

AEARU 22nd Board of Directors Meeting

June 12, 2008

Nanjing University

PRESENT

Dr. Kazuo OIKE	Chairperson; President, Kyoto University
Prof. Yuk-Shan WONG	Representative Vice-Chairperson; Vice-President, HKUST
Dr. Sunggi BAIK	Immediate Past Chairperson; President, POSTECH
Prof. CHEN Jun	President, Nanjing University
Prof. Wen-Tsuen CHEN	President, Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu

SECRETARY

Mr. Ainslie KERR	AEARU Secretariat, Kyoto University
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IN ATTENDANCE

Kyoto University

Prof. Toshio YOKOYAMA	Vice-President
Mr. Masao TSUKAMOTO	Director, International Affairs Department

POSTECH

Ms. Jung-Hee YANG	Manager, International Relations Office
Ms. Julie KIM	Program Coordinator, International Relations Office

Nanjing University

Professor ZOU Yajun	Associate Vice-President, Director, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges
Ms. HU Jie	Program Officer, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges

Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu

Prof. Chung-min CHEN	Chief Executive Officer, University Center of International Affairs
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MEETING MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chairperson Oike began by thanking President Chen Jun and Nanjing University for hosting the meeting. This was followed by words of sympathy and condolence for those who suffered due to the tragic earthquake disaster which had struck Sichuan Province on May 12, 2008 – exactly one month prior to the meeting. Chairperson Oike then invited all present to join him in a minute’s silent prayer for the victims of the disaster.

Following the prayer, the chairperson proceeded with the first item on the meeting agenda, and invited Nanjing University President, Professor Chen Jun to give some words of welcome.

A. Welcome Remarks by President of Nanjing University, Professor Chen Jun

President Chen greeted the other members of the BOD on behalf of Nanjing University, and expressed that it was an honor for the university, as a new BOD member, to host the meeting. The president went on to emphasize that the university is committed to being an increasingly active member in the future.

B. Turnover of AEARU Chair

Chairperson Oike introduced the next item on the agenda, the change of Chair from former Chairperson, President Sunggi Baik, POSTECH to the new Chairperson, President Kazuo Oike, Kyoto University. Kyoto University is the chair university of AEARU for the 2-year period from January 2008 ~ December 2009. Chairperson Oike expressed that it was a pleasure for him to work together with the other BOD members to enhance the activities of AEARU.

The Chairperson then went on to explain that in accordance with Article 7.1 of the AEARU Constitution, the AEARU Headquarters are now located at the campus of Kyoto University. The Chairperson then introduced the secretary of AEARU that he appointed, Mr. Ainslie Kerr of Kyoto University’s International Affairs Division.

Mr. Kerr greeted the BOD members and expressed his commitment to fully perform the role of AEARU secretary.

C. Self-Introductions by the 2008-2009 AEARU Board of Directors

Each of the representatives from the BOD member universities introduced themselves in turn.

D. Announcement of Recent Change of Member University Presidency

Chairperson Oike announced the change of presidency at POSTECH from Professor Chan-Mo Park to Dr. Sunggi Baik in September 2007.

II. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of 13th AGM and 21st BOD Meeting; August 21-22, 2007 Kyoto University, Japan. The minutes of these meetings were compiled by the former AEARU secretary Ms. Julie Kim of POSTECH and distributed to all members in November 2007. No objection was expressed regarding the minutes.

III. REVIEW OF AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2007

1. APRU/AEARU Research Symposium on Earthquake Hazards around the Pacific Rim “Diversity of Earthquake, Tsunami and Volcanic Phenomena and their Hazards”; June 21-22, University of Tokyo, Japan; co-hosted by the University of Indonesia, Jakarta
2. Academic Conference on “Evidence Based Medicine and its Implication to our Medical Practice”; June 22-23, Fudan University, China (Cancelled due to lack of participants)

A call for papers was sent out to all AEARU members in mid-April 2007, but the meeting was eventually cancelled due to a very small number of participants. (This was discussed at the 13th AGM in Kyoto. Pro-Vice President Chen Yinzhang of Fudan University then offered to try to arrange the conference again if the other AEARU members were interested.)

3. Student Summer Camp (General); Aug. 19-25, National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Successfully held, with 68 participants from 17 universities.

4. The 2nd AEARU Advanced Materials Science Workshop; Oct. 6-7, Nanjing University, China (Cancelled due to lack of participants)

This event has been cancelled twice – first proposed and postponed in 2006, and then cancelled again in 2007. President Chen confirmed that due to unfavorable circumstances,

Nanjing University does not plan to try proposing the activity again.

