

AEARU 14th Annual General Meeting
September 20, 2008
University of Science and Technology of China

The names of the participants are listed in the alphabetical order of university names.

PRESENT

Prof. WANG Shenghong	President, Fudan University
Prof. Roland T. H. CHIN	Acting President, HKUST
Prof. Soon Heung CHANG	Provost, KAIST
Dr. Kazuo OIKE	President, Kyoto University
Prof. CHEN Jun	President, Nanjing University
Prof. Naoto YAMAUCHI	Professor, Osaka University
Prof. XU Zhihong	President, Peking University
Prof. Sunggi BAIK	President, POSTECH
Dr. Shin-Bok KIM	Vice-President, Seoul National University
Prof. Si-Chen LEE	President, Taiwan University
Prof. Osamu HASHIMOTO	Vice-President, Tohoku University
Dr. Ichiro OKURA	Executive Vice-President for Planning, Tokyo Institute of Technology
Prof. GU Binglin	President, Tsinghua University – Beijing
Prof. Wen-Tsuen CHEN	President, Tsinghua University – Hsinchu
Prof. ZHU Qingshi	President, USTC
Prof. Akihiko TANAKA	Director, Division for International Relations The University of Tokyo
<u>Mr.</u> Satoshi TANAKA	Vice-President, University of Tsukuba

SECRETARY

Mr. Ainslie KERR	AEARU Secretariat, Kyoto University
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IN ATTENDANCE

Fudan University

Prof. CHEN Yinzhong	Director, International Affairs Department
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KAIST

Mr. Dong-Hyuck WON	Chief Assistant, President's Office
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Kyoto University

Prof. Shuzo NISHIMURA Executive Vice-President for International Affairs and Information Infrastructure
Prof. Toshio YOKOYAMA Vice-President for International Relations,
Director General, Organization for the Promotion of Int'l Relations

Nanjing University

Prof. ZOU Yajun Director, International Cooperation Department
Ms. HU Jie Program Officer, International Cooperation Department

Osaka University

Mr. Yukio KIUCHI Director, Department of International Affairs

Peking University

Mr. LI Yansong President's Assistant; Director, Int'l Cooperation Dept.

POSTECH

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

Seoul National University

Prof. Hiwon YOON Dean, Office of International Affairs
Prof. Daehee KANG Associate Dean, Research Affairs
Mr. Jeong Seok HWANG Executive Secretary

Tohoku University

Mr. Hideo KADOWAKI Head, International Exchange Division

Tokyo Institute of Technology

Ms. Mio SONOYAMA International Cooperation Division
Ms. Yumi NAKAZAWA International Cooperation Division

Tsinghua University – Beijing

Mr. ZHAO Jinsong Secretary to the President
Prof. LUO Lisheng Director, Office of International Cooperation & Exchange

Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu

Dr. Mao-Jiun J. WANG Secretary General
Prof. Chung-Min CHEN Chief Executive Officer

The University of Tokyo

Prof. Tadatomo SUGA Professor

University of Tsukuba

Mr. Takashi OTSU Head, Division of International Students

USTC

Prof. HOU Jian'guo Executive Vice-President

Prof. YANG Jie Chairperson, USTC Sino-Japan Exchange Committee

Dr. ZHANG Mengping Director, International Affairs Office

Mr. ZHOU Zhengkai Deputy-Director, International Affairs Office

Observer

Nankai University

Prof. Zihé Rao President

MEETING MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chairperson Kazuo Oike began by thanking President Zhu Qingshi and the staff of USTC for their hospitality in hosting the AEARU 14th Annual General Meeting.

The Chairperson then moved on to the first item on the agenda and invited President Zhu Qingshi to give some words of welcome as the host of the meeting.

A. Welcome Remarks by President Zhu Qingshi of USTC

President Zhu greeted the AEARU delegates on behalf of USTC, and expressed his appreciation for their attendance of USTC's 50th anniversary celebration ceremony, which had been held that morning. The president went on to say that his university was honored to host the AEARU 14th AGM and expressed his hopes for a successful meeting. President Zhu also mentioned that his term of presidency would come to an end shortly after the AGM, and that he was very happy to spend the last few days of his term with the AEARU members.

