

The official journal of APRAS determined

**ASIAN FEDERATION OF PLASTIC,
RECONSTRUCTIVE AND AESTHETIC SURGERY
SOCIETIES**

(APRAS) is a federation of official plastic surgery societies in Asia, which was founded in January, 2023.



Hot News!

**APRAS and KSPRS journal agreed that
“Archives of Plastic Surgery” will become an
official journal of APRAS.**

The details will be announced soon.



Please visit <https://www.apras-asia.org> for details



ASIAN FEDERATION OF PLASTIC, RECONSTRUCTIVE AND AESTHETIC SURGERY SOCIETIES

COUNCIL DELEGATES & ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Date: July 8, 2026

Dear Esteemed Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

On behalf of the Council Delegates of the **Asian Federation of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Societies (APRAS)**, it is our distinct privilege and honor to cordially invite you to participate in a landmark event in our specialty: **The Inaugural Congress of APRAS (APRAS 2026)**.



This prestigious assembly will take place at the world-class **Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC)** in the beautiful island of Bali, Indonesia. Under our core theme, *"Building Competence, Shaping Excellence,"* this congress is dedicated to creating a foundational platform that unites clinical expertise, pioneering research, and global surgical standards across the Asia-Pacific region.

In an extraordinary synergy of scientific advancement, APRAS 2026 will be held independently yet united in purpose alongside **The 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Indonesian Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (29th InaPRAS 2026)**, which follows immediately from **September 3 to 5, 2026** under the theme *"Competence with Confidence."*

APRAS 2026 Secretariat • www.apras2026bali.org

1

This unique arrangement offers all attendees an unparalleled opportunity to experience world-class academic programs, outstanding international networking, and global collaboration. A special registration package has been curated specifically to allow delegates to seamlessly experience the very best of both premier events.

CONGRESS OVERVIEW & KEY DETAILS

Event	: APRAS 2026 The Inaugural Congress of Asian Federation of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Societies
Theme	: <i>Building Competence, Shaping Excellence</i>
Dates	: September 2 – 3, 2026
Venue	: Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC), Bali, Indonesia
Official Website	: apras2026bali.org
Co-located Event	: 29th InaPRAS 2026 The 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of Indonesian Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons
Theme	: <i>Competence with Confidence</i>
Dates	: September 3 – 5, 2026
Official Website	: pitperapi.org

Whether your focus is complex reconstructive challenges or the latest innovations in aesthetic surgery, this joint scientific meeting promises to provide invaluable insights and elevate your global practice. We encourage you to secure your registration early to take advantage of the combined congress packages.

We look forward to welcoming you warmly to Bali this September to share in this historic milestone and shape the future of plastic surgery together.

Yours sincerely,

The Council Delegates

Asian Federation of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Societies (APRAS)





APRAS future events/ webinars

APRAS future events

1) July 24-25, 2026:

APRAS session by PAPRAS

In PAPRAS Annual Convention 2026

EDSA Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City, Philippine

[PAPRAS Annual Convention 2026](#)

2) September 2-3, 2026:

APRAS congress by InaPRAS

followed by the 29th Annual Meeting of InaPRAS (Sep 4-5)

Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center, Indonesia

[InaPRAS 2026](#)

