

Minutes of  
**SAASL Executive Committee Meeting**  
18 May 2013; Dhaka

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the SAASL was held on the 18th of May, 2013 at 5.00 PM at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka under the chairmanship of Prof Salimur Rahman, President of SAASL.

1. The Executive Committee unanimously resolved to place on record its appreciation of the sincere efforts and hard work of the Organizing Committee of the Ist SAASL Conference especially Prof Salimur Rahman & Dr Mamun-al-Mahtab for holding such a wonderful **1<sup>st</sup> SAASL Conference**.
2. The Executive Committee unanimously resolved to place on record its disappointment at the absence of the Executive Committee members from Pakistan, and passed a resolution to convey to them the feeling that their presence was badly felt and the Committee looked forwards to their active participation in all SAASL activities. Prof. Saraswat also informed that certain formalities have to be fulfilled in advance by the organisers of the future meetings such as INASL Annual Meetings to enable Pakistani delegates to obtain VISAs. Prof Saraswat informed that he would send the relevant information/papers to Prof SP Singh at the earliest.
3. **SAASL Constitution Drafting:** The progress made in drafting the constitution for SAASL was reviewed. The proposal of Prof SP Singh that he would prepare a draft based on the EASL Constitution while incorporating the suitable features of the APASL and EASL constitutions, and submit it to a committee SAASL Constitution Drafting Committee.
4. It was resolved that all the Executive Committee Members should be preferably the President/Secretaries or Office bearers of the constituent National Hepatology Associations or nominees of the National Hepatology Society's Executive bodies. However in the case of the countries where there is no National Hepatology Society, the SAASL Executive Committee would nominate a senior or eminent hepatologist to represent the country in the SAASL Executive Committee.
5. **Journal of SAASL.** The proposal of Prof SP Singh regarding the official journal of SAASL was discussed. The proposal to write to the publishers of the Eurasian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology to make it the official journal of SAASL was accepted. Prof Salimur Rahman and Dr Mamun-al-Mahtab welcomed the idea and agreed to discuss the matter with the journal's publishers and other involved in the journal's management.

6. **The venues for the 2014 & 2015 Annual SAASL Meeting:** The Prof Khin proposed to host the next Conference in **Myanmar in March 2014**. The 1<sup>st</sup> day of a 2 day meeting would be the Annual SAASL Meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> day would be the Conference of the Myanmar Hepatology Society. Dr Ananta Shrestha from Nepal proposed to host **SAASL 2015 at Kathmandu** by which time Nepal would have a full fledged hepatology society. This proposal was accepted unanimously too. Dr. Dassanayak from Srilanka informed that he would confirm the status of Srilanka's ability to host the Conference in 2016 at Colombo after consulting Prof Janaka Desilva and other Srilankan hepatologists..
7. **Website of SAASL:** Suggestions for the SAASL Website were invited by Prof. S.P. Singh. The members agreed to send their proposals within a month, and also send their photograph and affiliations for the SAASL Website.
8. Prof. SP Singh proposed that after the constitution was finalized, the registration of SAASL would be formalised at New Delhi. The proposal was accepted unanimously. There was a suggestion to have a separate secretariat for SAASL but it was decided to continue with the office of Prof. S.P. Singh as the secretariat for the interim period.
9. Suggestions for invited for other possible **activities of SAASL:** Members from Bangladesh and Dr Shrestha wanted SAASL fellowships for nominees from member states like Nepal and Bangladesh for training of young hepatologists.
10. It was decided to take steps to have representation from **Afghanistan:** It was decided to take the help of Pakistani members of the Executive Committee and Dr Sanjiv Saigal to find a suitable representative from Afghanistan.
11. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the President and all other members of SAASL Executive Committee present.  
The following members were present during the Meeting:
  1. Prof. S Rahman [Bangladesh]
  2. Prof. S.P. Singh [India]
  3. Prof VA Saraswat [India]
  4. Prof. M W Khin [Myanmar]
  5. Dr. Anuradha Dassanayak [Sri Lanka]
  6. Dr. Mamun-al-Mahtab [Bangladesh]
  7. Dr. Anantha Shrestha [Nepal]
  8. Dr. GP Dhakal [Bhutan]



Prof. S.P. Singh  
Secretary General,  
South Asian Association for Study of the Liver [SAASL]