Before moving on to the next item on the agenda, Chairperson Oike introduced President Zihe Rao of Nankai University who had requested to attend the meeting as an observer.

B. Turnover of AEARU Chair

Change of chair from former Chairperson, President Sunggi Baik, POSTECH to the new Chairperson, President Kazuo Oike, Kyoto University.

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 to December 2009. Chairperson Oike expressed that it was an honor for Kyoto University to serve as chair university.

Chairperson Oike 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.

C. Welcome address by Chairperson of AEARU, President Kazuo Oike

Chairperson Oike explained that his term as President of Kyoto University would end shortly after the meeting, on September 30. The Chairperson said that he was very grateful to have had the opportunity to work together with the AEARU members and expressed his confidence that his successor, Dr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, would also be honored to assume the role of Chairperson of AEARU.

D. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Former Chairperson

On behalf of AEARU, Chairperson Oike presented former Chairperson, President Sunggi Baik of POSTECH with a certificate of appreciation for his service as AEARU Chairperson.

President Baik gave a short speech in which he expressed his gratitude to the AEARU members and also extended a greeting from his predecessor Professor Chan-Mo Park. The President went on to express his confidence that AEARU would continue to flourish and become an increasingly important organization within the continually developing East Asian region.

E. Announcement of New BOD Member: President Chen Jun, Nanjing University

Following a decision at the 13th AGM in August, 2007, President Chen Jun of Nanjing University has been appointed as a member of the AEARU Board of Directors. Following President Chen's appointment to the Board, Nanjing University hosted the AEARU 22nd BOD meeting in June, 2008.

President Chen gave a short greeting in which he expressed Nanjing University's commitment to being an active member of AEARU.

F. Announcement of Recent Changes of Member University Presidencies

1. POSTECH: From Professor Chan-Mo Park to Professor Sunggi Baik in September 2007
2. Osaka University: From Dr. Hideo Miyahara to Mr. Kiyokazu Washida in August 2007
3. Tokyo Institute of Technology: From Dr. Masuo Aizawa to Dr. Kenichi Iga in October 2007

On behalf of all of the AEARU, Chairperson Oike presented certificates of appreciation to the representatives of POSTECH, Osaka University and Tokyo Institute of Technology to be conveyed to the former presidents as tokens of AEARU's appreciation for their valuable contributions to the association during their terms.

II. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the 13th AGM; August 21-22, 2007 Kyoto University, Japan
- B. Minutes of the 21st BOD Meeting; August 21-22, 2007 Kyoto University, Japan
- C. Minutes of the 22nd BOD Meeting; June 12, 2008, Nanjing University, China

The minutes of the 13th AGM, 21st BOD and 22nd BOD Meetings had been compiled by the respective AEARU Secretaries and circulated to all members to all members for approval prior to the meeting. Therefore, no objections were expressed at this 14th AGM regarding the minutes.

III. REVIEW OF AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2007

NOTE: Items 1. and 2. were reported at the 13th AGM (Aug. 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, co-hosted by the University of Indonesia, Jakarta (*Previously reported*)
- 2. Academic Conference on “Evidence Based Medicine and its Implication to our Medical Practice”; June 22-23, Fudan University (*Cancelled due to lack of participants. Previously reported*)
- 3. Student Summer Camp (General); Aug. 19-25, Taiwan University

This camp was in progress at the time of the 13th AGM in Kyoto. President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University confirmed that the camp was successfully held with 68 participants from AEARU’s 17 member universities.

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

This event has been proposed and cancelled twice due to a lack of participants - first in 2006 and then again in 2007. At the BOD meeting in June 2008 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, co-hosted by Nanjing University

Prof. Akihiko Tanaka of the University of Tokyo confirmed that this Workshop was successfully held. The event included 70 presentations and attracted almost 300 participants.

6. Medical Center Workshop; No specific date, Peking University (Not held. Discussed, but never firmly proposed)

This workshop was discussed at the 12th AGM in September 2006, but never firmly proposed. Peking University confirmed via an e-mail to the secretariat on May 19, 2008 that they are not planning to hold the workshop at present.

IV. REVIEW OF AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2008

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

This symposium was successfully held, and attracted approximately 40 participants, including delegates from business enterprises, universities and other 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

This workshop was successfully held. 42 people participated in the event, which featured 18 presentations.