**Please see the flyer at the end.*

3) December 12-13, 2026

APRAS session by TSPS

In TSPS 2026 Annual Meeting

Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center, Taipei, Taiwan

<https://www.prsa.org.tw/home.php>

APRAS future webinar

1) September 19, 2026: 10th APRAS Education Committee Webinar

Host Country: Taiwan

Topic: Virtual planning in plastic surgery

APRAS: Past events and webinars

Past events

- April 10-12 , 2026: APRAS sessions Islamabad, Pakistan by PAPS
- December 13-14, 2025: APRAS sessions in Tainan, Taiwan by TSPS
- November 7-9, 2025: APRAS meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by MSPRS
[MSPRS 1st Announcement- Delegation](#)
- August 8-9, 2025: APRAS sessions in Manila, by PAPRAS
- February 13-14, 2025: APRAS Session in Peshawar, Pakistan
[APRAS Session in Peshawar, Pakistan](#)
- December 7-8, 2024: APRAS 2-day meeting in Taipei, Taiwan
[2024 TSPS Meeting](#)
- October 17-19, 2024: APRAS Sessions in Tokyo, Japan
<https://www.ipsrc.org/>
- August 28-31, 2024: APRAS sessions, Central Java, Indonesia
<https://inapras-meeting2024.com>
- July 4-6, 2024: APRAS Sessions in Cebu, Philippines
- February 4, 2024: APRAS 1-day meeting in Karachi, Pakistan
- November 2nd, 2023: APRAS 1-day Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand
<https://meeting.thprs-thsaps.org/events/2023/>
- August 23-26, 2023: APRAS sessions, North Sumatera, Indonesia
- April 27, 2023: APRAS 1-day meeting, Nagasaki, Japan
<https://inaprasmeeting.org/>
- January 1, 2023: Foundation of APRAS
- November 12, 2022: Signing Ceremony in Seoul, Korea

Past webinars

- May 9, 2026: 9th APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Indonesia
Topic: Lymphedema
[9th APRAS Education Webiner](#)
- January 10, 2026: 8th APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Pakistan
Topic: Facial nerve palsy
[8th APRAS Educational Webiner](#)
- September 6, 2025: 7th APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Philippine
Topic: Burn Surgery
[7th APRAS Educational Webiner](#)
- May 24, 2025: 6th APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Japan
Topic: Hand Surgery Topic
[6th APRAS Educational Webinar](#)
- January 10, 2025: 5th APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Malaysia
Topic: Lower Limb Reconstruction
[5th APRAS Educational Webinar](#)
- September 4, 2024: 4th APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Philippines
Topic: Facial Aesthetic Surgery
[4th APRAS Educational Webinar](#)
- May 1, 2024: 3rd APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Pakistan
Topic: Head & Neck Reconstruction
[3rd APRAS Educational Webinar](#)

- February 23, 2024: 2nd APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Indonesia and Taiwan
Topic: Cleft Lip And Palate
[2nd APRAS Educational Webinar](#)
- November 22, 2023: 1st APRAS Education Committee Webinar
Host Country: Japan
Topic: Breast Reconstruction
[1st APRAS Educational Webinar](#)

APRAS member section: VSAPS

The Evolution of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery in Vietnam and the Strategic Role of the Vietnamese Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (VSAPS): A National Overview

Hanh Le - *President of VSAPS*

Tung Dinh Nguyen – *ISAPS National Secretary, Vietnam*

Aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past several decades, evolving from a fragmented subspecialty embedded within general surgical disciplines into a structured and increasingly sophisticated field characterized by expanding clinical practice, formalized training pathways, and growing international integration. Within this context, the establishment of the Vietnamese Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (VSAPS) in 2018 represents a pivotal milestone, reflecting both the maturation of the specialty and the need for a centralized professional body to coordinate its development. With approximately 314 members, VSAPS has rapidly assumed a central role in shaping the academic, clinical, and regulatory landscape of aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam <https://vsaps.org>.



2007

Ho Chi Minh City Association of Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery Founding Conference

The historical trajectory of plastic surgery in Vietnam provides important insight into the current structure of the specialty. The foundations of modern medical education in the country date back to the early twentieth century, with the establishment of formal training institutions in Hanoi and later in Saigon. During this early period, plastic surgery was not recognized as an independent discipline

but was instead incorporated into various surgical specialties, including otolaryngology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, and maxillofacial surgery.

The gradual process of specialization began in the mid-twentieth century, marked by the establishment of a maxillofacial and plastic surgery unit at the 108 Military Central Hospital in 1965, which represented one of the earliest efforts to consolidate reconstructive and aesthetic surgical expertise within a dedicated framework.

