

Conference Judges' comments

To have the opportunity to assist in judging oral abstract presentations at the 2009 East Asian Medical Students Conference (EAMSC) in Malaysia was an incredible opportunity to view the emerging talent and research skills amongst a cohort of future doctors from across Asia. It was also a chance to experience what I considered to be the exchange of cultural literacy in action. There is strong evidence to support the notion that young people are the most effective when delivering information to their peers about sexual health including HIV and AIDS prevention. The selection of presentations from Malaysia, Nepal, Hong Kong, Cambodia and Australia amongst others set an impressive standard of both content and delivery of information. However after a considerably difficult job of deciding who would be rewarded with the first place, it was Korea that emerged as the winning academic paper.

The team who had worked on the paper clearly had developed a professional and polished approach to delivering their content and impressed all three judges with their integration of simple and effective data presentation alongside the use of multi media to highlight some of the social elements of their research including an emphasis on human rights and the greater involvement of PLWHAs delivering prevention interventions.

While the depth of research that the students had undertaken to produce their paper was a testament in its self to their skills, given the difficult to obtain certain levels of HIV epidemiological data in Korea comparatively to other country groups who were presenting, it was by far the concluding emphasis on the positive role that Medical students and students more broadly can play in effectively responding to stigma and challenging of social trends that assisted in ensuring Korea was the rightful recipient of the winning abstract.

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