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

This workshop was successfully held, with 50 participants. The workshop featured 6 paper presentations, one keynote speech and one invited speech.

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

Male and female teams from 7 AEARU member universities participated in this successful event.

V. SCHEDULED AEARU ACTIVITIES OF 2008

1. The 3rd AEARU Environmental Workshop: “Sustainable Energy”; Rescheduled for Oct./Nov. 2008, University of Science and Technology of China (*Cancelled due to lack of participants*)

This workshop was originally scheduled for July 2008 and then rescheduled for October or November 2008 before being cancelled due to a lack of participants.

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 (*Cancelled due to lack of participants*)

The call for participation for this workshop was sent to all AEARU members on May 13, 2008. The deadline for the submission of papers was subsequently extended until September 5, but unfortunately it was finally cancelled due to a lack of participants.

3. Workshop on “Collaboration among Universities in the Ubiquitous World: Building a Digital Bridge for Collaboration among AEARU Members”; Dec. 10-11, Nanjing University (*Rescheduled from Nov. 16-17, 2007*)

President Chen introduced this workshop, which was originally scheduled for November 2007, but has now been rescheduled for December 10 to 11, 2008 (a renewed announcement and call for presenters was sent to all AEARU members on July 3). President Chen urged that staff and students of AEARU member universities participate in the event.

Before moving on to the next item on the agenda, Vice-President Satoshi Tanaka of the University of Tsukuba made a comment regarding the recent cancelled activities. Vice-President Tanaka requested that the organizers of such events inform the other AEARU members of such cancellations as soon as possible in order to minimize the inconvenience and disappointment experienced by those who had planned to participate in the events.

Chairperson Oike added that it was very important that the issue of cancelled events be addressed, and suggested that it be discussed fully later in the meeting.

VI. UNSCHEDULED AEARU ACTIVITIES OF 2009

1. 3rd Student Physical Competition
2. 3rd Energy and Environment Workshop (*re-named, see NOTE 1 below*)

3. 4th Cultural Workshop
4. 9th Workshop on Web Technology & Computer Science
5. 10th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop
6. 8th General Student Summer Camp
7. 9th Topical Student Summer Camp
8. 1st Macroscopic Workshop (*see NOTE 2 below for further details*)
9. Additional Activities (*members are invited to propose any additional activities for 2008 ~ 2009*)

NOTE 1:

The name of the Environmental Workshop has been changed to the Energy and Environment Workshop, following a decision at the 22nd BOD Meeting. The name was changed in this way so that the workshop can include aspects of energy issues. (please refer to section VII of the 22nd BOD Meeting minutes for further details).

NOTE 2:

This is a new type of workshop proposed at the 22nd BOD Meeting. The workshop will aim to focus on more macroscopic topics which lend themselves to AEARU's particular qualities (please refer to section VII of the 22nd BOD Meeting minutes for further details).

Suggested topics for the first workshop

- *Undergraduate education in research universities*
- *Development directions of research universities in East Asia*

Chairperson Oike explained that a call for hosts for these unscheduled activities was sent to all AEARU members on August 6, but at present almost all of the activities remained unscheduled. The chairperson made an appeal to each AEARU member to consider hosting one of the activities.

The Chairperson then explained that shortly prior to the meeting Osaka University had submitted a proposal to host the 8th General Student Summer Camp.

Professor Naoto Yamauchi of Osaka University then explained the proposal in more detail, emphasizing his hopes that the participating students' experience would be enhanced by the unique culture of Japan's Osaka / Kansai area.

President Xu of Peking University suggested that Peking University and Tsinghua University – Hsinchu jointly hold the 4th Cultural Workshop in summer 2009. President Wen-Tsuen Chen of Tsinghua University – Hsinchu agreed with this proposal, suggesting that the workshop could be held jointly held in Beijing.

President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University expressed his university's intention to host the 10th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop around November 2009. President Lee mentioned that Taiwan University had already hosted the 2nd workshop in 1998.

Vice-President Shin Bok Kim of Seoul National University expressed his university's intention to host the 3rd Energy and Environment Workshop. Vice President Kim added that SNU had recently established a new research institute called the Asian Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development. He stressed that dealing with environmental problems was an issue of great concern to both his institution and to Korea as a whole. The Vice-President said that further details of SNU's proposal for the workshop would be available soon.

