

A Report on Experiences of Organising KSCASICON 2016

It all started when in one of the monthly meetings at Shivamogga somewhere in December 2013 when I and some members proposed to host a state conference at Shivamogga. With advice from our senior members like Dr Venkata Rao, Dr RD Prabhu and many more we sent a formal proposal to Secretary of KSCASI. Then a team of our members attended KSCASICON 2014 at Manipal. There were many more aspirants, but we won the bidding. Thanks to all members of KSCASI, we got permission to host. It was a big responsibility. We were really not sure how to conduct. With advice of various senior members, we chalked out a plan. We formed various committees. First one year passed rather silently without much work. We went to KSCASICON 2015 at Mysore with a early bird proposal and got a huge response. We later got from Hon Secretary to attend a EC meeting at Mysore. We were given tips regarding how to conduct conference and were asked to hold a pre conference CME. Accordingly we conducted a CME on 13/09/2015. It was a one day CME on common surgical problem. Its success and experience gave us confidence.

Our chairman Dr Mohan Das and secretary Dr Shekar called many meetings to discuss various aspects of conference. I was given dual responsibility of scientific committee and treasurer. Our budget touch sky high and we were unsure if we can mobilize that much funds. The registrations even up to December 2015 touched hardly 600. There were no major sponsorers. We were tensed. How to raise the funds? Dr Shivaram gave us contact of Aster hospital which is coming up in Bangalore. With his help we could get some funds. Later Brown and Burk came forward to sponsor banquet. BIG hospital, Bangalore agreed to sponsor a breakfast. Still we were pressed for funds. Trade enquiries were also very minimal. We had hardly 5-6 companies asking for stalls. In spite of all these, we decided to quality both in scientific sessions and food & hospitality. We engaged best persons in the region for food, stage decoration etc... We took help of IMA members of Shivamogga, Bhadravathi and other nearby taluks. They all whole heartedly encouraged us.

January end and February beginning were really encouraging for us. Slowly delegates' registrations increased. Some more stall enquiries were there but no confirmation by way of advance payment. The auditorium which was promised to be ready for our conference made no progress of work till 3rd week of January. There was only a huge building. There were lot of echoes and many advised us to go for alternative hall. With the help of a local Mr Ramani, Dr Shekar, Dr Mohan Das, Dr Mohan SVS and others did the wonder. They created a room inside the room. It was very expensive for us. But at the end of the day, it was satisfactory feeling as all delegates appreciated the arrangements. Venue was excellent. Then local election was announced. This troubled us in more than one way. First of all we did not get permission for fellowship in welcome dinner. We had to find alternate venue in the last minute. Again expenditure and more work. The printer was so busy with printing of ballot papers and pamphlets, I found it very hard to get final programme booklet printed. He could not give time to me, always busy. I had to go to press at 06.00 AM in the morning to format and proof reading! At last I got the booklet on 10th February night 11.30 PM.

Dr Vasudeva Rao informed us that the newly elected president of Royal college of Physicians and surgeons, Dr David Galloway will be attending the conference. We utilized his presence to the maximum extent giving a slot on all the 3 days. His presence and talks added colors to the conference.

We were also lucky to have our ASI national president Dr Suresh Vasistha as chief guest for the inauguration. He also delivered a lecture on the first day.

There were many firsts which KSCASICONs have not seen before.

1. ***We started on count down like launching a spacecraft: On dot at 08.40 AM as mentioned on the program booklet.***
2. ***Food quality was excellent: The only complaint I got from one of the delegate “If you feed us like this, we will be overweight by the time we return!!! Even if we take a little of each item, we cannot finish all items”. Such was the variety and quality. The difference was striking and we broke the monotony of food.***
3. ***Excellent AV arrangements: For the first time we arranged a 22*12 ft LED WALL.***
4. ***We had 22 slots. All finished within 05.00 PM as planned making way for inaugural function as scheduled.***
5. ***Debates and master videos were received well by all delegates.***
6. ***The quality and selection of topics were excellent as all delegates opined. Keeping in mind theme of the conference, we had an optimum mix of basics and advanced. Faculties were also chosen solely on the merits of their credentials. They were chosen from all parts of our state, from medical colleges as well as from private consultants, urban as well as rural. We gave importance to our state faculties only.***
7. ***Topics were focused on a small area so that there is a practical take home message rather than just surfing on a vast area.***
8. ***Very effective communication by SMS/emails and maximum utilization of conference web site to the maximum.***
9. ***For the first time president of a Royal college, Mr David Galloway, participated in the CME and conference.***
10. ***We have put all PPTs and contents of CME/Conference and all the photos in google drive. A link is shared on the web site so that all delegates (and even those of our members who could not attend for various reasons) can also enjoy the scientific deliberations and download the photos.***
11. ***We will utilize the technology in future also to reach all the members.***
12. ***Planning to launch KSCASI APP for smart phones***
13. ***In next few months a major change can be witnessed in our web site with lot of useful information and user friendly interface.***
14. ***Participation by our national president Dr Suresh Vasistha, added colors.***
15. ***The main conference venue, dining hall, all halls, stalls in one huge building! Banquet within walk able distance, main bus stand and all accommodations within walk able distance....***
16. ***Overwhelming response from members: About 1300 delegates !!***
17. ***Overwhelming response from PGs: 266 Posters, 294 Papers! We had to provide 6 halls in addition to main hall to accommodate all of them.***
18. ***Unlike other conferences, we didn't have PGs to assist us. However, more than 70 volunteers from final MBBS and interns did the job effectively and helped the delegates and saw that everything ran smoothly.***

Post conference, appreciations have been pouring!!! We are really humbled by the love and affection you all showed.

