

**AEARU 35<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting  
October 31, 2014**

**Nanjing University-Nanjing , China**

**PRESENT**

CHEN Jun	Chairperson, President, Nanjing University
Wooll LEE	Vice Chairperson, Executive Vice President, Seoul National University
Susumu SATOMI	President, Tohoku University
Hong HOCHENG	President, Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu
Kyosuke NAGATA	President, University of Tsukuba
Eden Y. WOON	Vice President, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
LI Yansong	Vice President, Peking University

**SECRETARY**

Grace CHEN	AEARU Secretariat, Nanjing University
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Nanjing University**

PU Lijie	Associate Vice-President
JI Dafu	Director, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges
SUN Wen	Deputy Director, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges

**Seoul National University**

SHEEN Seong-Ho	Associate Dean for International Affairs
Jinmin Choi	Protocol & International Education Planning Coordinator

**Peking University**

LI Hongquan	Deputy Director, Office of International Relations
LU Jiao	Program Officer, Office of International Relations

**Tohoku University**

Toshiya UEKI	Executive Vice President
Yasushi WAGATSUMA	Director, International Exchange Division
Hirohisa MIYAMOTO	Chief, International Exchange Division

**Tsing Hua University-Hsichu**

Hsiao-Wei CHIANG	Director, Division of International Cooperation, Office of Global Affairs
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**University of Tsukuba**

Caroline BENTON	Vice President, University of Tsukuba
Osamu OHNEDA	Director, Office of Global Initiative
Kazuo AKIYAMA	Vice Executive Director for Global Affairs
Taifang WANG	Administrative Assistant, Office of Global Initiative

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **I. INTRODUCTION REMARKS**

The Chairperson Chen Jun began the meeting by greeting and welcoming BOD members. The Chairperson further announced a recent change of President and EVP for Seoul National University, the Vice-Chair University of AEARU. Prof. SUNG Nak-in has taken the position of President of this university while Prof. OH Yeon-cheon finished his term this July; Prof. Wooil Lee has taken the position of EVP and become the new Vice-Chairperson of AEARU while Prof. Junggi Im has finished his term. Then, the Chairperson delivered thanks to people and institutions that made contributions to the AGM and BOD meetings.

### **II. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting; April 4, 2014; University of Tsukuba, Japan  
The minutes of the above meeting were compiled by the AEARU Secretariat and distributed to all members. With no comments or amendments, the minutes were confirmed.

### **III. SECRETARY REPORT**

1. Status report of AEARU Activity Sponsorship

The Secretary reported that four AEARU activities had been sponsored.

First activity is 2014 Student Summer Camp organized by Osaka University. A total of USD10, 000 was granted to provide assistance for students' participation.

The summer camp has been successfully held. Activity report will be provided for discussion on the 20th AGM. \*The funding transfer has been finished.

Second, the 3rd Student Physical Competition was hosted by the University of Tsukuba. A total of USD 10, 000 was granted to provide assistance for students' participation. The physical competition has been successfully held. \*The funding transfer has not been finished.

Third, the International Symposium on Ocean Engineering 2014 of KAIST – University of Tokyo - Shanghai Jiaotong University was organized by Korea

Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. A total of 5,000 USD was granted to cover expenses in materials, local transportation, etc. The actual expense of supporting students' participation is USD \$2,700. \*The funding transfer has not been finished.

Last one is CJKT Internet of Things Workshop also hosted by Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. To assist the students from AEARU member universities on the costs of travelling and local expenses, a total of 5,000 USD was granted. \*The funding transfer has not been finished.

The 2014 AEARU Workshop on "R&D Policy and Asian Research Universities" was proposed by KAIST. A total of 5,000 USD was granted to support students' participation. However the workshop was canceled. As a result, the funding transfer didn't happen.

## 2. Financial status of AEARU Treasury

The Secretary reported that for this period, there was an out-going expenditure of US \$27,700 for AEARU activities. And an incoming of US \$34,000 (the membership fee) and this makes a surplus for the period, \$6,300.

There's a total of US \$58,818.17 brought forward from last period. With the surplus mentioned previously added, it left the AEARU Treasury a total of US \$65,118.17 in the account.

## IV. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

### 1. Membership of AEARU

- Application for AEARU membership from Yonsei University.

