

Terms of References

1. Name:

- ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) taskforce

2. Goals:

- To develop a strategic plan and targets for stroke in the ASEAN region and to seek support and advocacy at a governmental level
- To improve stroke care services including stroke unit, intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH) bundled care and hyperacute reperfusion treatment through stroke centre development and certification
- To drive wider reach of stroke public awareness in collaboration with WSO campaign efforts
- To provide learning opportunities for clinicians across ASEAN targeting the various professional groups involved and allowing for access through appropriate language and cultural perspectives
- To provide research training and mentoring, and to develop a research network across ASEAN for clinical trials and studies

3. Membership:

- Number: 8
- Mechanism of selection: By appointment with approval from President
- Eligibility: WSO member, active participation in ASEAN stroke improvement efforts
- Terms of Appointment: 2 years

Note: Most members are from the ASEAN region in view of the goals of the taskforce

Co-chairs

Deidre De Silva, Singapore (WSO member)

Reza Arpandy, Indonesia (WSO member)

Members

Bernard Yan, Australia (WSO member)

Yohanna Kusuma, Indonesia (WSO member)

Epifania Collantes, Philippines (WSO member)

Wan Asyraf Wan Zaidi, Malaysia (WSO member)

Yong Chai Nilanont, Thailand (Pending confirmation)

Thang Nguyen, Vietnam (Pending confirmation)

4. Organizational Structure:

In addition to taskforce members, the taskforce will engage stroke leaders in each of the 11 ASEAN countries

5. Meetings:

At least 4 meetings per year

- Likely mostly online with possibly of F2F at World stroke congress meetings

6. Reporting Mechanism:

Meeting minutes will be sent to President after each meeting

6 monthly updates will be submitted to the President

Final report will be submitted after tenure of the taskforce

7. Required Resources:

Standard committee/ taskforce support from WSO secretariat for collation of minutes and reports

8. Procedures:

The taskforce formation has been approved by WSO President and endorsed by the WSO executive committee. Proposed co-chairs and members have been recruited. We will also engage partners from each of the 11 ASEAN nations to ensure representation.

All funding applications and considerations will be through WSO as far as regulations allow and if not, with approval, acknowledgement and reporting to WSO.

Educational efforts will be discussed with World Stroke Academy to ensure alignment with WSO education strategy. Stroke centre certification will be through the WSO platform, with discussion and in collaboration with the WSO certification committee. Public awareness and campaign efforts will be aligned and in discussion with the WSO campaign committee. Research efforts will be discussed with the WSO research committee.

World Stroke Organization
One World Voice for Stroke

Appendix Background

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) refers to a region comprising of 11 countries which form an economic and political alliance and organisation. The population is over 680 million, making up about 9% of the world's population. The member countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Timor Leste.

Under the WHO, some of these countries fall under the South-East Asian Region (SEAR) (Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Myanmar) and Western Pacific Region (WPR) (Malaysia, Philippine, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos).

Rationale

1. The potential impact to reduce stroke burden is great.
 - a. Stroke incidence and prevalence in ASEAN is particularly high with the potential for primary and secondary prevention in view of high prevalence of modifiable risk factors including hypertension and smoking.
 - b. Stroke mortality in ASEAN is also particularly high with the potential for reduction through implementation of stroke unit management.
 - c. The median age of stroke is low and stroke disability has significant economic impact with the potential for lower rates of disability through better access and provision of hyperacute reperfusion treatments.
 - d. There is limited implementation of evidence-based stroke management across ASEAN with the majority of stroke patients not having access to screening and primary prevention, stroke unit care, hyperacute treatments, rehabilitation and support for life after stroke.
2. There is commitment from stroke leaders across ASEAN as well as partners from nearby countries.
 - a. Stroke clinicians in ASEAN are committed to working together to improve stroke burden across the region. There have been many informal discussions as well as regular meetings organized by various groups (including industry) but there is no central coordinating body to drive these initiatives and efforts in a sustainable and impactful manner. During the World Stroke Congress (WSC) in Singapore in 2022, there was consensus at a dedicated symposium from ASEAN clinicians that there was a need for a concerted effort for the ASEAN region.
 - b. Some nearby countries have ongoing global stroke initiatives in ASEAN. Examples of which are collaborations between Australia with Indonesia (including the joint programme between the Australasian Stroke Academy) and South Korea with Cambodia. These partnerships can be leveraged for

- this effort. In addition, there are some stroke leaders in these nearby countries who have agreed to be part of this effort.
- c. Many stroke leaders in the region are faculty speakers at national stroke conference in the ASEAN region.
3. There is expertise within the ASEAN region (and in nearby countries) to drive these efforts.
- a. There is great disparity of stroke services and burden between and within countries in ASEAN, with some areas with the highest levels of care and optimal outcomes.
 - b. There are world renowned experts and services in ASEAN. There are many leading stroke clinicians as well as state of the art stroke centres in the region.
 - c. As mentioned above, a number of individual clinicians from countries near ASEAN are committed to contributing to these efforts.
4. Existing and past collaborations between WSO and ASEAN region
- a. There are WSO board members and past/ current future leaders from the ASEAN region.
 - b. The WSC was held in Singapore, which is in ASEAN, in 2022. This effort would be a legacy initiative of the WSC 2022, which allowed for initial discussion and conceptualization of this effort.
 - c. WSO has certified 3 stroke centres in the ASEAN region in 2024.
 - d. There is a MOU between WSO and Singhealth in Singapore which allows for grant applications and support from the Singhealth-Duke NUS Global Health Institute in Singapore.
 - e. There was a recent meeting in Singapore in July 2024 bringing together over 50 clinicians from the ASEAN region in collaboration with WSO (with Prof Pandian in attendance), to discuss issues surrounding stroke care in ASEAN.
5. The time is right now.
- a. There have been numerous preparatory discussions and meetings in the last 2-3 years to build informal commitment from stroke leaders in ASEAN.
 - b. There are some countries in ASEAN with minimal level of stroke services.
 - c. There are some countries in ASEAN with initial or ongoing stroke service development.
 - d. There are some potential opportunities for funding from grant bodies, industry partners and philanthropic sources
 - e. There is limited publications and research activities for stroke across ASEAN.