



**23<sup>RD</sup> MEKONG ENDO-SURGERY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**



**AND**

**4<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN LAPAROSCOPIC HPB COUNCIL MEETING 2023**

**BANGKOK, THAILAND.**

By Anuradha Valan



**Figure 1: Malaysian delegates.**

The 23rd Mekong Endo-surgery Development Association (MESDA) in collaboration with the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Laparoscopic HPB Council (LHC) meeting was held at Arnoma Grand Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The meeting is renowned for its focus on minimally invasive HPB surgery and attracted experts and delegates from various ASEAN countries. The event was inaugurated by Dr Catherine Teh of Philippines, Dr Seigo Kitano of Japan and Dr Saard Treepongkaruna of Thailand.

Day 1 of the conference comprised of lectures on minimally invasive approach to difficult gallbladder surgery, fundamentals of laparoscopic and robotic liver surgeries and fundamentals of laparoscopic and robotic pancreatic surgeries. The lectures also focus on the controversies pertaining to laparoscopic and robotic surgeries. Day 2 of the conference featured video sessions on laparoscopic pancreatic, biliary and liver surgery. There were also live surgeries performed by the two well-known figures in minimally invasive HPB surgery. Prof. Kuo-Hsin Chen of Taiwan performed live laparoscopic central hepatectomy and Prof Yuichi Nagakawa of Japan performed laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy.



**Figure 2: Malaysian delegates with the President of ASEAN LHC, Dr Catherine Teh and the President of MyHPBS, Dr Yoong Boon Koon.**

Day 3 of the meeting was on hands-on soft cadaver workshop which was held at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. Selected delegates were divided into groups of 4 and positioned into 8 stations and given the task of performing laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy and splenectomy with the guidance of a mentor. The groups were lead through the steps of distal pancreatectomy and splenectomy.

The hands-on soft cadaver workshop was a standout feature, providing an unparalleled learning experience. It offered a unique opportunity to practice and refine skills in laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy and splenectomy. The workshop was meticulously structured, with expert guidance from seasoned surgeons who shared their expertise and provided step-by-step instructions throughout the procedures.

The guidance and mentorship from experts in the field were invaluable. They offered individualized attention, tips, and insights, fostering a supportive environment conducive to learning and skill development. We had the opportunity to perform key steps of the procedures under supervision, gaining confidence and proficiency in laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy and splenectomy.

Furthermore, the interactive sessions and discussions during the workshop facilitated the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches among delegates from diverse surgical backgrounds. Networking with fellow HPB trainees and surgeons provided a broader perspective on various minimally invasive HPB techniques and enhanced collaborative opportunities for the future.



Figure 6: Certification.



Figure 3: Soft cadaver workshop.



Figure 4: Vietnamese teammates.



Figure 5: With the Dr Tortrakoon Thongkan of Thailand.

Overall, the 23rd MESDA and 4th ASEAN-LHC 2023 was an invaluable experience making it a pivotal and rewarding part of the professional development in the field of minimally invasive HPB surgery.