President Sunggi Baik explained that the word "Energy" had been added to the Environmental Workshop's name following a decision at the 22nd BOD meeting because it was felt that the issues surrounding energy and the environment are currently very strongly related, and concern over the energy problem is increasing. President Baik expressed his support for NTU's proposal.

President Baik then raised the issue of the Advanced Materials Science Workshop, the first of which was held by Tohoku University in 2002, and the second of which was scheduled to be held by Nanjing University in 2007, but was cancelled due to a lack of participants. President Baik said that in his view, materials science was a highly important field at present, and stated his intention to host the next Advanced Materials Science Workshop at POSTECH in 2009, emphasizing POSTECH's strength in materials science and engineering.

President Baik went on to elaborate that, against the background of increased steel production (particularly in China), and a resurgence of interest in steel technology, POSTECH had recently established a new institution for research into steel technology. The president asserted that steel technology was now highly advanced and could be included within the scope of the Advanced Materials Science Workshop. President Baik expressed an interest in collaborating on the workshop with Nanjing University, USTC and Tohoku University.

Chairperson Oike then invited any further suggestions or comments regarding AEARU activities.

Vice-President Yokoyama of Kyoto University said that he would like to expand on the concerns expressed earlier by Vice-President Satoshi Tanaka of the University of Tsukuba regarding the recent cancelled activities. Vice-President Yokoyama said that he was aware that such cancellations were not made lightly and were often unavoidable. He went on to make an appeal, however, to the AEARU members that for the sake of the young students and scholars

selected by their universities to attend such events, they proceed with holding activities even though the number of participants may be small.

President Sunggi Baik responded to this comment, saying that from his experience, after speaking with the organizers and participants of AEARU events at POSTECH, the issue of financial support is an ongoing problem, for example should the host or the participants provide travel expenses? The president went on to propose that perhaps a substantial membership fee could be introduced, which could then be used as a resource to provide financial assistance for activities, based on the quality of the proposal. President Baik suggested that such a system may increase the level of commitment by members, and boost the chance of activities being successful.

President Wen-Tsuen Chen of Tsinghua University – Hsinchu suggested that rather than participants attending workshops on a purely voluntary basis, each member university could be required to send their most appropriate scholar in order to form a core group of participants, with further participants attending on a voluntary basis.

President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University seconded President Chen's idea, and went on to say that two possible ways to ensure the success of a conference would be (1) for the host of the conference to provide all travel and accommodation costs, or (2) for every member to be required to send one participant at their own expense. He emphasized that the second approach was preferable in that it spread the responsibility more evenly among the AEARU members, and that he felt universities should allocate funds to support such activities.

Acting President Roland T. H. Chin of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology raised the point that such academic conferences were usually organized by program committees composed of scholars from a single host institution. Acting President Chin suggested that if such organizing committees were composed at least partly of scholars from several institutions, for example if they included five scholars, each of whom was from a different institution, then it would be more likely that the event would be successful.

Acting President Chin also made that point that professors were very busy, and that the participation problem may not be entirely due to financial factors. He said that even if funding was provided, professors may simply be too busy to attend. As a possible remedy for this problem, Acting President Chin suggested that graduate and post-doctoral students also be allowed to participate in workshops.

Professor Akihiko Tanaka of the University of Tokyo, said that he agreed, in principle with the proposal that all workshops be attended by at least one scholar from each member university,

but that he felt that caution should be exercised with regards to making such participation compulsory.

President Oike again asked the members if anyone had any further comments on any related matters.

President Wang Shenhong of Fudan University mentioned that his institution was soon to provide the venue for a symposium held by Kyoto University, the 11th Kyoto University International Symposium: Frontier Bioscience in Modern Medicine (KUIS-11). President Wang emphasized that although the symposium was being held by Kyoto University, the fact that the venue was being provided by Fudan University made it easier for Chinese scholars to participate.

Vice-President Yokoyama added that, although this was not, at present, an officially AEARU endorsed activity, he felt that the innovative style of collaboration employed for KUIS-11, may be very well suited for AEARU and its aims, and that he would like to discuss the details of the symposium later in the meeting.

