Report of the site inspection of Marrakesh for the 22nd IFOS Congress 2021

Site Inspection Committee:
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Introduction

The ORL society of Morocco and its president Prof. Mostafa Detsouli have officially applied for the Marrakesh candidacy for the 22nd IFOS Congress. They have sent 5 bid books to the IFOS General Secretary. The bid book contains all necessary documents to fulfil formal requirements for application acceptance. Inside the bid book there are letters of support from the undersecretary of Ministry of Health El Houssain Ouardi, Minister of Education Lahcen Haddad Representative of the king for the Marrakesh district. There are also support letters from ORL several societies, PAFOS (Pan African Federation of ORL Societies). The organizer clearly declared that all countries have very easy access to Morocco either without visa or with simple application for visa. The site inspection visit took place during the period April 13-15, 2016. The site visit was extremely well prepared with the focus on all aspects of the site visit manual.

Moroccan Oto-rhino-laryngology Society (SMORL)

The Moroccan Oto-rhino-laryngology Society (SMORL) is the most important ORL society in the Maghreb area representing 550 members. The Marrakesh bid is supported by all Maghreb ORL societies (Algeria – 2 ORL societies representing 300/700 members, Tunisian one ORL society with 400 members, Mauritania one ORL society representing 16 members and Libya). In total Maghreb group represent 2100 ENT doctors. President of the Moroccan Oto-rhino-laryngology Society (SMORL) Prof. Mostafa Detsouli is the General Secretary for the Moroccan bid for IFOS 2021. Honorary president of the Moroccan Oto-rhino-laryngology Society (SMORL) is Professor Abdelhamid Benghalem who is the President of the Moroccan bid for the IFOS 2021. The site inspection visit to Marrakesh took place during the National Congress of the Moroccan Oto-rhino-laryngology Society (SMORL). This congress is organised regularly in April in Marrakesh with the participation of more than 400 delegates and it is considered to be the most important ORL congress in this region. This year there were 34 international key note lectures, 120 free papers, 3 annual recommendations. The main subjects were thyroid, hearing loss, cholesteatoma and tuberculosis in ORL. The Moroccan Oto-rhino-laryngology Society (SMORL) has close cooperation with the French ORL society (SFORL). Professor Benghalem is the former president of PAFOS (Pan African Federation of ORL societies).

The Moroccan Oto-rhino-laryngology Society has also defined the organising committee Abdelhamid Benghalem Co-president of the Moroccan bid and executive member of IFOS, Honorary President of the Moroccan ORL Society
Pr Mostafa Detsouli, Co-president of the Moroccan bid, President of the Moroccan ORL Society

PROMOTION COMMITTEE
Clémence Chidziva (Zimbabwe), Johannes Fagan (South Africa), Ossama A Hamid (Egypt)
Isaac Macharia (Kenya), H. Malik Diop (Senegal)

SUPPORT COMMITTEE
C. Cenjor, C. Chaouch, M. Diop, M. Djennaoui, M. Kadiri, M. Zemirli

Support of the meeting

The support for the IFOS Congress is demonstrated by the personal letters in the bid book from PAFOS, MAFOS (Maghreb), ORL Society of Ivory Coast, Tunisian ORL Society, Algerian ORL Society, South African ORL Society, Senegal ORL Society, Mauritania ORL Society, Togo ORL Society, Burkina Faso ORL Society, Liberia ORL Society.

We have also been accepted by local representatives – The WALI: MOUFAKKIR MOHAMED which is the direct representative of the King (directly nominated by the king) and The MAJOR of Marrakesh: Mr. BELKAID LARBI. Who is elected by the parliament and approved by prime minister.

They presented full support for the organizing the IFOS Congress 2021 in Marrakesh.

PCO

Colloquium is a PCO with 60 years of tradition being on the market. They have 30 years of continuous cooperation with the French ORL society. Colloquium has organised 2500 congresses with the attendance up to 14,000 participants (World Congress of Anaesthesiologists, Paris 2004). Colloquium is the ICCA member, certificated by IAPCO, BAPCO, and EFAPCO. Colloquium will be the PCO for the IFOS Congress 2017 and it has an excellent communication with the ORL world as well as the industry in the ORL field.
Convention Centre

Congress Centre of Marrakesh (CCM) has a tradition to organize major events in the medical and non-medical field (World Congress of Neurosurgery 4500 attendees, Gynaecology 3000, Urology 2000, annual film festival etc.) The congress centre will be connected by tents with surrounding hotels to enlarge the exhibition area. The CCM has lot of experience doing this with powerful air conditioning. The main auditorium has a capacity of 1800 seats and can be connected with the Ministres hall for additional 1800 seats with total capacity for the major events 3300 seats. There are additional rooms for 500, 300 and 100 seats with sufficient capacity to organize the scientific program. In total there are 2 amphitheatres, 12 conference rooms, 8 meeting rooms and 2 committee rooms. It has a representative exhibition space connecting by the tent with the lecture room in the neighbouring hotel with possibility to organize coffee breaks and company exhibitions and demonstrations. The most modern audio-visual technology is part of the Marrakesh Congress Centre

Hotels

All categories of the hotels are available for the Congress. Approximately 5000 rooms of different categories are available in the walking distance from the CCM. There are 1400 hotels in the city of Marrakesh with 4500 rooms in 5stars hotels, 3500 rooms in 4 stars hotels, 2500 rooms in 3 stars hotels. Also youth hostels and aparthotels are available. Prices are accessible for any kind of delegates with room price from 45€ to 185€ per night.

Safety

Marrakesh is a very safe city. This information comes from our personal experience as well as from local citizens and guests. People can walk late in the night without any danger. Many nationalities and religions live together peacefully and safely in Marrakesh. The safety has also been stressed by the Mayor of Marrakesh. The WALI: MOUFAKKIR MOHAMED is in direct charge of the security for the COP22 meeting. He gave us some guarantee regarding the implication of the highest authorities in safety if the candidacy is successful.

Travelling

Marrakech being an attractive holiday and meeting city has very good connections. Its international airport has direct flight connections to the major European hubs and from there to
all over the world. There are 42 European connections, 35 African connections, 5 Middle East connections. Casablanca airport (2 hours driving to Marrakesh) is another possibility for getting to Marrakesh. The New terminal in the Marrakesh airport is just being built and it will be finished next year.
Taxi fare in the city is very reasonable even for longer distances.

**Social program**

We have seen Chez Ali venue built in the Kasbah style with the restaurant for more than 3000 seated guests and also Soleiman Palace where the Faculty dinner can be organised. Accompanying persons will have an opportunity to see the Marrakesh attractions as well as trip to the High Atlas Mountain or desert trips. Typical Berber villages situated around Marrakesh with their Kasbah are also worth to visit

**Promotion**

Colloquium is very experienced company to realize promotion of the Congress. Professor Benghalem and his team will travel in the major conferences, continental conferences to promote the candidacy.

**Conclusion**

Site inspection committee recommends accepting Marrakesh as a candidate city for IFOS 2021.

Marrakesh, April 15. 2016

Chong Sun Kim ........................................

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