



President's Message

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Last month from 4-7 October, Dr Ashok Philip (Additional Standing Committee member representing MMA on the WMA Council), Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira (President-Elect of MMA) and myself attended the General Assembly of the World Medical Association (WMA) in Kigali, Rwanda.

It was an enlightening experience mixing with doctors from all over the world and hearing about the issues they face. It is also about

networking and building friendships with them. Some of the issues discussed were the recent surge in attacks on physicians in Nepal, ethical use of medical technology, biological weapons and other policy matters. We also learn about the host country's culture after the serious meeting sessions. There were few tourist sites, but the country is very clean. We visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial, dedicated to the victims of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

It offers a powerful experience for visitors, promoting reconciliation and building peace through education. This event occurred between 7 April and 15 July 1994 during the Rwandan Civil War, with 800,000 Tutsi and many moderate Hutus massacred.

Making Waves

This General Assembly is particularly memorable for us as Dr Ashok Philip was installed as the President-Elect of WMA, and he was elected unopposed. This would mean in October 2024, Dr Ashok Philip will be the second WMA President from Malaysia! Congratulations Dr Ashok Philip. The first WMA President from Malaysia was Datuk Dr



(L-R) Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira, Dr Azizan Binti Abdul Aziz, Dr Lujain Alqodmani, and Dr Ashok Philip



“WMA is an international organisation representing physicians.”

N. Arumugam in 2006. Meanwhile, Dr Lujain Alqodmani, a leading public health doctor from Kuwait, is the first Arab woman to be installed as the 74th President of WMA for 2023/24.

WMA in a Nutshell

Founded on 17 September 1947, WMA is an international organisation representing physicians. The First General Assembly of WMA was in Paris, and was attended by physicians from 27 different countries.

The organisation was created to ensure the independence of physicians, and to work for the highest possible standards of ethical behaviour and care by physicians, at all times. As an independent confederation of free professional associations, WMA's funding comes from the annual contributions of its members, which now stands at 116 National Medical Associations.

The WMA provides a forum for its member associations to communicate freely, to co-operate actively, to achieve consensus on high standards of medical ethics and professional competence, and to promote the professional freedom of physicians worldwide.

This unique partnership facilitates high-calibre, humane care to patients in a healthy environment, enhancing the quality of life for all people in the world.

WMA hopes to achieve the highest international standards in Medical Education, Medical Science, Medical Art and Medical Ethics, and Healthcare for all people in the world.

As an organisation that promotes the highest possible standards of medical ethics, the WMA provides ethical guidance to physicians through its Declarations, Resolutions and Statements. These also help to guide National Medical Associations, governments and international organisations throughout the world.

The Declarations, Resolutions and Statements cover a wide range of subjects, including an International Code of Medical Ethics, the rights of patients, research on human subjects, care of the sick and wounded in times of armed conflict, torture of prisoners, the use and abuse of drugs, family planning and pollution. **BMMA**