FOCUS – ISPO Myanmar

History
ISPO Myanmar, one of the newest ISPO Member Societies, was created in 2013. Learn more.

Governance
Though the membership of ISPO Myanmar is multidisciplinary, all of the board members are from the P&O profession. The current structure of ISPO Myanmar is as follows:

- President: Thein Win
- Vice-President: Alfred Tan
- Secretary General: Tun Tun Latt
- Treasurer: Htay Lwin
- Auditor: Naing Naing Eh

The current board members are have just been elected at the 2nd ISPO Myanmar annual meeting held on 22-23 May, 2014. The board aims to meet 3 times per year.

Membership
ISPO Myanmar was first established with 9 members in 2013. Its membership is now increased to 14 members. The membership is composed of healthcare professionals from various disciplines such as prosthetists & orthotists, orthopaedic surgeons, prosthetic technicians, and physiotherapists.

National Congress
ISPO Myanmar aims to organize a national congress at least once a year. The first ISPO Myanmar National Congress was held successfully on 26-27 November 2013 in Yangon. The meeting served to highlight the urgent need of an established P&O profession in Myanmar, and to put forward some solutions on how ISPO Myanmar can promote the P&O Profession.

The second National Congress was just held on 22-23 May 2014 in Yangon. The meeting mainly focused on how ISPO Myanmar can assist to obtain the national recognition in Myanmar. ISPO Myanmar also discussed planned future activities: promotion of activities in rehabilitation, link with P&O professionals in different centres, and sharing of information amongst its members.
Education and standards

Exceed (formerly named Cambodia Trust), in collaboration with the Myanmar Ministry of Education and the Nippon Foundation is setting up a P&O school in Myanmar, and the academic year will probably begin in 2015. The course is a degree programme with aspired ISPO Cat 2 accreditation. The school expects to produce about 15 ISPO Cat 2 graduates each year.

ISPO Myanmar works towards the standardization of the status of the P&O profession with guidance and support from regional partners including the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), the MRCS (Myanmar Red Cross Society), the JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency), Exceed Worldwide, and the Nippon Foundation.

Fact and figures

- At present, Myanmar has 7 Orthopaedic rehabilitation Centres (3-Ministry of Health, 3-Ministry of Defence, 1-MRCS)
- Currently Myanmar has only 9 ISPO Cat 2 P&O professionals and 1 (retired) Bachelor degree holder from La Trobe University, Australia
- 40 locally trained technicians are employed in different Centres.
- 7 people (including 1 MRCS) are attending CSPO (Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics) and 6 of those are planned to become future teachers at the Myanmar P&O School.
- Myanmar’s population is about 60 million and according to the WHO, 0.5 % (300,000) are in need of orthopaedic devices. This means that today, Myanmar needs 350-450 P&Os while there are only 9 Cat 2 P&O at present.