VII. ISSUES TO BE REPORTED

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

The permanent URL for AEARU was renewed and is being regularly updated. (the renewal cost is \$44.00 US dollars for one year).

VIII. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

1. Announcement of the publication of AEARU Brochure 2009

As the chair university of AEARU, Kyoto University is responsible for the publication of the next AEARU brochure, which is due to be published in April 2009. The brochure is published every 2 to 3 years. 50 copies of the brochure will be sent to each member university. Chairperson Oike invited the members to give suggestions for the brochure's format and contents, requesting that suggestions be sent to the AEARU secretary.

2. Formation of a standardized AEARU contact network

Chairperson Oike introduced a proposal for the compilation of a more detailed AEARU contact directory, which would show the duties and responsibilities of each AEARU contact person (e.g.

contacts for workshops and seminars, contacts for student exchange). The Chairperson explained that the idea was to share information about each university's administrative structure in order to solve the problem of communications being 'lost' when they are not sent to the proper person with direct responsibility.

At the BOD Meeting in June 2008, President Sunggi Baik had 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 'level' would ensure more effective communication and cooperation.

Vice-President Satoshi Tanaka of the University of Tsukuba suggested that having multiple liaisons at each university may lead to confusion, and that it may be best if each university only has one single liaison.

Vice-President Yokoyama replied by saying that in theory he agreed with Vice-President Tanaka's point, but that, in practice, the diverse administrative structures of the AEARU member universities tend to make it difficult to have only one liaison. Vice-President Yokoyama added that at least two lines of communication were necessary to avoid communication being lost or delayed in the event of one liaison being unavailable.

3. Establishment of rules of registration for official AEARU activities

At the 22nd BOD Meeting – It was suggested that activities may be proposed to the AEARU secretariat and then approved by the BOD members by e-mail in order that preparation may be started prior to a final approval at the AGM (see 22nd BOD minutes section IX. part 4.). Chairperson Oike invited the AEARU members to comment on this proposal.

Professor Akihiko Tanaka of the University of Tokyo said that he agreed with the proposal, and added that this method of registration would also provide a way for possible participants to be notified of activities well in advance, and therefore have a beneficial effect on the level of participation in activities.

It was also proposed at the 22nd BOD Meeting that activities and events which are being prepared by member universities which come to be in accordance with AEARU's objectives may be endorsed by the association and promoted appropriately (see 22nd BOD minutes section VI). Chairperson Oike explained that Kyoto University was about to hold such an activity, and invited Kyoto University Vice-President, Professor Toshio Yokoyama to explain the activity in more detail.

Vice-President Yokoyama introduced the Eleventh Kyoto University International Symposium, “Frontier Bioscience in Modern Medicine” (KUIS-11, held Oct 9 – 11, 2008), which he explained was to be held with the special support of Fudan University. Vice-President Yokoyama said that he felt the plans for the event had developed very much in accordance with the spirit and objectives of AEARU, and that he felt it would be desirable and appropriate for the event to be endorsed as an event held in association with AEARU.

Vice-President Yokoyama explained that the event was organized by Kyoto University, but the venue and transportation were provided by Fudan University. He added that although the symposium was not an official AEARU activity, he felt that it would be greatly beneficial for the prestige of both AEARU and the symposium itself if the event could be promoted as being “in association with AEARU,” and if the promotional materials could bear the AEARU logo mark accordingly.

President Wang Shenghong of Fudan University expressed his full support of the symposium.

President Sunggi Baik of POSTECH said that he thought this was a good idea, and raised the point that this was essentially a joint activity held between Kyoto University and Fudan University, but that the reasoning behind using the AEARU name as an endorsement was to raise the profile of the association, and that the AEARU endorsement could therefore be given to any number of activities held by AEARU member universities in order to raise the association’s profile as much as possible. President Baik also raised the issue that, in general, such endorsements also tend to involve financial assistance, and that aspect would have to be discussed further.

President Chen Jun of Nanjing University said that he agreed with the proposal, and that he thought that the idea of holding joint workshops was a good idea. President Chen added that the Advanced Materials Science Workshop, discussed earlier, could be held as such a cooperative activity between POSTECH and Nanjing University, with scholars from Nanjing University being sent to POSTECH to participate in the event.

