

50 Years of History

Republic of Korea

Name of organisation: Korean Academy of Orthopedic Manipulative Physical Therapy
(KAOMPT)

Year organisation/s started: 1992

RIG of IFOMPT since: 1998

Key influencers of OMPT through the years:

Park Huyn-sik PT, MSc, 11-12th president of KAOMPT

Kim suhn-yeb PT, PhD, Daejeon university, 10th president of KAOMPT

Kim Myung-joon PT, PhD, Kyungdong university, 8-9th president of KAOMPT

Developments over the years:

In 1991, professors and clinicians in physiotherapy field invited professor Russul Woodman from the United States to hold the first international orthopedic physical therapy training session in Seoul. This played a key role in establishing the Korean Academy of Orthopedic Physical Therapy. In 1992, the society was approved by the Korean Association of Physical Therapy.

KAOMPT is one of the largest physical therapy societies in south Korea. As of 2022, approximately 2,100 members have completed more than 350 hours of training and are registered as regular members. From 1995, KAOMPT has published the Journal of Korean Orthopedic Manipulative Physical Therapy (ISSN 1226-3680) for academic development and dissemination of orthopedic manual physical therapy. An academic conference has been held annually since 1999. The clinical case festival is held yearly to add diversity to academic development.

More than 33 International training courses related to orthopedic manipulative physical therapy have been held and conducted by world renowned professors and clinicians. In addition, KAOMPT operates musculoskeletal physical therapy graduate courses at three different universities and is conducting a total of 470 hours of training course in all parts of the country.

Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years:

Currently physiotherapists in Korea are performing our duties according to the medical technician act. There is no physiotherapist act. It means that physiotherapists cannot open their own clinic and we must be hired by a doctor to treat patients as a physiotherapist. Physiotherapists in Korea have difficulties in overcoming these legal limitations and are seeking solutions in various ways.

Current status and challenges:

It is necessary to develop an educational program that can increase the therapeutic satisfaction of orthopedic manual physical therapy and to raise public awareness of the capabilities of physiotherapists

The future of the organisation:

IFOMPT conferences have been attended since 2004 and our plans are to actively participate in the future. Work and support is required to improve the status and rights of Korean physical therapists. Our aim is to become full members of IFOMPT.