5. Joint Workshop on International Collaboration for Asian Sustainable Society (ICASS) 2007 (including the Third AEARU Science and Technology Parks Workshop); Oct. 25-26 (Nanjing), Oct. 29-30 (Wuxi); held by the University of Tokyo, Japan co-hosted by Nanjing University, China

This event was successfully held. The event included 70 presentations and attracted almost 300 participants.

6. Workshop on “Collaboration among Universities in the Ubiquitous World: Building a digital Bridge for Collaboration among AEARU Members”; Nov. 16-17, Nanjing University, China

Cancelled due to lack of participants – rescheduled for Dec. 10-11, 2008 (Discussed below in “SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES OF 2008”).

7. Medical Center Workshop; No specific date, Peking University, China (Proposed, but cancelled)

This was discussed, but not firmly proposed – there was no representative from Peking University present at the 13th AGM to provide further details.

IV. REVIEW OF AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2008

1. Symposium on “Collaborations with Industry, City, and Public”; March 27, Tohoku University, Japan

This event was successfully held. Approximately 40 people participated in the event, including delegates from business enterprises, universities and government organizations from China, Taiwan and Japan.

2. The 9th AEARU Workshop on Molecular Biology and Biotechnology; March 25-26, 2008, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

Vice-President Yuk-Shan Wong explained that 42 people participated in this successful event, including scholars from Singapore and Australia. 18 presentations were held.

3. The 8th AEARU Workshop on Web Technology and Computer Science; April 11, 2008,

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Korea

The event was successfully held. 50 participants attended. 6 papers were presented, as well as one keynote speech and one invited speech.

4. The 2nd AEARU Student Physical Competition: Tennis Invitational Tournament May 25 – June 1, National Taiwan University

This event was also a success, with male and female teams from 7 AEARU member universities participating.

V. SCHEDULED AEARU ACTIVITIES OF 2008

1. The 3rd AEARU Environmental Workshop: “Sustainable Energy”; July 18-19, University of Science and Technology of China, China

The call for participation for this event was sent out to all AEARU members on May 15, 2008.

2. The 4th AEARU Cultural Workshop: “East Asian Cultures and Higher Education: An AEARU Workshop on the Characteristics of Higher Education in East Asia”; Nov. 14-15, Tsing Hua University, Hsin Chu, Taiwan

Professor Chung-min Chen explained that the call for participation for this workshop was sent out to all AEARU members of May 13, 2008. He went on to explain that the theme of the workshop will focus on how cultural traditions influence the practice of higher education in East Asia, including the impact of globalization and westernization.

Professor Chen emphasized that this was a very significant topic with regards to AEARU and its activities. Vice-President Yokoyama, President Baik and Vice-President Wong agreed with this opinion.

Professor Chung-min Chen and President Wen Tsuen Chen both emphasized that localization (as opposed to globalization) has been overlooked with regards to the issue of higher education in East Asia.

3. Workshop on “Collaboration among Universities in the Ubiquitous World: Building a digital Bridge for Collaboration among AEARU Members”; Dec. 10-11, Nanjing University, China

(Rescheduled from Nov. 16-17, 2007)

Ms. Hu Jie explained that this workshop was postponed from its original date due to a lack of participants and that the official announcement of the rescheduled workshop would soon be sent out to AEARU members. Ms. Hu emphasized the relevance of the topic as an opportunity for AEARU members to explore the future possibilities of digital communication channels.

Vice-President Yokoyama inquired as to whether the workshop would be technology oriented or contents oriented. Ms. Hu replied that it was likely to cover both aspects, but further details would be forthcoming from the event's organizers.

President Baik emphasized the importance of this meeting as an opportunity to for the relevant faculty and staff at each university to exchange ideas about common issues of concern such as e-learning and networking. President Baik suggested that the workshop might gain more support if it was aimed more specifically to attract those specialist faculty and staff members.

Vice-President Yokoyama mentioned that the issues involved in the topic are not necessarily limited to the adoption and adaptation of new technology, but have wider implications that are relevant to those not directly involved in the digital communications field, such as the redesigning of curricula in accordance with the new technology and methods.

VI. PROPOSALS OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES OF 2008

Chairperson Oike invited proposals or suggestions by any of the BOD members for any activities or ideas not included in the scheduled activities above.

Vice-President Yokoyama raised the issue that at present AEARU does not have any written rules or criteria regarding the adoption of future activities as official AEARU activities, and that events had usually been discussed at the BOD Meeting and then approved at the AGM – a process which often takes a considerable length of time.

Vice-President Yokoyama then raised the possibility of allowing activities that are currently in development and that are in accordance with AEARU and its objectives to be endorsed by the organization as AEARU activities. He went on to raise the possibility of requesting that Kyoto University's 11th International Symposium: Frontier Bioscience in Modern Medicine, which is currently in preparation, be recognized as an AEARU endorsed activity of this year.