President Baik suggested that future AEARU academic meetings be held in such a collaborative manner in order to ensure a good level of participation.

President Gu Binglin of Tsinghua University – Beijing asked Vice-President Yokoyama what advantages he felt there were in holding events in this manner.

Vice-President Yokoyama explained that in addition to it’s being a privilege to have the

endorsement of AEARU, the conference was very much in tune with the spirit of AEARU in terms of it being open to scholars of the other member institutions and furthering areas of mutual interest for collaboration between research universities of the East Asian region. He added that at the moment, he saw the endorsement of KUIS-11 as a preliminary stage in a new style of collaboration, and that he was not yet able to commit to the broader applications suggested by the other members.

Provost Soon Heung Chang of KAIST said that he felt it was necessary to raise the profile of AEARU, and went on to say that he thought that an endorsement such as that being discussed need not necessarily be accompanied by financial support. Provost Chang said that co-sponsorship and the use of AEARU's name to promote academic meetings on the campuses of member universities could be a viable way publicizing meetings among AEARU member universities and enhancing the visibility of AEARU.

President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University raised the question of whether there should be a minimum number of member universities participating in an activity in order for it to be endorsed as an AEARU activity. He referred to President Sunggi Baik's comment that there were a great many academic meetings continually being held by member universities, and asked how it should be decided which activities should be endorsed as being supported by AEARU.

President Sunggi Baik responded by saying that his suggestion was that as long as the activity was being organized by an AEARU member university, then it could be supported by AEARU by distributing information about the activity to the member universities.

Professor Akihiko Tanaka of the University of Tokyo gave the opinion that there may also be some negative aspects to President Baik's suggestion in that if the AEARU logo was used to promote such a large number of activities held by member universities without a clear criteria, the criteria which evolved may be different at each university, causing an unevenness in the way the logo is used.

Professor Tanaka went on to say that at the opposite end of the scale, it had been suggested that all five regions of AEARU should be represented in order for an activity to be endorsed, but that there was also a middle ground whereby events held by multiple AEARU members would be entitled to use the AEARU logo, although events held by single institutions would not. Professor Tanaka said that in his opinion, requiring the involvement of institutions from all five regions would be too restrictive, and that allowing events held by single institutions would be too liberal, so the middle ground of allowing events held by multiple AEARU members to use the logo was the most effective option.

Vice-President Shin Bok Kim of Seoul National University said that the use of the AEARU logo should be based on approval of the activity by the BOD.

President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University echoed this sentiment adding that both multiple member participation and approval by the BOD should be required.

Vice-President Osamu Hashimoto of Tohoku University said that he fundamentally agreed, but that he was not sure what the criteria was for “BOD approval.”

Vice-President Yokoyama explained that the BOD could be regarded as a preliminary step and that activities should be formally approved all members at the AGM. However, since the AGM is held only once per year, that caused a variety of practical problems.

Vice-President Hashimoto agreed that once a year was too infrequent, and that it may be possible for activities to be approved by e-mail.

President Sunggi Baik also agreed, saying that the five BOD members could reach a decision on whether or not to endorse a particular event through e-mail. President Baik added that events which were only participated in by participants from one country should not be supported by AEARU, but international meetings involving by more than one country could be supported by AEARU, and that the key point was to increase the visibility of AEARU.

President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University mentioned that so far no agreement had been reached on how to promote AEARU’s regular activities. President Lee echoed the remark made earlier by Acting President Roland T. H. Chin of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, saying that professors were very busy and so may not wish to attend events regardless of financial considerations, and so it may be best to invite, and providing funding for, young professors and researchers to participate, adding that such events would be a valuable opportunity for them to build up their network of academic contacts.

Vice-President Satoshi Tanaka of the University of Tsukuba made the point that if permission to use the AEARU logo for a particular event was granted by the BOD members, then information about the granting of that permission should be transmitted to the AEARU members.

President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University proposed that at least two universities could be required to make any proposals for AEARU activities in the next year – in the manner of the collaborative Cultural Workshop proposal made by Peking University and Tsinghua University – Hsinchu earlier in the meeting. President Lee then invited any of the members to collaborate with Taiwan University in hosting the 10th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop,

which the President had earlier proposed would be held by his institution. He added that Taiwan University would take responsibility for the workshop, but that he would like the participation of the other members.

