

Forensic Science Workshop

Identification of Human Remains Using Skull-Photo Superimposition: Its relevance to South-east Asian Countries

Speakers: Dr. Bhupinder Singh
Assoc. Prof. Dr. PT Jayaprakash

10th Aug 2010 [Tuesday]
Department of Chemistry Malaysia,
Petaling Jaya

8:00 am	Registration
9:00 am	Introduction to Skull-photo Superimposition
9:30 am	Theory and Hands-on (Part 1)
11:00 am	Break
11:15 am	Theory and Hands-on (Part 2)
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm	Theory and Hands-on (Part 3)
4:30 — 5:00pm	Closing

About the Workshop

Establishing individual identity using the skull is a noble venture in forensic science and a forensic anthropologist can legitimately take pride for bestowing 'humane identity' on a skull and bringing to light 'an individual' whose identity would otherwise have disappeared into thin air either as mysteriously missing or as a shamble of bones. Skull-photo superimposition continues to remain most prevalent method employed for establishing individual identification. Ever since the early introduction about hundred years ago and the acceptance of the superimposition method in the court during 1937, there have been many attempts to refine the method and to increase the reliability in the identification. Yet, one must concede that achieving definite identity is still impossible unless bony or dental ante-mortem records are available for comparison such instances are relatively rare and skull-photo superimposition continues to remain the most prevalent method since ante-mortem photographs are the most frequently available records. However, the skull photo superimposition is yet to be introduced in Malaysia. A Computer Aided Video Superimposition Device has been fabricated for the first time in Malaysia in Universiti Sains Malaysia. The objective of the workshop is to popularize the method of skull-photo superimposition among the staff of Forensic Science Laboratory, Malaysia.



Acknowledgements: USM (RU Grant No. 1001/PPSK/813011)

