

**AEARU 29th Board of Directors Meeting
(Pre-AGM)**

December 14, 2011

Kyoto University, Japan

PRESENT

Tony F. CHAN	Chairperson; President, HKUST
Lih J. CHEN	Vice Chairperson; President, Tsing Hua University - Hsinchu
Hiroshi MATSUMOTO	President, Kyoto University
CHEN Jun	President, Nanjing University
Akira TAKAHASHI	Trustee, Osaka University
Ke YANG	Executive Vice-President, Peking University
Seong-Ho SHEEN	Associate Dean, Office of Int'l Affairs, Seoul National University

SECRETARY

Cherry LEUNG	AEARU Secretariat, HKUST
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IN ATTENDANCE

Tsing Hua University - Hsinchu

Da-Hsuan FENG	Vice-President of Global Strategy, Development and Evaluation
Mao-Jiun WANG	Secretary General
Chung-min CHUNG	Counselor, Office of the President
Sabrina LI	Project Manager

Kyoto University

Junichi MORI	Vice-President
Kunio TAKEYASU	Professor, Graduate School of Biostudies
Teruo TOKURA	Director, Research and International Affairs Department
Masanobu KOBAYASHI	Section Chief, International Affairs Division
Ainslie KERR	Administrator, International Affairs Division
Ayako ITO	Administrator, International Affairs Division

Nanjing University

HU Jie	Section Chief, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges
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Osaka University

Hiroshi MUKAI	Head, International Affairs Division
Dai TOMIYAMA	Administrator, International Affairs Division

Peking University

GUO Aihua	Associate Director of President Office
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MEETING MINUTES

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. Introduction and welcome remarks by Chairperson Tony F. Chan

Chairperson Tony F. Chan began the meeting by greeting the assembled BOD members. He thanked President Hiroshi Matsumoto and Kyoto University for their hospitality in hosting the meeting and the 1st Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters. Then each of the attending representatives from the BOD member universities introduced themselves in turn.

II. ISSUES TO BE REPORTED

1. Status Report of AEARU Activity Sponsorship Program (*Appendix 1a*)

Since the AEARU Activity Sponsorship program launched in 2010, four AEARU activities had been funded, mainly supporting the student on travel and accommodation expenses. Each university received a funding of US 10,000. It helped to encourage the participation of students. E.g. 9 students from non-Japanese member universities participated the 9th Web Technology Workshop.

Activities that received funding:

- The 9th Web Technology and Computer Science Workshop; Kyoto University
- The 1st Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters; Kyoto University
- The 11th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop; HKUST
- The 4th Energy and Environmental Workshop; March 2012, Taiwan University

Taiwan University has clarified the usage of the AEARU Sponsorship in supporting students / post-doctoral students from Member Universities. The sponsorship will be granted upon Taiwan University's confirmation on event date and payment details. (*Appendix 1b: Clarification Note from Taiwan University*)

2. Financial status of AEARU account
(*Appendix 2a: Income & Expenditure Statement*
Appendix 2b: Balance Sheet)

The Association started to receive AEARU membership fee in 2010. Each member pay US 2,000 per year. A total of US 68,000 received from members in 2-year time. Deducting the AEARU sponsorship of US 40,000, it was anticipated that there would be around US 28,000 by the end of year 2011.

3. Publication of the AEARU brochure 2011 (biennial)

In response to the decision made during the last AGM, a pocket-sized brochure was produced for the purpose of being environmental friendly and of easy distribution. An online version was also developed for better circulation through the Internet.

4. *Changeover of AEARU Chairperson and Headquarters*

HKUST completed its 2-year term as the Chair University of AEARU. Next year, the current Vice-Chair University – Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu would assume the role of Chair and the headquarters would be moved accordingly. AEARU Secretary expressed her thanks to all members' support to the Secretariat at HKUST so far.

III. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

1. Next Vice-Chairperson and Board of Directors

(Appendix 3a: AEARU BOD Members by Year

Appendix 3b: AEARU Chairperson by Area

Appendix 3c: AEARU BOD Members by Area & by Year in Table Format)

Chairperson Chan explained that based on the rotation basis of the Chairpersonship of AEARU, HKUST's Chairpersonship would end by 31 December 2011, with the current Vice-Chairperson President Lih J. Chen of Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu as the successor, taking up the role of Chairperson from 1 Jan 2012 to 31 Dec 2013. The Association had to decide the Vice-chairperson for 2012/2013, and who would become the Chairperson for 2014/2015.

Taking the regional representation into account, it might be logical to consider a BOD member from China being the next candidate. The last time a representative from China served as Chairperson dated back to 2004/05 when the president of USTC assumed the role of Chairperson. The BOD agreed a BOD member from China to take up the role of Vice-Chairperson.

Peking University indicated its support to Nanjing University to be the next Vice-Chairperson, with agreement from all other BOD members. President Chen Jun of Nanjing University expressed his thankfulness to the support that he would be honor to take up the role. Chairperson Chan then would make accordingly announcement at the AGM that President Chen Jun was the BOD's recommendation as the next vice-chairperson of AEARU.

About change of Board of Directors, Chairperson Chan acknowledged Kyoto University's request in reviewing the current BOD member situation and briefly explained how many consecutive years served by each current BOD member at the end of 2011.

President Matsumoto expressed that Kyoto University had served at the Board for 8 years time and it was appropriate time for a change. He recommended Tohoku University in representing Japan to take up the role of BOD member. He further added that Tohoku University was active in supporting AEARU, for instance, it has hosted the 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting. Mr. Akira Takahashi of Osaka University agreed with the recommendation. Other BOD members indicated agreement to the recommendation. Chairperson Chan would present at the AGM this recommendation.

2. AEARU Activity Sponsorship Program – activity proposals selection and funding approval

(Appendix 4: Activity Proposals & Budget Plans for Funding Support:

Appendix 4a: The 5th Workshop on Network Education, Nanjing University

Appendix 4b: Summer Camp 2012 - Asian Research Network (ARN), Tokyo Institute of Technology)

There were 2 proposals submitted in applying the AEARU Sponsorship.

Nanjing University applied AEARU sponsorship in supporting the 5th Workshop on Network Education. Nanjing University understood that the official approval would be deliberated at the BOD meeting and AGM on 14 December, by when the workshop should have completed (2 December). It was still hoping to obtain the sponsorship to offer financial support for student participation.

Ms Hu Jie of Nanjing University explained that there were 5 students from AEARU member universities joined the workshop. Nanjing University intended to use the amount applied to provide partial assistance with travel, accommodation and registration to support them. Each would get US 600. Besides, it applied another additional US 1,000 for a “Student Poster Prize” in awarding 2 posters for each of the two sessions. Therefore, a total of US 4,000 was being applied (US 600 x 5 + US 1,000).

President Chen Jun of Nanjing University left the meeting venue and the rest of BOD members deliberated upon the application.

Chairperson Chan expressed his review that AEARU should support the activity for its good aim and in consideration of the healthy financial status of the Association. President Matsumoto agreed with the view of Chairperson.

President Lih J. Chen recommended the Secretariat should circulate the proposal through email in prior to the BOD meeting so that decision could be made in time.

The application from Nanjing University was approved by the BOD members.

Ms Cherry Leung responded that the proposal was circulated among BOD members and alerted them about the special situation of this case. Yet she did not ask for a decision. Chairperson commented that for similar case in the future, e-mail circulation asking for a decision should be made by the Secretariat while BOD should made decision before the activity was held.

Tokyo Institute of Technology applied US 10,000 in supporting the Asian Research Network Summer Camp 2012 to cover:

- participants’ room and board while in Japan, including 3 nights of accommodation and meals, estimated at US 500 per participant (anticipated 15 participants);
- participants’ transportation expenses while in Japan, estimated at US 100 per participant

- the cost of meeting facilitated and related materials, valued at a lump sum of US 1,000.

The application from Tokyo Institute of Technology was approved by the BOD members.

Chairperson Chan would announce both sponsorship approval results to AGM.

