Asian Medical Students’ Association
Asian Medical Students’ Conference 2010
Jakarta, Indonesia
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This year I was fortunate enough to be to attend the Asian Medical Students’ Conference (AMSC) in Jakarta, Indonesia. The theme of the AMSC 2010 was ‘Geriatric Medicine: Comprehensive Approaches for a Better Quality of Life’. This was a particularly pertinent subject considering the rapidly advancing age of Australia’s population. However, as the conference demonstrated this phenomenon is not restricted to Australia.

Based on an academic program including plenary lectures, paper and poster presentations by students and academic workshops, the Conference provided delegates with an opportunity to engage students from throughout Asia. This sharing of knowledge and experience resulted in an enriched and diverse educational experience for all involved through a spectrum of topics from academic to cultural.

The Conference provided an opportunity for medical students to meet, not only to discuss current medical and health issues, but also to learn about each others’ cultures, experience life in the host country, Indonesia, and form lifelong friendships. A well-organised social program enabled delegates to experience traditional dancing and Indonesian cuisine at several formal dinners. Another highlight included the city tour of Jakarta, visiting various museums and shopping malls with new friends. Other moments sure to resonate in the minds of delegates include the Taman Mini Indonesia Indah - a culture-based recreational park located in East Jakarta - that showcases the unique and distinct cultures or various Indonesian provinces and a visit to the National Monument and Gallery - an historic tower in the centre of Merdeka Square in Central Jakarta - that symbolises the fight for Indonesia’s independence.

Overall, the Australian delegation enjoyed an amazing week of cultivating new friendships, education and cultural discovery. My thanks are extended to the talented Indonesian medical students who made the conference possible. Thanks too must go to the Faculty for supporting the trip.