic of Nepal, Dr Ram Baran Yadav.

This was a gala gathering of more than 400 delegates not only from the SAARC countries but also from other Asian countries, Europe, America, Australia and rest of the world.

Live demonstration of temporal bone dissection by Dr Ravi Ramalingam and moderated by Dr GVS Rao was very informative. Prof Mohan Kameswaran on Dr LN Prasad Oration very clearly highlighted the current status and the future of auditory neural prosthesis.

Dr MV Kirtane and his expert team presented interestingly on different aspects of ENT updates. The topics discussed were endoscopic repair of CSF rhinorrhoea, cochlear implants, brachytherapy in ENT, sialendoscopy, pitfalls in stapes surgery, endoscopic pituitary, phonosurgery – current concepts, endoscopic approach to skull base lesions, juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma, bone anchored hearing aids, occult primary, bilateral vocal cord palsy management, approach in the management of snoring and obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome.

Prof Tarafdar from Bangladesh, Prof Agarwal from India and Prof Tariq Rafi from Pakistan delivered key note addresses on laser in phonosurgery, Bangladesh perspective, future prevention of deafness in SAARC countries and current concepts in the management of head and neck cancers. Panel discussion on the clinical relevance of modern vestibulometry and current controversies in the management of vertigo by Prof Anirban Biswas from India was also very interesting.

There were panels on oral cavity cancer, sleep disorders, FESS, vertigo, laryngeal cancer, cochlear implant, hearing aid and rhinoplasty. Likewise, updates on head and neck, otology, paediatric ENT, rhinology, speech and audiology.

There were informative sessions on ear camps and laser. Prof Gulati conducted jolly ENT quiz. The poster presentation and free paper sessions dealt with many aspects of the speciality.

Overall, the conference was regarded as a success and the credit goes to the organizing committee, experts, all the participants and the sponsors.

I hope the forthcoming 8th SAARC Congress which is going to be in Pakistan will be equally successful.