In parallel, the development of aesthetic plastic surgery in southern Vietnam followed a distinct trajectory. Prior to 1975, Saigon emerged as a prominent regional center for cosmetic surgery, supported largely by private practice and the presence of surgeons trained in Europe, the United States, and Japan. These practitioners contributed to a high standard of care and established an early culture of aesthetic surgery that attracted both domestic and international patients.

This historical exposure to international standards has had a lasting influence on the evolution of the specialty in Vietnam, particularly in terms of surgical techniques, aesthetic preferences, and professional organization.

Following national reunification, the specialty continued to develop within a more centralized healthcare system. Although plastic surgery remained distributed across multiple surgical disciplines for several years, the introduction of microsurgical techniques in the 1980s marked a significant advancement in reconstructive capabilities. Subsequent institutional developments, including the establishment of the Department of Plastic Surgery at Hanoi Medical University in 1991 and the creation of specialized units at major academic centers in Ho Chi Minh City during the 1990s, contributed to the gradual consolidation of plastic surgery as a distinct specialty.

The formal integration of aesthetic plastic surgery into the public healthcare system was further reinforced by the establishment of a dedicated plastic and aesthetic surgery department at Cho Ray Hospital in 2002, which signaled a transition from predominantly private practice to a more balanced model incorporating both public and private sectors. This event marked a critical transition in which aesthetic plastic surgery was formally integrated into the public hospital system, shifting the specialty from predominantly private practice toward a more structured model combining clinical service, training, and academic development. The presence of aesthetic surgery within a major tertiary referral hospital significantly contributed to the standardization of surgical practice and the formalization of training pathways in the southern region.

In parallel with institutional and academic development, the need for professional organization became increasingly evident. In 2007, the Ho Chi Minh City Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (HSAPS) was established as one of the earliest formal professional bodies dedicated to aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam. Initially centered in southern Vietnam, HSAPS gradually expanded its influence nationwide by bringing together surgeons from different regions and facilitating academic exchange through conferences, workshops, and international collaborations.

A significant milestone in the international integration of Vietnamese aesthetic plastic surgery was achieved in 2017, when HSAPS became affiliated with the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. This affiliation not only enhanced the global visibility of Vietnamese surgeons but also provided access to international educational resources, training opportunities, and collaborative research networks. Importantly, this step served as a direct institutional precursor to the establishment of a national-level organization.



Building upon these cumulative developments, the Vietnamese Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (VSAPS) was officially founded in 2018. The creation of VSAPS represents the culmination of a progressive process involving the consolidation of clinical practice, expansion of formal training systems, and strengthening of international collaboration. As a national society, VSAPS has since assumed a central role in coordinating academic activities, promoting professional standards, and facilitating integration into the global aesthetic plastic surgery community.



2018 Vietnamese Society of Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery Founding Conference



Over the past two decades, the training infrastructure for aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam has expanded considerably, reflecting both increasing demand for services and the need for a qualified workforce. Initially limited to a small number of institutions, formal training programs are now

available at multiple medical universities across the country, including Hanoi Medical University, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City, and Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine, as well as newer programs established in regional centers such as Da Nang, Can Tho, and Tra Vinh . These programs encompass a range of training pathways, from short-term foundational courses to specialist training and advanced postgraduate degrees, including Master's and PhD programs. The annual output of trained specialists varies between institutions but generally ranges from approximately 10 to 50 graduates per year, indicating a steady expansion of the professional workforce.

Despite this progress, challenges remain in achieving uniformity in training standards and ensuring alignment with international best practices. In this regard, VSAPS has assumed an increasingly important role in promoting continuing medical education, facilitating knowledge exchange, and supporting the standardization of curricula across institutions. Through scientific meetings, workshops, and collaborative initiatives, the society contributes to maintaining a high level of professional competency among its members.