President Chen Jun of Nanjing University volunteered to collaborate on the workshop with Taiwan University.

IX. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. 24th BOD Meeting: Spring 2009

Chairperson Oike explained that the venue must be decided for the 24th BOD meeting next spring. The chairperson added that this had been discussed at the 22nd BOD Meeting in Nanjing in June 2008, and that POSTECH had expressed their willingness to host the meeting.

President Sunggi Baik confirmed that POSTECH would hold the 24th BOD Meeting in spring 2009.

2. 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting: (preferably) Autumn 2009

Chairperson Oike explained that the venue for the 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting in autumn 2009 was also discussed at the 22nd BOD meeting. Taiwan University was proposed as a possible candidate, as were the University of Tsukuba, Tohoku University, and HKUST.

Chairperson Oike requested that the candidate institutions discuss the issue and decide which will host the meeting.

President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University offered to host the meeting at Taiwan University, but mentioned that his institution had already hosted one AGM and two BOD meetings, and that they were already planning to host an AEARU activity in 2009 (the 10th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop).

Chairperson Oike announced that the meeting agenda had now been fully covered, and asked the attendees if they had any final points or issues that they would like to raise.

Returning to the issue of how best to ensure the success of AEARU activities, President Wen-Tsuen Chen of Tsinghua University – Hsinchu said that he thought it was necessary for member universities to allocate funds to assist professors attending workshops. Professor Chen went on to say that he thought each member university should send one participant to each workshop,

and suggested that the members enjoin in an agreement to that effect.

President Sunggi Baik of POSTECH expressed concerns over maintaining the quality of events under such an agreement, saying that a casual assembly of professors from all of the member universities would not necessarily result in an interesting seminar. He added that the participants of a seminar or workshop should be decided by the organizers of the event. President Baik went on to say that a method of supporting the activity organizers was needed in order that they could plan and organize interesting programs, adding that quality was an issue and that if the programs themselves were not interesting, then they would not attract many participants.

President Chen Jun of Nanjing University suggested that in order to improve the cooperation among the AEARU members with regards to activities, the member universities' participation in activities, should be reported in addition to their hosting of activities.

Vice-President Shin Bok Kim of Seoul National University suggested that the attendees should examine the reasons for the recently cancelled activities, and asked the representatives from USTC and Tsinghua University – Hsinchu to discuss what they thought were the main reasons for the cancellations.

Prof. Chung-Min Chen of Tsinghua University – Hsinchu, speaking about the recently cancelled cultural workshop (see above for details), said that it was possible that the call for papers was sent out slightly too late and that perhaps the topic of the workshop was not able to generate sufficient interest among the predominantly science and technology oriented AEARU member institutions. Professor Chen added that the strategy of circulating a pre-workshop questionnaire to investigate the concerns of the member universities with regards to the topic, as adopted by Nanjing University for their “Ubiquitous World” workshop (see above for details), may be beneficial.

President Chen Jun of Nanjing University suggested that event organizers could solicit e-mail feedback on workshop/symposium topics to assess the level of interest before proceeding to organize the event.

Professor Akihiko Tanaka of the University of Tokyo said that although he felt that every effort should be made by member universities to encourage their scholars to participate in AEARU activities, he was reluctant to agree with the proposition to obligate all universities to finance at least one participant for every AEARU event sanctioned by the AGM. Professor Tanaka further explained that each institutions academic strengths were different, and that such an automatic obligation to send participants could lead to a decline in the quality of AEARU's academic meetings. Professor Tanaka added that although the activities held under the AEARU banner

were deemed worthwhile by all of the AEARU members, that does not necessarily mean that all member universities will have scholars suitable to participate in the event.

Acting President Roland T. H. Chin of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology raised the issue of copyright, asking if, in some cases, copyright issues could perhaps prevent scholars from submitting papers for AEARU's academic meetings as they may be unable to submit a papers to multiple events or publications.

Prof. Chung-Min Chen responded that in the case of Tsinghua University – Hsinchu's recently cancelled activity, copyright issues did not seem to be a problem.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Oike adjourned the meeting, thanking once again the meetings hosts, President Quingshi Zhu and USTC, as well as all of the participants.