President CHEN stated that at 34th BOD meeting, Seoul National University recommended Yonsei University as a new member for AEARU and the BOD meeting has had some discussion on this issue. The Secretariat received a letter from SNU this June, requesting that the Yonsei University be accepted as a new member. The Secretariat has circulated the letter and there is no objection from BOD members, and among which, HKUST has given a positive feedback, and President Nagata of the University of Tsukuba has been very kind to give some

suggestions. Just a few days ago, the Secretariat got official statement of application for AEARU membership from Yonsei University, explaining its qualifications to be a member of AEARU highlighting its academic excellence, research intensity, global outlook, and innovative dimension.

President Nagata emphasized the importance of clarifying the criteria for new members of the AEARU. He stated that Yonsei University is an eligible candidate.

Dr. Sun Wen reminded the BOD members of the relevant rules in the AEARU Constitution, mainly clauses 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 for Membership Criteria and Admission Process. According to Clause 3.3 of AEARU Constitution, “the total number of members does not exceed twenty” while “the number of members may be increased by a maximum of one member per year”. Clause 3.4 and 3.5 were referred to for Membership Criteria and Admission Process.

Following approval by a two-thirds majority of all voting active members at a Board of Directors Meeting at which at least two-thirds of the current members of the Board of Directors are in attendance, candidates will be submitted to AEARU’s entire membership for consideration at an Annual General Meeting. Candidates shall be admitted to membership of AEARU upon approval by a two-thirds majority of all voting active members at an Annual General Meeting at which at least two-thirds of the current members of the Association are in attendance.

President Nagata called all’s attention to the fact of expanding of research activities in East Asia, and that in the Constitutions, no clear definition is made on the definition of “East Asia”. He, accordingly, suggested that AEARU needed to consider to include more universities or to allow for expanded research activities in this region.

President Hong Hocheng said that he had no objection for the new member and he echoed President Nagata in the sense that as we are close to the limit of AEARU membership, consideration should be on the definition and scope of East Asia Region; more reconsideration should be on the number of membership, criteria of membership among regions, and standards and procedures thereof. He suggested

that broad exchanges of opinions or consensus should be built before any final decision is made on this specific application.

Executive Vice President Wooil Lee stated that Yonsei, as one of the best three universities in Korea, is fully qualified, in terms of not only the reputation but also the research and academic excellence, to candidate for the AEARU member.

Based on all the discussions and according to the AEARU Constitution, the Chairperson proposed a vote concerning this issue. The result was a unanimous vote for Yonsei University to become the new member of AEARU; which meets the requirement of AEARU Constitution. The Secretariat will submit it to the AGM meeting for vote.

-Leave absence of Tokyo Tech

Application by Tokyo Institute of Technology to be on temporary leave of absence until 2016

The Chairperson stated that a letter dated Oct. 8, 2014 by President Yoshinao Mishima was received, informing the Secretariat of their decision of not attending the Annual Meeting and asking for permission for their temporary absence from AEARU membership. We fully understand the difficult situation of Tokyo Tech considering its strategic development. Tokyo Tech has shown strong willingness to continue its membership while requesting to be exempt from participating AEARU activities for several years.

As the Constitution doesn't have relevant statements for such a situation, Dr. Sun Wen proposed to vote for this issue.

President Nagata suggested that before voting, we need to refer to Clause 3.8 of AEARU Constitution which specifies the obligations of members. He further pointed out that each member at least should host 1 activity in three years.

President Hong Hocheng echoed that in this case, we should check the date of the latest AEARU activity hosted by Tokyo Tech.

Vice-President Eden Y. WOON suggested that before voting on this specific case, maybe we should amend the Constitutions so there should be a clause to agree specifically to the Tokyo Tech issue. A new clause should be added specially for

the request of temporary leave. So he suggested the Constitutions be first amended to allow for the possibility of leave absence. Also, in the amendment, the percent of vote needs to be clarified.

Secretary Grace reported to BOD members that in total Tokyo Tech hosted 2 AEARU activities, one in 1999 and the latest one is the Student Summer Camp in summer 2012.

Vice-President Eden Y. WOON emphasized again that in amendment of the Constitution; maybe we can specify the time limit for temporary leave of absence, for example 3 years.

The Secretariat wrote down all the comments of board members and would report to the AGM Meeting.