The rapid growth of aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam is also reflected in the expansion of healthcare infrastructure. Current data indicate the presence of approximately 84 hospital-based plastic surgery departments, along with more than 300 specialized aesthetic clinics distributed across the country . Ho Chi Minh City represents the primary hub of activity, with approximately 257 aesthetic clinics, compared to around 40 in Hanoi, highlighting a notable geographic concentration of services in the southern region. In addition to medically licensed facilities, the broader aesthetic service sector includes a substantial number of non-medical establishments, with an estimated 5,000 spa and beauty centers operating in Ho Chi Minh City alone . This layered ecosystem encompasses a spectrum of services ranging from non-invasive cosmetic treatments to complex surgical procedures, thereby increasing accessibility while simultaneously introducing challenges related to quality control and patient safety.

The regulatory framework governing aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam is administered primarily by the Ministry of Health and local Departments of Health, which are responsible for licensing practitioners and facilities, defining the scope of permitted procedures, and ensuring compliance with safety standards. Physicians seeking to practice aesthetic plastic surgery must possess formal qualifications in the specialty, complete a supervised clinical training period of 18 to 36 months, and obtain an official practice license. Additional requirements apply to foreign practitioners, including validation of credentials, language proficiency, and adherence to national legal regulations . Within this regulatory environment, VSAPS serves as an advisory body, contributing expert input to the development of guidelines and policies while promoting ethical standards in clinical practice.



A defining feature of VSAPS is its active engagement in scientific and international collaboration. The society organizes two major international conferences annually, complemented by approximately six specialized workshops each year and more than 50 industry-supported seminars focusing on technological innovation in aesthetic medicine. These activities provide a platform for continuous professional development and facilitate the dissemination of new techniques and technologies. Furthermore, VSAPS maintains collaborative relationships with numerous international organizations, including the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ISAPS), the Asian Facial Plastic Surgery Society (AFPSS), and several regional societies across Asia and Australasia. Through these partnerships, Vietnamese surgeons are increasingly integrated into global networks of education, research, and clinical practice.

The current trajectory of aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam is characterized by several notable trends. There is a growing preference for minimally invasive procedures that offer reduced recovery times and more natural aesthetic outcomes, reflecting both patient expectations and advances in technology. At the same time, autologous techniques, particularly fat grafting and flap-based reconstruction, are gaining prominence due to their biological compatibility and long-term stability. The integration of advanced technologies, including energy-based devices and digital planning tools, is further enhancing surgical precision and outcome predictability. However, the rapid expansion of the field also underscores the need for strengthened regulatory oversight and continued emphasis on patient safety.

Within this evolving landscape, VSAPS occupies a strategic position as a unifying force that integrates education, research, clinical practice, and policy development. By promoting standardization, facilitating international collaboration, and supporting evidence-based practice, the society plays a critical role in ensuring that the growth of aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam is both sustainable and aligned with global standards. As the country continues to expand its presence within the international medical community, the ongoing leadership of VSAPS will be essential in guiding the specialty toward higher levels of quality, innovation, and patient-centered care.



In conclusion, the evolution of aesthetic plastic surgery in Vietnam reflects a complex interplay of historical development, institutional expansion, and global integration. From its origins as a fragmented subspecialty to its current status as a rapidly growing and increasingly organized field, the specialty has made significant progress in both scope and sophistication. The establishment and continued development of VSAPS have been central to this transformation, providing a framework for coordination, standardization, and international engagement. Looking forward, the continued advancement of the specialty will depend on sustained investment in education, regulation, and collaborative research, ensuring that Vietnam remains an active and respected contributor to the global field of aesthetic plastic surgery.

Future Events of MSPRS

We cordially invite you to our upcoming MSPRS Meeting 2026 which will be held in Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, from the 27th- 29th November, 2026. We welcome all APRAS members to the heart of the capital for a weekend of exchanging ideas and building friendships as we showcase the beauty and warmth of Malaysia!



MSPRS Malaysian Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

MSPRS MEETING 2026

27th - 29th November 2026 | Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

MSPRS 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MALAYSIAN WOUND AND SCAR SYMPOSIUM 2026

MyScar'26
MALAYSIAN WOUND & SCAR SYMPOSIUM 2026

HOTEL MAJESTIC

SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS/ AFFILIATE SOCIETIES:

Association of Plastic Surgeons of Malaysia IMCAS Malaysian Society of Burn Injury TSPS



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