



W. Philip T. James

The Malaysian Association for the study of Obesity (MASO) pays tribute to the late Professor Philip James (Phil) who passed away on 5 Oct 2023 in London. A remarkable man, recognised as a world expert in the field of human nutrition. He made many important contributions to the development of nutrition policy and is an advisor to many international organisations. He was instrumental in gaining WHO's acceptance on the importance of obesity as a major risk factor of other NCDs'. Quote *"perhaps the biggest challenge was establishing the criteria for obesity assessment, management, and prevention for policy makers across the globe"*. A masterpiece manuscript that sums up his illustrious career and contributions can be found in an article *"A Dissenter's Journey"* published in *Annual Review of Nutrition* (2021), 41:1-18



Figure 2. The Multiple reports produced for Ministers, Prime Ministers, WHO or the UN generally where I have chaired or launched the report having been a co-author or written the whole report. From left to right, top row: The First UK Dept. of Health/MRC report on obesity research 1976; The London Royal College report on obesity 1983; the UK NACNE report 1983; WHO EURO report Healthy Nutrition 1986; WHO Technical Expert series 797 Diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases 1990. Second row: the first Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) report on Obesity Management in Primary Care, 1996. No. 8; The Scottish Office's Scotland's Health: a challenge to us all; the Scottish Diet 1993. Then the Diet Action Plan for Scotland 1996; The UK Food Standards Agency Proposal for Tony Blair 1997; a new approach to physical activity and diet for English school children 1997. Third row: BMI, a measure of chronic energy deficiency for FAO by Prakash Shetty and James 1994; Human Energy Requirements; a manual for planners and nutritionists. For FAO with Clare Schofield 1990; the first WHO Obesity report distributed by IOTF 1998; WHO formal Expert Technical Report Series 894 on Obesity, 2000; The UN SCN Millennium report on Ending Malnutrition by 2020. An agenda for change. Food and Nutrition Bulletin 2000; 21: No. 35.

I first met Prof. Philip James in 1988 at the *Workshop on Biology of adaptation to seasonal cycling of energy balance*, Rome, Italy, where I spent my sabbatical leave (TWAS Fellowship) working at the Institute of Nutrition headed by Prof. Anna Ferro Luzzi. Our path crossed again in 1993, when I was awarded the Royal Society (UK) Award, to work on DLW with Dr. Paul Haggarty at the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, UK where he was its' Director (1982-1999).



With Prof. Philip James, Director, Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, UK in 1993.

Prof. Philip James first involvement with us was in MASO 2001 as a Plenary speaker. Two years later, he was the Keynote speaker at the Asia-Oceania Conference on Obesity (AOCO 2003) organised by MASO in Kuala Lumpur. He spoke on *"The challenge of Asian Obesity : a Double Handicap"*. He was concerned with the nutritional challenges we face as a developing nation, and has frequently accepted our invitation to update us on obesity epidemic in several series of MASO Biennial Conferences, Asia-Oceania Conference on Obesity (2003) and International Congress on Obesity (ICO 2014) in Kuala Lumpur.



Phil with Deputy Minister of Health Malaysia in MASO 2001,

Kuala Lumpur



MASO 2001



MASO 2001



MASO 2001 Dinner



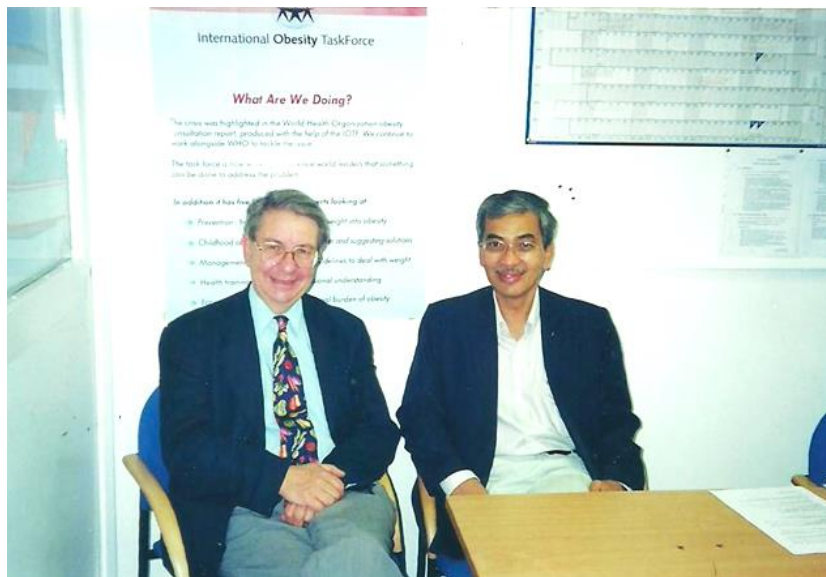
Opening Ceremony, AOCO 2003 with Minister of Health Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, 7 – 9 Sept. 2003.



