

From The Editor

Green radiology, greener AOOCR2026, and the greenest Singapore

Received 27 September 2026; accepted 28 September 2026
doi:10.46475/asean-jr.v27i3.1055



Charles Goh, M.B.B.S.
President, Singapore Radiological Society
AOOCR 2026 Organizing Chairperson

During AOOCR 2026, Green Radiology was in the spotlight. The conference theme was "Imaging Beyond Borders, Shaping a Sustainable Future", and sustainability was woven into the subspecialty tracks and scientific competition, with topics ranging from resource-efficient breast cancer screening, to sustainable practices in IR, US, CT and MRI. Dr Danny Cho, President-Elect of the Asian Oceanian



Wiwatana Tanomkiat, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief,
The ASEAN Journal of Radiology

Similar to other organizations around the world, from the United Nations to a small shop on the street, environmental consciousness is reflected in policies, and is advertised, or practiced through various activities, I myself have observed that the concepts of "Green Radiology" or "Sustainable Radiology" have been incorporated into the scientific program in almost all congresses in recent years. However,

Society of Radiology, delivered the plenary lecture on "Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Imaging – Actionable Strategies for Green Radiology", and we continued the conversation during the leadership dialogue panel discussion on "Leading Change in a Resource-Constrained Future". The panelists, Rajiv Rattan, from Australia, Andrea Rockall, from the UK and Reed Omary, from the USA, shared perspectives from different continents. While there are certainly many common problems with common solutions, the effects of climate change on our countries and practices vary considerably, and our solutions for these thorny issues need to factor in our unique social, cultural, political and economic situations. Through conversations both on and off the podium, participants shared best practices, successes and challenges, and the seeds were sown for future collaborations and exchanges.

As the impact of climate change continues to be felt around the world, our radiology community needs to take the lead in stewarding our imaging resources well. By reducing low-value imaging, switching scanners off or to low-power modes when idle, optimizing scanning protocols, reducing active contrast and waste, and collaborating closely with industry, we can reduce our carbon footprint significantly, while maintaining high standards of diagnosis and intervention. Together, we can make a difference today, for a brighter tomorrow!

there is no better venue than Singapore, which hosted the 24th Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology (AOCR) from 20-23 August 2026, where green initiatives were projected on the screen, throughout the congress, and everywhere in the country. Drinking water was provided in paper cartons or could be drunk from purifiers that were available in the congress and all hotel rooms, and even in re-used wine bottles placed on the tables of restaurants. It is therefore not surprising to learn that Singapore is on its way to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, as stated in its national commitment. Last year, Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH), MOH Holdings Pte Ltd (MOHH), and the Centre for Sustainable Medicine (CoSM) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine), released their first-ever comprehensive national emissions report for Singapore's healthcare sector, and the first comprehensive study across Asia, demonstrating that Singapore's healthcare system is 18% more sustainable than previously estimated, with the country delivering world-class healthcare at 20% lower carbon intensity than other advanced economies [1]. A whole-of-system approach to decarbonization is believed to be the key to successfully balancing the rising health demands, climate risks, and resource pressures and deliver both better health outcomes and a healthier planet [2].



During AOCR 2026, Dr. leong Chon Man, the President of Macao Radiology Association, and Dr. Wiwatana Tanomkiat, the Editor-in-Chief, hosted a private lunch to personally congratulate Emeritus Professor Dr. Ng Kwan Hoong and Madam Sia Leng Suan on the occasion of Professor Ng receiving the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology (AOSR) Gold Medal. Distilled drinking water was served in a re-used wine bottle.

References

1. Ministry of Health [Internet]. Delivering Quality Care Sustainably in Singapore. Singapore; 2025. [cited 2026 Sept 27]. Delivering Quality Care Sustainably in Singapore. Available from: <https://www.moh.gov.sg/others/resources-and-statistics/delivering-quality-care-sustainably-in-singapore/>
2. National University of Singapore. Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine [Internet]. Singapore; 2025. [cited 2026 Sept 27]. New NUS-MOH study: Singapore's healthcare sector carbon emissions 18% lower than expected. Available from: <https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/news/new-nus-moh-study-singapores-healthcare-sector-carbon-emissions-18-lower-than-expected/>