

Association of East Asian Research Universities

Minutes of the First Board Meeting  
held on September 12, 1996 at the University of Tokyo at 1:00 pm

PRESENT:

Prof Sooyoung CHANG	President, Pohang University of Science and Technology
Prof Chun-Shan SHEN	President, Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu
Prof Chia-Wei WOO (Chairman)	President, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Prof XU Mingzhi	Vice-President, Fudan University (personal deputy of President YANG Fujia)
Prof Hiroyuki YOSHIKAWA	President, University of Tokyo

Secretary:

Ms Loretta PANG	Director of International Programs, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
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MINUTES:

1. Members noted with satisfaction that several concrete activities resulted from the Second General Meeting, and that there was general enthusiasm to carry through with these projects. The Chairman briefly summarized the six main activities:

- a) collaboration in research and sharing of graduate students and research staff
  - i) Computer Science
  - ii) Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
- b) sharing of information and materials, and a Web site for the Association
- c) an academic conference

- d) one or two faculty workshops
- e) a student summer camp at POSTECH
- f) a student contest organized by Tsing Hua, Hsinchu

2. Board Members discussed the concept of the Association being a "one-stop shop" for institutions from outside of East Asia, in particular those from North America and Europe. A person touching base with any one of the member institutions could be immediately connected to a network of 13 institutions in the East Asian region. This was an idea which could be promoted in member institutions' international exchange.

3. One Board Member proposed that a series of distinguished lectures be organized. Speakers could include distinguished persons such as LEE Kuan Yew (elder statesman of Singapore), Yuan T LEE (President of the Academia Sinica), XU Guang-di (professor-turned-mayor of Shanghai), and the present PM of Korea (who was an academic) after he steps down. The proposal was unanimously supported by the other Board Members.

4. The Board decided that the Association should have its own letterhead and logo. The Chairman offered to ask his staff to provide some options to Members for consideration.

5. The pronunciation of the Association's acronym — "AEARU" was discussed. Board Members liked the idea of breaking up the pronunciation in the following manner: A (pronounced as in "far" ) EA (pronounced as in "tea") RU (pronounced as in "rule"). This pronunciation corresponded in Chinese to "ai ru", meaning "to love the scholars"; in Japanese, "come together to meet"; and in Korean, "to achieve". It was felt that the combination of these meanings made the pronunciation of the acronym a perfect symbol of the spirit of the Association.

6. The Board decided that the next meeting would be held at Tsing Hua, Hsinchu, in March 1997, along with the proposed faculty workshop on Computer Science.