

OBITUARY



Prof. Than Cho 1955 – 2013

Prof. Than Cho was born on 16th December 1955 in a family of government servants. His father was U Maung Maung Cho, an officer from Rangoon Port Authorities and his mother was Daw Than Su, a chief children officer from Rangoon Division Health Department. He had one sister Daw Khin Than Yee who was a nurse. He married Dr. Swe Swe Tun in 1979 and has two sons, one daughter and one grand child.

Primary school education was acquired at BEHS (1) Kyeemyindine, the middle and high school education at BEHS (1) Lanmadaw. He joined the Institute of Medicine 1, in 1972 and obtained MBBS degree in 1980. He completed one year house officer in Rangoon General Hospital (RGH), Central Women Hospital and Rangoon Children Hospital.

He served in the military (National Services Act) from 1984 to 1987, and joined the civil government service in 1987 September as an assistant surgeon at Tharyawaddy Hospital. He was then transferred to Yangon Orthopedic Hospital from 1987 to 1990.

Post-graduate training (Master course in orthopedics) was taken in Institute of Medicine 1, from 1990 to 1992 and obtained M.Med.Sc. (Ortho) in 1992. He served as first assistant to professor in Yangon Orthopedic Hospital up to 1994.

Fellowship training was taken in United Kingdom from 1994 to 1997 and obtained FRCS (Edinburgh) and FRCS (London). He took training at Royal Liverpool University Hospital in general surgery and orthopedics. He returned back to Myanmar in 1998 and served as first assistant to professor at Yangon Orthopedic Hospital till 1998. He was

promoted as a consultant orthopedic surgeon at North Okkalapa General Hospital in 1998.

He was then transferred to Mandalay General Hospital as a lecturer in 2000 and promoted to Associate Professor at University of Medicine 2, orthopedic department from 2004 to 2008. He obtained Dr.Med.Sc. (Ortho) in 2007 and was promoted to Professor at Thingangyun Sanpya General Hospital from 2007 to 2009.

He was appointed to the chair of Professor of Orthopedics in University of Medicine (Mandalay) in 2009 April and further promoted to the post of the Rector of the University of Medicine 1, Yangon in May 2011 till he passed away on 11th November 2013. He was also appointed as President Elect of Myanmar Orthopedic Society from 2011 – 2013.

He had a wide vision for the development of medical curriculum and a strong desire to upgrade the teaching facilities. He impressed many foreign visitors and following is the remarks from Associate Professor Robert Bauze from University of Adelaide, Australia;

"I was very sorry to hear of the death of Prof. Than Cho. The poor man had clung to life so determinedly it seemed that he would go on forever. He was a good man and one with vision who understood the needs of Myanmar and his institution but at the same time 'had his feet on the ground'. It was a pleasure to have known and worked with him".

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