

Proceedings of 8th South Asian Regional Conference of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology

1st to 4th August 2013, Colombo, Sri Lanka

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The 8th South Asian Regional Conference of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology (8th SARCD) held in Colombo was successfully concluded on 4th August 2013. This is the second occasion, Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists (SLCD) hosted a SARCD meeting; the first one was held ten years ago in 2003.

SARCD is the most important event of the South Asian Regional Association of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology (SARAD).

The conference was held over a period of four days at the Waters Edge, Battaramulla. The theme of the conference was "Towards improving skin care and knowledge in the region". Two hundred and fifty delegates participated.

The inauguration ceremony was held on the evening of the 1st August 2013. Minister of Health, Honourable Maithripala Sirisena graced this occasion as the chief guest, Prof. Peter Mortimer from United Kingdom was the guest of honour. SARAD was represented by Prof. Serajul Islam of Bangladesh (President, SARAD), and representatives from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. A cultural programme depicting Sri Lankan culture added colour to this ceremony.

The academic programme commenced with a pregress session, which consisted of symposia covering blistering diseases, acne, cutaneous lymphoma and skin infections, which were of interest to all the countries of the region.

Fifty one guest lectures were delivered by the experts of the region and other countries including Australia, Germany, Singapore and United Kingdom. The conference provided an ideal platform for scientific deliberation.

During the academic programme extended over 3 days, a number of symposia covered psoriasis, pigmentary disorders, venereology, cosmetic dermatology, leprology and postgraduate education in dermatology. Participation at symposia was excellent and lively discussion followed.

Free papers provided ample opportunities for the postgraduate trainees in the region to present their work. Twenty eight free papers were presented and discussed during eight free paper sessions. In addition 94 e-posters also were displayed.

Sri Lankan night held on Friday, 2nd August 2013 was a well attended social event with glitter and glamour. The banquet held on Saturday, 3rd August 2013 was enjoyed by all the participants. Both these events strengthened the bonds and social interactions among delegates from different countries. City tour for accompanying persons too was a popular item.

In the aftermath of the event many messages of congratulations and letters of appreciation were received by the SLCD. This bears testimony to its success.