

Meeting Report for 16th EFORT Congress 2015

I took Air France flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and arrived at Prague, Czech Republic on 25th May 2015. After checking in the U Kříže Hotel located at Malá Strana district, I took the tram to Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí). At the square, I join the Prague bus tour and spent the afternoon touring the beautiful ancient city of Prague. On the next day, I visited Prague Castle and the St. Vitus Cathedral, the Church of St. Nicholas, medieval astronomical clock and the famous Charles Bridge. I am very fascinated by the pristine and varied historical architectures of Prague. Besides that, the breath-taking view from the garden of Prague Castle was unforgettable as well.



View from the garden of Prague Castle



Charles Bridge

On day 1 of the 16th EFORT (European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology) 2015 Congress (27th May 2015), I arrived at the Prague Convention Centre via Metro Line around 8am.



Entrance to the Prague Convention Centre

Following the instruction given by congress secretariat, I used the pre-registration self-printing station to print out the badge and subsequently headed to the congress bag collection booth. The congress was well organized as the whole registration process took less than 15 minutes.



Registration booth at the congress

Infection was the main theme of this 16th EFFORT Congress. After browsing through the programme book, I made a note on the lectures/ sessions which I intended to attend as there were so many interesting sessions running concurrently.

At 9am, I headed to the Barcelona room to attend my first session of the EFORT Congress - symposium on intra-articular fractures in the elderly, subsequently followed by instructional course lecture entitled “Treatment of cervical facet subluxations, dislocations and fracture- dislocations”. Subsequently, following the crowd, I headed towards Prague hall for the EFORT opening ceremony. The first speaker to deliver the speech was the president of EFORT, Mr. Stephen R. Cannon, followed by interesting speeches by presidents of Czech Society for Orthopaedic & Traumatology, Prof. Dr. Parvel Dungal and Slovakia Orthopaedic & Traumatologic Society, Mr. Milan Kokavec. Both Czech and Slovakia Orthopaedic & Traumatology Associations were the local hosts for this EFORT 2015 Congress. Both the

presidents gave overviews on the brief history of Czech and Slovakia nations and introduction on the formation of their respective orthopaedic societies. The last speech was delivered by the president of Japanese Orthopaedic Association (JOA), Mr. Yukihide Iwamoto. Subsequently, the president of EFORT announced the winners of scientific papers and other prizes.



President of EFORT, Mr. Stephen R. Cannon delivering his speech at the opening ceremony

After the opening ceremony, I headed to industry lunch symposium followed by visitation to some of the exhibition booths. The afternoon sessions that I have attended including: Evidenced- based medicine - Current concepts in the management of bone and joint infection in children; lectures on microbiology, biofilm and antibiotics; instructional course lecture - distal radius fractures: indication for plate fixation. After the afternoon session, I took the Metro line followed by tram back to my hotel and dinner was the delicious traditional Czech plate which consisted of various meat dishes, grilled sausage, dumplings and completed with Czech beer.

On the second day of EFFORT Congress, I attended the symposium on distal humerus fractures: in the young, the elderly, role of joint replacement and treatment of non- unions; instructional course lectures- knee injuries in children, and proximal & diaphyseal humerus fractures in children and adolescents. Subsequently, I headed to Prague hall once again to attend the Erwin Morscher Honorary Lecture - "Are the implant and the bearing articulation still important? ". The speaker, Prof. Morlock Michael concluded that it is no longer important as total hip replacement is one of the most successful surgery of this century, thus surgeons should focus on education and training to improve our skills to prevent premature revisions. Lunch time was spent at Madrid room, listening to industry-sponsored lunch symposium. As for the afternoon session, I attended the symposium on combined wrist and carpal injuries. After the lectures, I headed to the Petřín Hill by the funicular railway and enjoyed beautiful scenery of Prague from the hill top. Dinner was at local restaurant, traditional Czech meal consisted on baked carp with thyme, peas and baby carrots.

On the last day of EFORT Congress, I attended the sessions on fractures around joints in children, Michael Freeman Honorary Lecture and symposium on pilon fracture - an update. After conclusion of the congress, I headed back to the hotel and continued my short tour to Budapest, Salzburg and Vienna before heading back to Prague again to board the connecting KLM flight back to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from Amsterdam.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Asian Association for Dynamic Osteosynthesis (AADO) for the scholarship as I have learnt a lot from this 16th EFORT 2015 Congress. I will use the knowledge and information that I have obtained from the congress for the benefit of my patients' management.