



## Forging Asian Consensus, Leading the New Future of Robotic Urology — ARUS 2026 Council Meeting Held in Shanghai

On April 17, 2026, the Council Meeting of the Asian Robotic Urological Society (ARUS) was successfully held in Shanghai. Conducted in a hybrid online and offline format, the meeting brought together numerous leading experts in the field of robotic urology from the Asia-Pacific region. In-depth discussions were held on core issues including the society's development, organizational structure, international collaboration, talent cultivation, and strategic planning, clarifying the strategic direction for ARUS's future.



The meeting was chaired by Prof. Fan Yang of the ARUS International Relations Committee. Opening remarks were delivered by ARUS President Academician Xu Zhang, former Secretary-General of the Urological Association of Asia (UAA) Prof. Allen Chiu Wen-Hsiang, and ARUS President-Elect Prof. Ryoichi Shiroki. Academician Zhang Xu pointed out that this meeting served as a crucial platform for reviewing the past and planning the future, aiming to build consensus and promote continuous progress in Asian robotic urology research, education, and international cooperation. Prof. Chiu shared developmental experiences from the UAA, emphasizing that harmonious collaboration and a depoliticized approach are key to a society's growth. He also introduced successful practices in promoting amendments to the UAA constitution to break down

barriers to cooperation. Prof. Ryoichi Shiroki noted the rapid development of robotic and AI-assisted surgical technologies in Asia, stating that ARUS will play a central role in technological innovation and experience sharing, helping Asia to lead global advancements.



Prof. Gang Zhu, Secretary-General of ARUS, presented a work report on the society's activities. He reviewed ARUS's development journey since launching its first symposium in 2019 and introduced the organizational structure, which includes 8 special committees and 7 sub-specialty working groups under the leadership of President Academician Zhang Xu. In terms of international collaboration, ARUS has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Society of Robotic Surgery (SRS) and the urological societies of Turkey and Thailand, and has established partnerships with several robotic equipment manufacturers in China, USA and Japan. Academically, the society has participated in UAA meetings in Bali and Taipei, successfully co-organized the Beijing Great Wall Urology Forum, and facilitated expert exchanges from the Philippines to China.

The meeting proposed ARUS's Vision, Mission and Core Values:

**ARUS's Vision:** To be the leading global force in advancing robotic urological surgery, fostering innovation, and setting the standard for excellence in patient care, research, and education across Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

**ARUS's Mission:** ARUS is committed to empowering the urological community in Asia and the Asia-Pacific by:

- Promoting excellence in robotic surgical practice, education, and training;
- Fostering collaborative innovation and multi-disciplinary research;
- Establishing standardized protocols and guidelines to enhance patient outcomes;
- Expanding access to robotic surgery through advocacy, education, and partnership;
- Cultivating the next generation of leaders in robotic urology.

### **ARUS Core Values**

1. **Collaboration** – We believe in the power of unity, shared knowledge, and cross-border partnerships to drive progress.

2. **Excellence** – We strive for the highest standards in clinical practice, education, and innovation.
3. **Patient-Centeredness** – Every action we take is guided by our commitment to improving patient safety, outcomes, and quality of life.
4. **Integrity** – We conduct our work with transparency, ethics, and professionalism.
5. **Innovation** – We embrace technological advancement and evidence-based progress to shape the future of urological care.
6. **Leadership** – We aim to inspire, guide, and influence the global robotic surgery community.
7. **Inclusivity** – We welcome diverse perspectives and expertise across disciplines, cultures, and regions.
8. **Community** – We are dedicated to building a supportive, engaged, and forward-thinking network of professionals.

Various special committees also reported on their progress. Prof. Xin Ma from the Scientific Committee presented research on Chinese telesurgery published in *The BMJ* and proposed deepening multicenter collaboration across Asia. Prof. Declan Murphy from the International Relations Committee suggested prioritizing in-depth cooperation with the European Association of Urology Robotic Urology Section (ERUS) and improving the official website and new media platforms. Prof. Kittinut Kijvikai from the Publications & Media Committee recommended building a surgical video library and initiating cross-regional multicenter studies. Prof. Shancheng Ren from the Clinical Research Committee proposed focusing multicenter clinical research on innovative technologies like telesurgery, AI-driven surgery, and single-port robotics. He also emphasized actively integrating support from pharmaceutical and med-tech companies, effectively incorporating industrial resources into the entire clinical research process to accelerate technology translation and outcome implementation. Prof. Henry Ho from the Finance Committee reported on the society's financial status, outlining plans to collaborate with industry to diversify funding sources. The Education Committee plans to launch training programs for young physicians and promote surgical scoring systems.



The meeting defined the strategic plan for ARUS in 2026 and beyond: implementing a three-step strategy for membership expansion to include young physicians; leveraging platforms like the Chinese Urological Association (CUA) and UAA to host flagship conferences, series of training sessions, and China-foreign exchange programs; promoting international multicenter clinical research to produce high-impact publications; and aiming to cultivate a core group of one hundred physicians and develop Asian consensus guidelines for robotic surgery. Participants also proposed establishing a permanent secretariat, deepening cooperation with countries such as Turkey, exploring a potential ARUS and ERUS joint meeting in Istanbul, and advocating for a video column in the *Asian Journal of Urology*.

Efficient and pragmatic, this meeting further solidified the consensus on development within the Asian robotic urology community. Moving forward, ARUS will continue to adhere to the principles of depoliticization and open collaboration, deepen international partnerships, strengthen talent cultivation and technological innovation, and dedicate itself to building a world-leading academic platform in robotic urology. The society is committed to driving the Asia-Pacific region to become a core leader in this field.