

AEARU 23rd Board of Directors Meeting
September 20, 2008
University of Science and Technology of China

PRESENT

Dr. Kazuo OIKE	Chairperson; President, Kyoto University
Prof. Roland T. H. CHIN	Acting 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 for International Relations Director-General, Organization for the Promotion of Int'l Relations
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POSTECH

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

Nanjing University

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

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 the meeting by suggesting that the BOD members review the proceedings of the 14th AGM, and confirm the decisions and proposals that had been made during that meeting. The chairperson also suggested that, in the interest of time and efficiency, Vice-President Yokoyama join the table to help guide the BOD discussions, to which the other board members agreed.

II. CONFIRMATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

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

The delegates from Nanjing University confirmed that their institution was planning to host this event and expressed their hopes that it would be well attended by experts from the AEARU member universities.

Vice-President Toshio Yokoyama mentioned that the topic of the workshop covered a broad scope and that the participants would depend on how the topic was defined, and if the focus of the workshop was defined more clearly then the member universities would be more easily able to decide which of their faculty and staff members to send. He asked the Nanjing University delegates to provide more detailed information about the workshop so that it could be distributed amongst the AEARU member universities.

President Wen-Tsuen Chen of Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu suggested that each member university send the senior staff member responsible for information technology and digital communication at their university to the workshop.

President Sunggi Baik enquired as to whether Nanjing University was planning to invite experts from outside the AEARU member universities, for example from the United States, to participate in the workshop. The Nanjing Delegates replied that they intended to do so.

2. 8th General Student Summer Camp

The BOD members confirmed that Osaka University will hold the 8th General Student Summer Camp in August 2009. The Osaka University delegates distributed a printed preliminary proposal for the camp during the AGM. The exact date of the camp is yet to be confirmed.

3. 4th Cultural Workshop

The delegates from Tsinghua University – Hsinchu confirmed that their institution will collaborate with Peking University to hold the 4th Cultural Workshop in June or July 2009. President Wen-Tsuen Chen added that the venue would be in Beijing, and that Peking University would be the main host of the event, with Tsinghua University – Hsinchu performing a supporting role. The delegates confirmed that the focus of the workshop would be culture and higher education in East Asia.

President Sunggi Baik suggested that it may be better if the theme of the workshop was more clearly defined.

Professor Chung-Min Chen said that the objectives and themes of the workshop were very clearly defined in the previous call for papers, but that he intended to discuss the workshop with Peking University and that the theme may be modified.

4. 10th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop

The BOD members confirmed that the 10th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop will be held by Taiwan University in November 2009 with the support of Nanjing University.

The delegates from Tsinghua University – Hsinchu said that their institution may also collaborate in holding the workshop.

5. 3rd Energy and Environment Workshop

It was confirmed that this workshop will be held by Seoul National University in 2009. The date has not yet been confirmed.

6. The 2nd Advanced Materials Science Workshop

It was confirmed that POSTECH will hold this workshop in 2009. President Sunggi Baik said

that he may ask for assistance in holding the workshop from other universities such as Nanjing University and Tohoku University.

President Baik mentioned that he may consider holding the workshop in conjunction with the 24th BOD Meeting.

Several of the BOD members expressed the opinion that this was a good idea. Acting President Roland T. H. Chin of HKUST suggested that, from now on, AGM and BOD Meetings could be held in conjunction with an academic conference.

III. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

1. Establishment of rules of registration for official AEARU activities

Vice-President Toshio Yokoyama asked the BOD members to confirm that it had been approved for the Eleventh Kyoto University International Symposium, “Frontier Bioscience in Modern Medicine” (KUIS-11, due to be held Oct 9 – 11, 2008 at Fudan University) to be promoted as an event held in association with AEARU, using the AEARU logo mark. The BOD members confirmed that this was approved.

Vice-President Yokoyama said that several points of agreement seemed to have emerged among the AEARU members regarding AEARU activities:

1. The involvement of at least two member universities could be made the basic requirement for registration as an officially endorsed AEARU activity, while accepting that the promotion of AEARU’s international visibility is a vital necessity.
2. The issue of fund raising for AEARU activities should be addressed.
3. A means of encouraging member universities to send participants to AEARU events is needed (suggestions included some form of attendance obligation or funding assistance for attendees).

President Wen-Tsuen Chen suggested that member universities suggest a number of possible participants to attend activities, and that the host institution could then invite participants by sending invitation letters. President Chen added that this would be more successful than the hosts simply waiting for submissions for the activity.

Vice-President Yokoyama said that the proposed changes to the AEARU contact directory may help the situation in this respect.

2. Copyright issues in relation to AEARU workshops and seminars

Acting President Roland T. H. Chin said that due to copyright issues, many professors at his university were unable to submit identical papers to more than one academic event, and that they did not have the time to rewrite the papers. Acting President Chin said that he felt this issue had to be settled by the event organizers and the professors themselves.