It was an academic feast: Everybody appreciated the contents, finishing the talk within the time allotted so that everything thing went on time schedule like a TV programme.

Thank you all for helping us in making CME a grand success.

As Dr CS Rajan, Chairman KSCASI, has rightly put it in his letter: ***You have indeed raised the 'Conference Standards', and set the bar at a high level for future conference organizers to try and emulate.***

All this success we dedicate to you all. Because of your help, co operation and guidance, this was possible.

Thank you all again,

Dr Ramakrishna HK

On behalf of organising committee KSCASICON 2016
Team Shivamogga

Dr Shivaram HV

Hon. Secretary, KSCASI

Feedbacks from delegates

Dr Suresh Vasistha, President ASI 2016

Dear esteemed friends from KSC-ASI

Greetings from ASI and warmest personal regards.

At the outset let me congratulate you for a wonderful conference rich in academics. Everything was perfect. The huge number of registrations, the food delicacies, the hospitality and above all brotherhood and fellowship was unprecedented. The Royal College dinner was an added bonus.

I express my sincere thanks for a nice hospitality. I will always cherish the love and regard showered by each and every fellow colleague. Please convey my feelings to the organizers. I enjoyed the company of Drs. Vasudev Rao, PSV Rao, CS Rajan and our friends from Glasgow during the travel from BLR airport to Shivmogga. I also appreciate the conduct of your EC meeting and the harmony in the Chapter.

Looking forward to see you at HQs on 6 March during the sectional and chapter representatives meeting.

Keep the ASI flag flying high.

Dr David Galloway, President, Royal College of Physicians and surgeons, Glasgow

Suresh, I agree with your assessment. A most enjoyable meeting. Good to meet you. I will be in touch separately about arrangements for December.

Dr gd narayanappa

Very successful function in all respects:

Dr Harish Patel

Scientific programmes and food were good, but accommodation for pgs providing in hostels will be better, and kindly bring back the e posters with a better technology, and the chairpersons for free paper sessions were many sr 's and new assisstant professors it was bit discouraging for us to present as thy r lacking experience in the research field better to keep an associate prof r a prof will be appreciable,, thank you, these r just my views

Dr M Ramesh

Dear Dr Ramakrishna

I wish to thank one and all who have been involved in organising the conference. It was an excellent show. You have set a good landmark for others to follow

Dr Sonal Asthana

It was a pleasure to participate in the meeting. Thank you for the kind invitation to deliver a talk on liver transplantation. My compliments on the well-organized meeting and choice of topics. Most of all, I think that you have set an excellent example with strict adherence to allotted time. Thank once again for your hospitality and the excellent arrangements.

Dr Mohan LN

I would like to thank you and your committee for the wonderful hospitality during my stay at Shimoga. I enjoyed the conference proceedings. It should be mandatory for future meetings to stick to the time schedules strictly.

Dr Tejaswini Vallabha

I am sorry for delay in thanking all of you and the most hospitable organising committee for a wonderful conference. It was a memorable one because of very good scientific, gastronomic feast with a large dose of personal attention and meticulous conduction. Kudos to all. Dr Shivaram and Rajan sir please convey our sincere thanks to the committee headed by Dr Pai and Dr Shekar

Dr Naaz

Kudos to the organising team of Shimoga team. Great efforts. Meticulous planning. Perfect execution. Hats off to all of you. You have undoubtedly proved that team work can get the best results.

Dr MA Mulla

I have no words to describe what a wonderful conference it was. My congrats to whole-team of KSASICON 2016, Shivamogga for arranging such a mind and body nourishing conference. I enjoyed the food the most, & the hospitality of your team was commendable. Further I take the opportunity to thank the Director & all your hospital staff, doctors, nurses, paramedics for your timely help and kind and effective management of Dr. Karlatti, our BIMS colleague, who fainted in the auditorium. Thank you once gain. May God bless you.

Dr Madan Mariappa

Dear Dr. Ramakrishna & Dr. Shekar It was a wonderful brain storming conference, keeping in accordance with new trends in management, more important time schedule was maintained.... Congratulations to you all for hosting a successful meet,....

Dr Siddesh G

Thank you sooo much. It is other way round. I thank you for the excellent event you all together organised. Kudos. With all limitations you all did a wonderful job. Time management was excellent. Food was really tasty, different, unique and was easy on stomach. My congratulations and thanks to you and your entire team.

