

**Opening remarks by Dr.Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports in 3<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Nephro-Urological Society Conference  
(Key Points)**

PARKROYAL Hotel, Yangon

(4<sup>th</sup>, November, 2017)

- Greetings!
- Honor for me to deliver the opening remarks at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Nephro-Urology Society Conference.
- I have noticed that many clinical societies of Myanmar Medical Association are active in conducting seminars, symposia, forums and conferences not only involving local professionals but also professionals from other countries or associations.
- This is a good trend and we need to promote it.
- We need to conduct more international conferences for different clinical disciplines for improving the clinical and surgical acumen as well as the research capability and capacity of our clinicians and doctors.
- The MoHS will always stand ready to support and facilitate the activities of the societies to the extent possible within the available resources.
- I was informed and also it appears that the agenda of this 3<sup>rd</sup> conference is more wider, more technical and more interesting than the previous two conferences held in 2013 and 2015.

- I would like to congratulate the president and organizing committee members, society members for spearheading this conference to become a reality.
- These days, laproscopic surgery becomes, I should say, very fashionable.
- For reason that all of us know, laproscopic surgery will become the order of the day in years to come.
- We need to keep abreast with developments happening in the outside world in laproscopic surgery domain.
- At this point in time, many developed countries are striving hard for robotic surgery.
- Although I am not a nephrologist nor a urologist nor a surgeon, I found that the topics to be dealt with in this conference are very attractive, important and useful to all intents and purposes.
- This is one of the important ways to attract or entice the young doctors to pursue the field of nephro-urology as their career.
- I appreciate the theme of the conference, i.e., "Fostering Excellence in Nephro-Uro Care".
- This should even be the motto of the society and we should aim for that as a matter of routine or universal objective or motto of the society.
- Why chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a public health problem,
  - CKD has increased recently
  - affects many people
  - likely to increase in future
  - reduce the quality of life and cost of treatment is high
  - perceived as a threat to the community

- if we are not careful about this, it will become out of control in a few years time
- CKD screening in population burdened with CKD may not be cost-effective.
- But there are pros and cons whether we should do population screening for CKD or not.
- However, regular kidney health check up is important.
- From public health perspective, we can do many things to mitigate the risk factors for CKD.
- In any disease, there is a public health perspective in terms of prevention, promotion of good things and rehabilitation.
- I would like to urge the societies through MMA that in future seminars or conferences that a session should be included such as "Public Health perspective of a particular disease or topic in question."
- As we are aware, major risk factors of CKD are Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, heart diseases and stroke, etc.
- Through Public Health approach, we can reduce the quantum of risk factors of CKD in the population as early as possible.
- In fact, CKD is becoming a big Public Health problem in a few years if we are not giving due attention to major risk factors of CKD.
- We need to be vigilant about the incidence and prevalence of CKD in States / Regions. Therefore, hospital information system is very important.
- If the person has CKD, he / she will have poor health outcome and very huge health care costs are expected.
- We need to do something before it strikes our population with full blown force.

- To speak frankly, I am a bit worried about the increasing trend of CKD - almost doubled within the span of 5 years in Myanmar.
- In reality, it may be more than the data that we have at this point of time.
- We should try to look for the overall causative factors and risk factors and do preventive nephrology or preventive public health programs to reduce the incidence of kidney diseases in the coming years.
- The nephrology departments of universities of Medicine are providing quality services to patients suffering from kidney and affiliated diseases.
- MoHS appreciate and thank the faculty members and clinicians working in hospitals in our country.
- People in the community are not generally aware of the fact that they are suffering from CKD (a notoriously silent disease).
- We need to think of how to identify these groups of people as early as possible.
- I noticed that society's objectives are very conducive to promoting the field of nephro-urology domain. i.e.,
  - 1) progress and development of care of nephro-urological diseases
  - 2) promoting upcoming young professionals in nephro-urological field and continuing medical education
- Here, I would like to urge the society to work closely and collaboratively with MMA and MoHS to develop and establish a systematic CME programs all over the country using various means or *modus operandi*.
- One of the essential driving forces to improve any clinical domain is to conduct research.

- MoHS is getting \$ 1 million research grant in this budget year (2017-2018). It will be increased to more than this amount or \$ 2 million in the coming budget year (2018-2019).
- It is the first time in MoHS history that such a huge amount of budget is supported for research. This amount is relatively high giving the fact that Myanmar is a developing country.
- Nephro-urological society should avail of this research fund.
- To promote research culture in all disciplines, I have informed Department of Human Resources for Health (HRH) to include research subject in the medical universities and nursing schools in each scholastic year of the respective courses.
- This is to attract young medical graduates to do research in their respective disciplines.
- We have already started kidney transplants but we still have a lot of challenges to overcome such as by law of organ transplantation, funding, human resource requirements, etc.
- In conclusion, nephro-urological society, MMA, MoHS should act as a tripod to become a strong force and helping each other for the sake of improving the population's nephro-urological health.
- Thank you.