Vice-President Yokoyama agreed that the issue raised was important, but at the same time he suggested that such matters varied depending on the case and that no fixed rule could be set, and so in each case the organizers had to discuss the matter in detail.

3. The Expansion of the AEARU Membership

President Chen Jun of Nanjing University raised the issue of increasing the number of AEARU member universities.

Chairperson Oike mentioned that this issue had been discussed several times in the past, and Vice-President Yokoyama added that it was a major topic both at the 13th AGM and 21st BOD meeting the previous year, and that the dominant opinion among the AEARU members was that efforts should be made to increase the activity of the current members of AEARU before an expansion of the membership could be seriously considered. Vice-President Yokoyama said that it was, however, still an issue to be further considered in the future, particularly if a suitable candidate were to emerge.

President Baik pointed out that the introduction of new members was generally an effective way for organizations to promote an increase in activity, and that perhaps one or two new members would have a beneficial effect.

Acting President Chin suggested that the issue be added to the agenda of the next AEARU meeting, and that which institutions would be suitable candidates for AEARU membership could be discussed.

President Baik suggested that possible candidates should be reviewed by the BOD and then recommended to all of the AEARU members at the AGM. This was generally agreed by the BOD members.

President Chen Jun pointed out that President Zihe Rao of Nankai University had shown an interest in AEARU by attending the preceding AGM as an observer. The members noted that Nankai University was a high-quality research university.

President Baik mentioned that recently there had been a rapid rise in quality universities in Singapore, and that an institution from that country may be a possible candidate for AEARU membership. President Baik also mentioned that an Australian university may be a potential candidate, in the light of that country's desire, in recent years, to develop closer ties with East Asia.

Vice-President Yokoyama suggested Vietnam National University in Hanoi as a possible candidate, and reminded the BOD members that the idea of inviting a North Korean institution had been suggested during the last AGM in Kyoto. The members agreed that this may be a possibility in the future, but that it was a difficult prospect under present circumstances.

The members decided that the issue of expanding the AEARU membership would be included in the agenda of the next BOD meeting.

President Baik added that POSTECH would make a formal proposal which could either be considered at the next BOD meeting, or circulated around the member universities beforehand so that it could be included in the meeting's formal agenda.

President Wen-Tsuen Chen reminded the members that the issue had been discussed at the previous year's (13th) AGM and that most members seemed to be against the idea of increasing the membership.

The BOD members agreed that, although there was no formal vote, the general consensus had been against the idea. Vice-President Yokoyama suggested that the minutes of the 13th AGM be used as a starting point for further discussions on this topic.

IV. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

4. 24th BOD Meeting: Spring 2009

President Sunggi Baik confirmed that POSTECH would hold the 24th BOD Meeting in spring 2009 and that a suitable date would be discussed via the secretariat. Mid-April was discussed as a possible period in which to hold the meeting.

5. 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting: (preferably) Autumn 2009

The BOD members noted that during the preceding AGM, President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University offered to host the 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting at Taiwan University.

Vice-President Yokoyama mentioned that the AEARU Secretariat had been concerned that the University of Tsukuba and Tohoku University had not yet had the opportunity to host an AEARU AGM or BOD meeting. Chairperson Oike and President Baik agreed that institutions which had not yet hosted a meeting should be given the chance to do so.

Vice-President Yokoyama suggested that it may be the BOD's role to invite and encourage comparatively inactive institutions to get more involved in AEARU activities.

Referring to the list of previously held meetings, the members noted that Peking University, Seoul National University, Tohoku University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tsinghua University – Beijing and the University of Tsukuba had not yet held either an AGM or a BOD Meeting.

President Baik suggested that a letter be sent from the secretariat to the six universities mentioned above, to remind them that they had not yet had the opportunity to host an AEARU meeting and offering them the chance to host the AGM next year.

Vice-President Yokoyama pointed out, however, that the good intentions of Taiwan University should not be forgotten. The BOD members noted that Taiwan University was one of AEARU's most active members, having already hosted fifteen activities.

President Baik pointed out that the six universities named above had also hosted a comparatively low number of AEARU activities in total.

Acting President Chin added that the AEARU members would greatly appreciate the opportunity to visit those universities and see their campuses. This sentiment was shared by the other BOD members.

It was decided therefore that a letter would be sent to the presidents of the six universities inviting them to consider hosting the next AEARU AGM in the autumn of 2009, and that the offer by Taiwan University be postponed until some time in the future, with a letter being sent from the Chairperson to President Si-Chen Lee of Taiwan University explaining the board's decision.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Oike adjourned the meeting, thanking the BOD members for their participation. Vice-President Yokoyama announced that this was the last time that Dr. Oike would chair an AEARU meeting, as his term as president of Kyoto University was due to end on September 30, and he would be replaced by the newly elected president, and the new chairperson of AEARU, Dr. Hiroshi Matsumoto.