Background.
Globally there are many prosthetics and orthotics schools striving for and achieving ISPO accreditation. However, many of these schools are working in relative professional isolation. Especially for schools in low-income countries, where funds are limited, opportunities to share knowledge, experience with colleagues from other schools can greatly enhance the development of prosthetics and orthotics education.

This meeting was part of the ongoing regional collaboration program, co-ordinated by the Cambodia School of Prosthetics and Orthotics and funded by the Nippon Foundation, Japan. To date the collaboration program has facilitated 6 regional P/O school meetings (including this one).

Schools directly supported by the Nippon Foundation and sponsored for the meeting include:
- Cambodia, CSPO
- Sri Lanka, SLSPO
- Thailand, Mahidol University.

Schools not directly funded by Nippon but supported for attendance at the meeting include:
- Pakistan, PIPOS.

Schools attending, but self-funded include:
- Australia La Trobe University
- China, CHICOT
- China (Hong Kong), Polytechnic University
- India, Mobility India
- Indonesia, Health Polytechnic of Surakarta, Solo,
- Iraq, Baghdad Medical Institute
- Japan, Kobe College
- Malaysia, University of Malaya
- Vietnam, VIETCOT

The Canada meeting.

Participants (total 39 persons – 29 men and 10 women).
- **Nippon Foundation**: Dr. Eiji Tazawa and Mr. Tatsuro Yoshikawa;
- **ISPO**: Mr. Dan Blocka and Mr. John Fisk;
- **Cambodia Trust**: Mr. Carson Harte and Ms. Mary Scott;
Objectives for the regional collaboration meetings.
- Develop and update overview of regional P&O and Physical Rehabilitation situation.
- Exchange information on regional activities and educational policy with ISPO
- Develop a better understanding of impact and shortcomings in individual countries.
- Understand better the opportunities and restrictions on P&O activity and training in the current regional, global, developmental and funding environment.
- Develop and update strategies for further P&O development in the region including mentoring, continuing education and Category II – Category I upgrade.

Meeting Schedule.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30-09.00</td>
<td>Mary Scott</td>
<td>Opening, welcome and introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.00-10.00</td>
<td>John Fisk</td>
<td>Case based learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-10.30</td>
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<td>Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30-12.00</td>
<td>Dan Blocka</td>
<td>Procedures of final exam/assessment of students.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recommendation set by ISPO</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30-11.00</td>
<td>Lise Hjelmström</td>
<td>Final exam at CSPO</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00-11.15</td>
<td>Gulapar Srisawasdi</td>
<td>Final exam at Mahidol University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15-11.30</td>
<td>Suhardi</td>
<td>Final exam at Solo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30-11.45</td>
<td>Bakht Sarwar</td>
<td>Final exam at PIPOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00-13.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00-14.30</td>
<td>Nguyen Hai Thanh</td>
<td>Procedures of final exam/assessment of students. (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Final exam at VIETCOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00-13.15</td>
<td>Mitsu Uchida</td>
<td>Final exam at Kobe College</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.15-13.30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion of exams procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.30-14.30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.30-15.00</td>
<td>John Fisk</td>
<td>Achieving Excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.30-17.00</td>
<td>Wesley Pryor &amp; Lise Hjelmström</td>
<td>Updates on La Trobe/CSPO upgrade programme Intake 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Day 2. August 5th 2007.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00-9.00</td>
<td>Kaz Fujii and Lise Hjelmström</td>
<td>Education/teaching Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00-9.30</td>
<td>Dan Blocka and Mary Scott</td>
<td>Ortho-letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30-10.15</td>
<td>Ananda Runage and Yaggaha</td>
<td>P/O service in Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15-10.45</td>
<td>Sybounhouang and Sansathit</td>
<td>P/O service in Lao PDR</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.45-11.15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15-11.30</td>
<td>Mary Scott</td>
<td>Integrations of new BSc upgrades in the sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30-11.45</td>
<td>Feng Xin</td>
<td>P/O Education in China</td>
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</table>
Meeting of Prosthetics and Orthotics Educators Canada Report (August 2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.45-12.00</td>
<td>Mowfaq Naji</td>
<td>P/O Education in Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00-12.15</td>
<td>Ritu Ghosh</td>
<td>Final exam at Mobility India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15-13.00</td>
<td>Carson Harte</td>
<td>Objectives from previous meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00-14.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00-16.00</td>
<td>Michael Scott</td>
<td>Objectives for the coming year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Planning next meeting</td>
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</tbody>
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Meeting Report.
The meeting was opened by Mary Scott, who welcomed the participants. In particular, a warm welcome was extended to the new participants (and new schools) to the meeting.

