

## The 8th SAARC ENT Conference, Karachi, Pakistan

Sameer Qureshi

*The 8th SAARC ENT conference was held at Hotel Sheraton, Karachi from 19th to 21st December, 2013. It was the 2nd SAARC conference in Pakistan. As always it was a big task and ask. The reason being Karachi has been the trend setter of these conferences and the organizers did not let down the audience.*

*Prof. S.M. Tariq Rafi was the Chairman of this conference and was amicably assisted by Prof. M. Umar Farooq who was the Secretary General and Prof. Abbas Zafar who was the Chairman Scientific Committee.*

*The true flavour of an international conference was witnessed in this event, as it was widely attended by stalwarts from all over the globe. The guest faculty came from USA, UK, India, Nepal, Iran, Egypt, Muscat, Bangladesh and UAE. To mention a few Prof. Jatin Shah from Sloan Kettering Memorial, New York, USA, President SAARC ENT, Prof. Bimal Kumar Sinha (Nepal), Prof. Taneja, President Indian Society of Otolaryngology.*

*The conference had such a comprehensive and dynamic start that for the first time in Pakistan, 03 pre-conference workshops were held simultaneously at three different centers in Karachi.*

1. The advanced Rhinology workshop was conducted by Prof. Reda Kamel (Egypt) at Jinnah Sindh Medical University.
2. The workshop on Otolaryngology was conducted by Prof. Ravi Ramalingam (India) and Phono Surgery by Prof. K.K. Handa (India) at Aga Khan University Hospital.
3. The workshop on Head & Neck Surgery was held at Liaquat National Hospital and was conducted by Dr. Nadir Ahmed and Dr. Scharukh Jalisi from USA.

*The Inauguration ceremony took place on 19th December, 2013. Prof. S.M. Rab a famous academician, scholar and author was the chief guest.*

- Prof. Jawaid Alam Memorial Lecture was given by Prof. Jatin Shah on "Multidisciplinary treatment of Head & Neck Cancer"
- Prof. Heera Nandani's Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Ravi Ramalingam on "Tricks and Tips of Stapes Surgery".
- Dr. Muhammad Asadullah from Bangladesh delivered Prof. Alauddin's Memorial Lecture.

*The conference had 3 state of the art lectures, 12 guest lectures, 03 instructional courses, 03 panel discussions encompassing almost all topics of professional interest. More than 60 free papers were also presented during the conference.*

*A special "Prof. Jawaid Alam Memorial Award" was announced by his son for the best scientific paper presentation by a resident. The amount of Rs. 50,000/= was awarded to Dr. Rameez of AKUH.*

*The business meeting was also held in this conference chaired by Prof. Bimal Sinha President SAARC ENT Society, in which it was unanimously decided to increase the scope of conference and to introduce a SAARC ENT Journal. Preparation and selection of venue for next SAARC conference was also discussed. Prof. S.M. Tariq Rafi was elected as President of SAARC ENT Society, Prof. M. Umar Farooq was elected Vice President from Pakistan and Dr. Sameer Qureshi and Dr. Usman as councilor from Pakistan.*

*A Gala Dinner was also organized which was well attended by dignitaries from the Medical fraternity and eminent citizens. A special color was also given by famous Pakistani Qawwal Amjad Sabri, who amused the august gathering by singing poetry of famous sufi saints.*

*Altogether, it was a very successful events which also very well attended and provided enough food for thought for all those who attended this mega event. The take home message was, these scientific event, are a platform for all to integrate, share skills and teach and train each other for the betterment of humanity.*

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