The 11th International Symposium is to be fully financed by Kyoto University, however at Kyoto University's request, Fudan University has agreed to open its campus as the venue of the event, and some professors from Fudan University will be speakers in the program. The event will be open not only to Fudan University students and researchers, but to other students and researchers in China. Vice-President Yokoyama explained that he has come to think that this symposium has a close affinity to the objectives of AEARU and would therefore like to request permission for Kyoto University to extend the invitation to participate in the event to students and scholars of AEARU member universities, and accordingly promote the event as being held "in association with AEARU," with the AEARU logo mark printed on the event materials. Vice-President Yokoyama mentioned that this issue is related to article IX. 4 on the agenda – "rules of registration."

President Baik welcomed the idea as an example of a new form of multi-university collaboration, and the idea was unanimously approved by all of the BOD members. Vice-President Yokoyama said that Kyoto University will prepare a revised draft of the brochure, and will prepare to include a request for approval of the symposium in the agenda of the next AGM.

President Baik suggested that in the future such proposals for events to be endorsed as AEARU activities need not be made at the BOD Meeting, but could be proposed via e-mail to the AEARU secretary and then circulated and approved by the AEARU members.

The BOD members agreed that this was an idea that should be discussed further at a later date. (To be included in the next AGM agenda.)

VII. UNSCHEDULED AEARU ACTIVITIES OF 2009

Chairperson Oike explained that hosts are needed for the following activities:

1. 3rd Student Physical Competition

2. 4th Environmental Workshop
3. 5th Cultural Workshop
4. 9th Workshop on Web Technology & Computer Science
5. 10th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop

[NOTE: Not included on agenda – student summer camps (general and topical)]

Vice-President Yokoyama invited proposals or suggestions of hosts for the above activities.

President Baik suggested that, as in the case of the Kyoto University International Symposium mentioned above, events could be jointly organized by a team of universities instead of one single institution. President Baik also suggested that more attention be paid to institutions which have thus far hosted a relatively low number of activities, and that they should be encouraged to be more active.

Vice-President Yuk-Shan Wong suggested that in addition to activities focusing on technology-centered topics (such as 4 and 5 on the above list), AEARU has the potential to adopt more macroscopic types of topics that cannot be pursued by other academic and scientific organizations, such as the direction of the development of research universities in East Asia or undergraduate education in research universities.

President Wen-Tsuen Chen emphasized that it was very important that research universities, as the cultivators of society's future leaders, re-define their approach to undergraduate education, mentioning in particular that students majoring in humanities and social sciences had very little basic knowledge of science. The other BOD members agreed. President Chen Jun mentioned that two months previously Nanjing University had passed an assessment of undergraduate education quality by the Ministry of Education and was now preparing to undertake reforms in its undergraduate education, focusing on liberal education. Vice-President Yokoyama added that it might be necessary to seek a new definition of liberal arts. All of the members agreed that this was a topic upon which the AEARU members should share views and information.

President Baik suggested that title of the Environmental Workshop be changed to “Energy and Environmental Workshop” in order to include aspects of the energy issue, which, President Baik asserted, is one of the current key issues in the world, particularly in East Asia. All of the BOD members agreed with his suggestion.

President Baik suggested that all AEARU members be solicited by the AEARU secretariat

and invited to hold the above-listed events. It was agreed that this would be done and that concrete proposals would be requested to be sent to the AEARU secretary by the end of August.

VIII. ISSUES TO BE REPORTED

1. Maintenance of domain name for AEARU homepage (<http://www.aearu.org>)

Mr. Kerr explained that the permanent URL (<http://www.aearu.org>) for AEARU was renewed and is being regularly updated.

Mr. Kerr also raised a further issue regarding the homepage: Some earlier AEARU homepages (hosted by USTC and POSTECH) are still online, and these are not being updated, although these older homepages often appear above www.aearu.org on internet searches (such as a Google search). If these old homepages were removed, it would be less confusing for people trying to reach the current homepage.

The BOD unanimously agreed that the old homepages should be removed to avoid further confusion.

IX. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

1. Announcement of the publication of AEARU Brochure 2009 at 14th AGM

Vice-President Yokoyama explained that Kyoto University is responsible for the publication of the next AEARU brochure, which is due to be published in April 2009. The publication of the brochure will be announced to all AEARU members at the 14th AGM in September.

2. 14th AGM Member University Presentations

Vice-President Yokoyama explained that at the last AGM in Kyoto, short (5-minute) presentations were delivered by representatives from each member university, and although this format was successful, it was perhaps slightly rushed and in need of reconsideration. Vice-President Yokoyama suggested that a revised format be decided for the forthcoming AGM, for example longer presentations by selected universities followed by a discussion and question session. (The allotted time for the presentation session is 90 minutes in total.)