### 3. Standardization of AEARU logos

Dr. Sun Wen stated that the Secretariat worked with a qualified design company to prepare the vector graph of AEARU logo, i.e., to standardize it because during the preparation for the AGM &BOD, the Secretariat found that there were no high-resolution files of AEARU logos, so in order to facilitate preparation of future meetings, the Secretariat contacted a local design company and produced the logos. The files will be uploaded onto the AEARU website and be available for downloading by all AEARU members.

### 4. AEARU and LERU Cooperation

Dr. Sun Wen stated that at the 34th BOD Meeting this April, we have discussed the invitation from LERU to sign up to Hefei Statement, and the BOD members agreed to endorse the statement, a Press release of AEARU signing up to Hefei Statement on the Ten Characteristics of Contemporary Research Universities has been made on AEARU website to showcase our commitment to working closely with other international academic organizations including LERU. In May this year, the Secretariat received an invitation from LERU for the first Global Social Sciences and Humanities Meeting at Leiden University. After the invitation having been circulated among BOD members, Tohoku University and Fudan University kindly agreed to attend the meeting. According to the meeting program, the Leiden Statement on the Role of the Social Sciences and Humanities in the

Global Research Landscape will be signed by all participating research intensive university networks.

The Chairperson thanked Tohoku University and Fudan University for agreeing to attend the LERU Global SSH Meeting on behalf of AEARU, and proposed that EVP Toshiya Ueki of Tohoku University to sign the Leiden Statement on behalf of AEARU. The Secretariat will follow up on this issue with Tohoku University and report this on 36<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting.

## **V. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

1. The 36th BOD Meeting; Spring 2015, Peking University  
-In conjunction with 3rd Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters
2. The 37th BOD & 21st AGM Meetings; Fall 2015, HKUST
3. The 38th BOD Meeting; Spring 2016, Host undecided
4. The 39th BOD & 22th AGM Meetings; Fall 2016, Host undecided

Dr. Sun Wen reported that Peking University had proposed that the 36th BOD Meeting and 3rd Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters be held in April, 2015.

Vice President Li Yansong added some more information on this issue. Peking University proposed two options on the proposed date: April 10, 2015/ April 17, 2015. The venue will be on Peking University's campus. And the BOD members will discuss the issues based on the agenda prepared by the Secretariat. Peking University will provide local accommodation and meals for participating president and one accompany person from each AEARU member university.

Dr. Sun Wen reported that for the 37th BOD & 21st AGM Meetings, the host of the event, HKUST has proposed three options for the date: 4 Dec (Fri) to 6 Dec (Sun), 3 Dec (Thurs) to 5 Dec (Sat), 6 Dec (Sun) to 8 Dec (Tue). Prior to this BOD meeting, the Secretariat has sent emails to all members asking for preferred dates and received response from 5 member universities. All chose the first option. Dr. Sun Wen asked for the opinion of all members.



Vice President Eden Y. WOON stated that the result was not clear yet. Although more BOD members preferred the first choice, option two or three also had some BODs (some members voted for all three).

After a short discussion, BOD members chose the first option.

Dr. Sun Wen stated that hosts for the 38th BOD Meeting scheduled in Spring 2016 and the 39th BOD & 22th AGM Meetings Fall 2016 are to be decided. She invited the BOD members to offer to host the meetings or to give some suggestions and recommendations.

The Chairperson proposed a Korean university to host one of the two BOD Meetings since the 33th BOD was in Taiwan, 34<sup>th</sup> BOD in Japan, 35<sup>th</sup> BOD and 36<sup>th</sup> in China Mainland and the 37<sup>th</sup> would be in Hong Kong.

Executive Vice President Wooil Lee proposed Yonsei University, as a new member of AEARU, to host one of the two meetings.

Associate Dean SHEEN Seong-Ho stated that Yonsei University could host the 39th BOD & 22th AGM Meetings Fall 2016 since Yonsei was not BOD member. Seoul National University could host the 38th BOD Meeting in Spring 2016. But in that case, it would be twice in Seoul. He proposed to postpone the decisions until the next BOD Meeting in spring next year, in case there would be other universities willing to host.

Dr. Sun Wen stated that the Secretariat would keep contact with all BOD members and dates and venues would be decided on the next BOD Meeting.

And for the 36th BOD Meeting in Beijing, after a short discussion, the BOD members decided April 11(Sat), 2015.

Chairperson Chen Jun then thanked all BOD members and announced the adjournment of the 36<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**