Case Based Learning
John Fisk defined experience as one’s great assess.

A curriculum has added power when:
1. Education activities directly prepare the student for professional practice;
2. Students take responsibility for their own learning; and
3. Education activities support and enhance each other.

It was explained that case based learning (CBL) may also be known as:
• Problem based learning – PBL
• Small group learning
• Experience based learning.

Goals were defined as:
1. Learning in the clinical context
2. Clinically based assessment
3. Active problem solvers
4. Self directed learners
5. Life long learners

Goals for students were defined as to:
1. Become independent thinkers;
2. Reason their way through patient problems;
3. Recall and apply what they have been taught in medical school;
4. Recognize when their skills and knowledge are not adequate to the clinical task they are confronting;
5. Learn new information as they need it, and as medical research moves ahead, keeping contemporary in their knowledge and skills.
Educational Design and Teaching Techniques Contents were defines as:

- Small group learning
- Designing cases
- Effective presentations
- Instructional outcomes
- Instructional design for teaching skills
- Giving feedback
- Developing a course matrix
- Course/curriculum evaluation

**Procedures of final exam/assessment of students.**
The session opened with a presentation by Daniel Blocka describing the recommendations of ISPO concerning final exam/assessment of students.

ISPO Recognition Process for Educational Programs:

1. An “Information Package” has been developed to provide guidance for any country or organisation involved in the establishment of a course attempting to satisfy the Category II ISPO standards.
   The Information Package contains:
   - a description of the professional profile
   - information relating to a Code of Ethics
   - course learning objectives
   - an example of an acceptable syllabus
   - a model of a Final Examination structure

   The Final Examination Protocol sets the framework and procedure for the process.
   The Purpose & Objectives are to:
   - Standardize the process for the Category II final examination process.
   - Allow minimal standards for Category II to be measured more effectively while adopting a uniform approach within the recognition process.
   - Ensure there is a fair and equitable assessment of the candidates.
   - Ensure the examination process is reflective of the course content and the standards outlined in the Category II Information Package.

Prosthetics and Orthotics Schools presented their education programmes and/or final examinations procedures.

The participates separated in groups to answer the following questions:
1. What do we expect from ISPO?
2. What are the advantages of ISPO Accreditation?
3. What are the difficulties to obtain and retain ISPO accreditation?
4. What do we think ISPO will require from us?
Outcomes

1. What do we expect from ISPO?
   - Consistent advice on standards, curriculum, regulations and process
   - International recognition
   - Guidance on how to run Category II programmes
   - Guidance/directions on upgrading (Category II – Category I)
   - Pre-visit exchange of information between ISPO and the school concerned
   - ISPO to market its education policy to local govt./NGOs/private sector
   - Flexibility, taking into consideration local conditions

2. What are the advantages of ISPO Accreditation?
   - Community
     - Assuring competence and quality
     - Improved professional standards
     - Better client/patient care
   - Schools
     - Improved recognition of schools at international level
     - Ongoing review of standards
     - Can attract students from other countries
     - Guidance available for the development of new schools
     - More funding
   - Individual
     - Professional recognition within community
     - Possibility to upgrade
     - Greater chance for individuals for global continuous professional development

3. What are the difficulties to obtain and retain ISPO accreditation?
   - Extra work in already busy work schedule
   - Financial costs
   - Accommodating national interests that might conflict with ISPO standards
   - Standards are high compared to education in other disciplines
   - Different focuses between different inspectors
   - Lack of information from ISPO on accreditation process
   - Process involved in accreditation - doubts and fears

4. What do we think ISPO will require from us?
   - More active involvement
   - Greater feedback to ISPO, requests and suggestions for developments should come from the field (a 2-way process)
   - Good documentation
   - Local logistical in-country support
   - Sufficient notice that a consultation or inspection is required.
   - More members– can we encourage more people to join?
Ortholetter
Through the discussions it was discovered that many participants were not familiar with the ORTHOLETTER, an ISPO publication intended for persons from low-income countries with an interest in prosthetics and orthotics. ISPO will ensure that when Ortholetter publication begins again that it will be brought to the attention of all participants of the schools meetings.

Sharing of Educational Materials
A discussion was held concerning the appropriateness of developing educational material in the form of new manuals. The group could not decide if in the year 2007, the develop of such manuals would be useful, or if the issue should be addressed by identifying a user-friendly solution to sharing educational materials. Much educational material already exists and considerable resources would be required to develop new manuals. This topic could be added to the agenda of the next schools meeting for further discussion.