Vice-President Yokoyama invited suggestions for the format and theme of the forthcoming presentation session.

President Baik agreed that it would be preferable to have fewer, but more in-depth presentations and discussions.

Vice-President Yokoyama mentioned that the previously mentioned topics of research direction in a macroscopic view and undergraduate education may be good examples of the kind of topics which could be adopted for the presentation session.

President Baik suggested that several topics covering an issue in education or research, a regional issue, or an issue relating to new technology could be adopted. President Baik went on to suggest that detailed reports of previously held workshops, given by their host universities, may be an effective and interesting way to reinforce those activities. President Baik gave the example of KAIST's Workshop on Web Technology and Computer Science, held in April 2008, as a suitable workshop for such a presentation.

Vice-President Yuk-Shan Wong asserted that, although the previous format was too rushed, as the presidents of all seventeen AEARU member universities attend the AGM they should each have an opportunity to say something. Vice-President Wong suggested that the session be divided into two sessions, with two different topics. Each session would be chaired and would have eight or nine of the university presidents as panel speakers. In this way all of the presidents could contribute to the discussions.

President Wen-Tsuen Chen suggested that, to make the best use of the short time available, several topics could be selected for two or three sessions. President Chen suggested undergraduate education, cooperation and new initiatives relating to technology-transfer as examples of suitable topics for discussion.

Vice-President Yokoyama said that based on the suggestions of the BOD members, the Chairperson would prepare the format for this year's presentation session and distribute it by e-mail within a month. The format would then be finalized and distributed to all AEARU members as the format decided by the BOD.

All of the BOD members agreed to Vice-President Yokoyama's proposal.

3. Formation of a standardized AEARU contact network

Mr. Kerr explained this proposal was to create a comprehensive directory of AEARU contact persons with detailed information about each person's duties and responsibilities (e.g.

contacts for workshops and seminars, contacts for student exchange). Vice-President Yokoyama added that the idea was to share information about each university's administrative structure, and that this would solve the problem of communications being 'lost' when they are not sent to the relevant person.

President Baik mentioned that there are generally two levels of personnel involved in this area at each university: one level being those who have direct contact with other universities, and the other being the supervising or decision making level. President Baik suggested that when communication is conducted, a CC to a person in the other 'layer' would ensure more effective communication and cooperation.

Vice-President Yokoyama agreed and added that the proposed directory was aimed at facilitating such communication. He also added that Kyoto University is willing to circulate an example template soon. This idea was welcomed by the attending members.

4. Rules of registration for official AEARU activities

Vice-President Yokoyama pointed out that there are no set rules of registration for official AEARU activities, and that it is necessary to wait until the AGM to have activities endorsed as official AEARU events. Vice-President Yokoyama went on to suggest that the criteria for official AEARU activities might be clarified in order to facilitate more rapid registration of AEARU events. For example events could be endorsed through e-mail communication by the BOD. He added that although the BOD's approval of this proposal may be sufficient to begin preparations, the final endorsement should be given by the AGM.

Professor Chung-min Chen made the point that, although he agreed with the proposal, it should be brought up at the next AGM, as the BOD should not reduce the authority of the AGM by removing its right to endorse AEARU activities without the approval of the AGM itself. Vice-President Yokoyama agreed with this, and suggested that the issue be included in the agenda of the coming AGM. All members agreed to this.

X. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. 14th AGM and 23rd BOD; Sept. 19-23, 2008, University of Science and Technology of China

Mr. Zhou Zhengkai, Deputy Director of the International Affairs Office of USTC joined the meeting to explain the program of the 14th AGM and 23rd BOD Meeting. Mr. Zhou explained that the proposed date of the meeting coincides with USTC's celebration of its

50th anniversary, and that the university has kindly included an opportunity for the AEARU members attending the AGM to participate in part of their celebrations.

2. 24th BOD Meeting; Spring 2009, Date and Venue Undecided

President Baik expressed his willingness to host the 24th BOD Meeting at POSTECH. Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu was also mentioned as a possible venue.

3. 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting; 2009, Date and Venue Undecided

A recommendation was made for the 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting to be held at National Taiwan University. University of Tsukuba, Tohoku University and HKUST were also suggested as possible venues. *(Please see note below)

The hosts of the 24th BOD Meeting and the 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting will be finalized at the forthcoming AGM at USTC.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Oike adjourned the meeting, thanking the hosts, President Chen Jun and Nanjing University, and thanking all of the BOD members for their active and constructive participation.

***Note for reference:** venues of previously held meetings

	AGM	BOD
National Taiwan University	1	2
University of Tsukuba	0	0
Tohoku University	0	0
HKUST	2	4