Conference Dinner, AOCO 2003



AOCO 2003 with Asian delegates



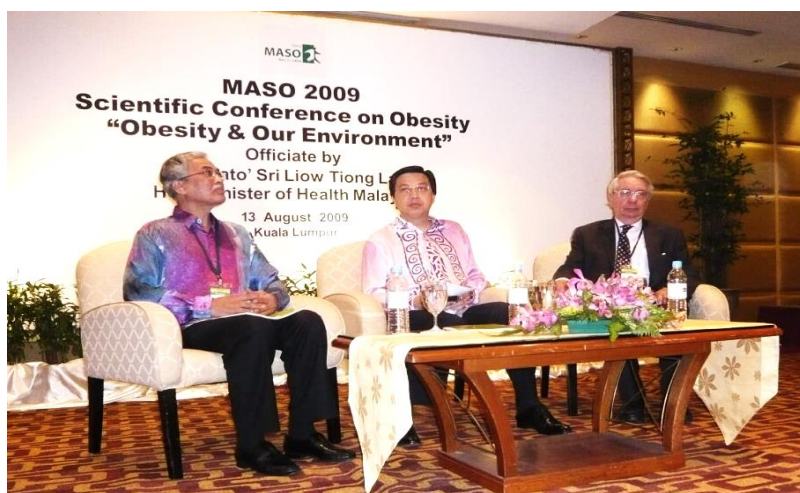
With Prof Philip James, Director IOTF, London in 2005



Philip James, Tim Gill and IOTF/IASO officers in London office



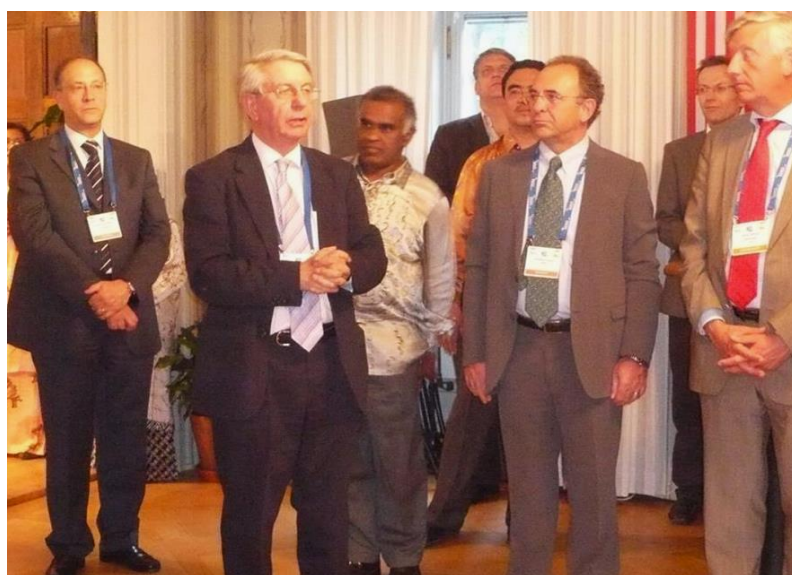
Global Alliance lecture in Kuala Lumpur (2007)



Opening Ceremony MASO 2009 by Minister of Health Malaysia



MASO (2009) Keynote Lecture



Prof. Philip James, President IASO, thanking the Malaysian Embassy and MASO for hosting a reception for Presidents of IASO member countries in ICO 2010, Stockholm, Sweden.



With Philip James, Arya Sharma, David York at ECO 2011, Istanbul, Turkey (promoting ICO 2014)



Prof Philip James, President, World Obesity Federation with Deputy Minister of Health Malaysia, Director-General of Health Malaysia, Deputy DG and Ms. Trimmer, Executive Director, WOF in ICO 2014. Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia



Opening Ceremony ICO 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Prof. Philip James, President WOF, Welcome address.



Prof. Philip James, President WOF Chairing the WOF assembly



ICO 2014 Gala Dinner – Minister of Health Malaysia with Prof. Philip James and Prof. Walmir, President-Elect WOF



ICO 2014 Gala Dinner, Phil with Hon. Minister and Paul Trayhurn, Chairman, Scientific Committee, ICO 2014



**I visited Phil and Jean @ Gatti Wharf 5, London
on 22 May 2023 after ECO 2023 in Dublin.**

Professor Philip James will always be remembered as a luminary in the field of human nutrition. His wisdom and dedication have left an indelible mark, inspiring generations of scholars. While we mourn his loss, let us also celebrate the enduring legacy he leaves behind. Our deepest condolences go out to Jean and the family and may he rest in eternal peace.

Emeritus Prof. Dr Mohd Ismail Noor

FIUNS, FASc, FCFAM, FMSA, FMOSTA, FNSM, FMASO

FANS Lifetime Achievement Award (2023)

Immediate-Past President MASO

On behalf of the Malaysian Association for the study of Obesity (MASO)

9 October 2023.