La Trobe/CSPO Upgrade programme
Lise Hjelmstrom and Wesley Pryor discussed that this programme is a pilot project of 2 intakes funded by the Nippon Foundation. It is a collaboration between La Trobe and CSPO.
Objectives for this program:
- Improve quality of services for people with disability
- Empowering national/regional capacity
- Replacement of expatriates
- National/regional sustainability
A first intake of 9 candidates have successfully completed Bachelor Degrees in Prosthetics and Orthotics from La Trobe University
Work is ongoing to achieve ISPO Category 1 accreditation.

During 2007, a second intake of students is undertaking English language and study techniques to meet La Trobe University entrance requirements by December 2007.

Integration of the new BSc upgrades in the sector
The individual needs to recognise that:
- Large investment has been made in the individual’s education
- The investment has been made to develop services for people with disabilities, not for the benefit of only the individual

Institutions have a responsibility to:
- Provide a professional career path for the individuals
- Ensure adequate monetary reimbursement
- Encourage ongoing capacity building

Internships should be considered:
- Internships are intended to provide a supportive environment for new graduates
Globally internships in prosthetics and orthotics are of varying duration. Internships have not generally been available for Category II programmes, primarily because of lack of qualified personnel to provide the support. Internships provide opportunities for increased professional experience.

On-going capacity building:
- Learning should never stop
- Measuring capacity building frequently improves its quality
- Higher level capacity building becomes more and more the responsibility of the individual

Benefits to the region/individuals
- Shared resources increase value for all
- International experience provides:
  - Professional development for the individual
- Regional development of prosthetics and orthotics services
- Opportunity to provide adequate monitory reimbursement

The final statement for the P/O Schools Meeting in Sri Lanka 2006 was reviewed and a new one developed and agreed for the Canada Meeting 2007.

**Final Statement – Canada 2007.**

**Goals**
- Develop regional collaboration in Prosthetics and Orthotics Education.
  - Share teaching materials.
- Have regular discussion/interaction between the members of the group.
- Approach ISPO on recognition / development of regional meetings and networks.
- Increase public awareness of Prosthetics and Orthotics in the region.

**Future participates**
- Invite non-educators, (employers and donors) to attend as observers.
  - But avoid “powerful” groups dominating proceedings.
- Invite other countries such as South Korea.

**Activities**
We will:
- Continue to develop the web forum.
  - Each school to develop individual website and link to SAPOS
  - Schools to link to each other.
- Use SAPOS for exchange / as a resource
- Meet at least once per year.
  - Develop “sub-meetings” to discuss specific topics
    - Internet
    - Educational literature
    - “Customers”
– Offer assistance to one another.
– Request assistance from one another.
– Publish articles of regional activities.
  • Ortholetter – one article from each school each year.
– Inform ISPO biannually through Regional Consultant.
  Each school to provide half page report, each 6 months.
  (1st report end of Dec 2007 – to Mary Scott).
– Ensure that all with an interest in PO education in the region understand
  that they are welcome in these activities.
– Share information about other programmes/schools with potential donors.
– Seek funding for the members, who are actively involved in these
  activities.
– Share human resources in Prosthetics and Orthotics education in the
  region.
– Encourage development of strategic plans on Prosthetics and Orthotics
  development for each country as requested.

Next meeting: Peshawar, Pakistan - March 2008.

These prosthetics and orthotics schools meetings are a relatively inexpensive way of
providing capacity building opportunities. The model has been working in South East
Asia for 5 years, and has improved communication between educators. The meeting
often provides a first occasion for participants to make presentations, facilitate group
discussions and develop many skills that are important for the development of
prosthetics and orthotics education. The introduction of other regional networks of
educators could bring benefits in both the short and long-term in different
geographical locations.

ISPO’s involvement in the meetings provides opportunities for participants to seek
information from ISPO in less stressful situation than during other occasions, such as
ISPO school inspections. Frequently for citizens of low-income countries the ISPO
tri-annual World Congress is the main and/or only opportunity for communication
with peers. While this is a hugely important event, the possibilities of meeting with
peers and ISPO representatives more frequently could make a strong imput.

There is a cadre of prosthetics and orthotics educators developing in low-income
countries who can make a huge input to the future of prosthetics and orthotics in the
coming decades. It is important that capacity building opportunities are developed.