3. AEARU Annual Thematic Flagship Event 2012

(Appendix 5: Excerpt from the 28th BOD Meeting Minutes)

Chairperson Chan recapped the topics or themes suggested in the 28th BOD Meeting including earthquake hazards, disaster management, Chinese characters, Confucianism, a sustainable education system in the East Asian region, climate change, economic aspects of the rise of East Asia. He also recapped the formats suggested:

- Format A - selected themes (a maximum 3 themes would be identified) were put into a cycle and held once every 2 or 3 years
- Format B - an annual symposium focusing on a different theme each year, to respond to current matters occurring in the region and add new elements to the flagship events.
- Format A & B could be held simultaneously

Chairperson asked SNU who had taken the initiative to form the sub-committee in this regard, whether more details had come up since last BOD meeting.

Mr Seong-Ho Sheen from Seoul National University suggested grouping the topics into 3 broad themes below and thought that would allow flexibility to respond to hot issue timely.

- Asian Culture - which could cover different unique culture in East Asian region including but not limited to Chinese Characters, Japanese culture
- Disaster Management - which could cover nuclear, earthquakes and other natural or man-made disaster
- The rise of East Asian Universities in higher education

Chairperson commented that the three themes were cutting across many academic areas including humanities, social sciences, economic, science and technology, etc.

President Matsumoto agreed that there would be many possible topics to be categorized under the themes suggested and reminded about maintaining the uniqueness of AEARU and themes 2 and 3 suggested would be too similar to other international education association and required to be more specific.

Mr Sheen agreed the viewpoints of President Matsumoto. About the theme of Disaster Management, Mr Sheen took the example of rising economy in Asia resulting in the rigorous development of nuclear power plant, which had become very important issues.

About the theme of rise of Asian Universities in higher education, Mr Sheen explained that internationalization had been a hot topic in the global education arena that both demands for going out of Asia and entering Asia were on its rise. Therefore, it was worth to examine the implication of ranking system to Asian Universities, the role of Asian Universities in research and education as well as internationalization.

Chairperson Chan agreed that there were many issues worthwhile to discuss with regard to the rise of Asian Universities including its education philosophy, its education system, the flow of people and ideas, the relationship between higher education and its economy as well as science and technology. The main point was not to forget the uniqueness of East Asia in examining those issues. He remained open about the theme of Disaster Management.

President Matsumoto further commented on the format of the flagship event. He suggested that one selected themes should be run straight three years at different universities, with possibility to bundling with AGM, which might then draw a bigger crowd of attendees with all member universities present. While a symposium focusing on a theme in response to current matters occurring in the region could be held simultaneously within the year. Therefore, two thematic events could be held in a year.

Mr Sheen echoed the viewpoints of President Matsumoto that themes should be broad enough to allow flexibility and modification on topics to be discussed.

President Lih J Chen stated that Tsinghua University - Hsinchu had committed to host the second symposium on Chinese characters depending on the development of the first one hosted by Kyoto University.

Chairperson Chan raised if the second symposium on Chinese characters would tie with the AGM. President Lih J Chen responded that Tsinghua University - Hsinchu was open to hold the symposium at the AGM hosting university.

President Matsumoto reminded that Peking University also indicated interest in hosting the symposium on Chinese characters.

4. AEARU membership criteria and nomination process

(Appendix 6a: Report from Working Group

Appendix 6b: Proposal on membership criteria and nomination process)

The matter of bringing new members into AEARU was discussed at the 28th BOD Meeting, at which it was decided that a working group be formed to established a membership criteria and nomination process to enable new members join the association. Kyoto University as the organizer and leader of the working group has worked out a proposal for the members to consider.

President Matsumoto explained that the proposed process was very similar to the criteria used by several other well know academic associations e.g. AAU and APRU, with emphasis on maintaining quality of membership and limiting the size of the association and in accordance with AEARU Constitution [3.3]. It was suggested that the number of members may be increased by a maximum 1 member per year, provided the total number does not exceed 20. He further elaborated that a key feature of the proposal was the inclusion of clauses for membership obligations, and the revocation of membership. It required members to hold an AEARU activity at least once every three years. This would effectively mean that there would be at least five or six AEARU activities held every year, which would effectively encourage activeness of members and significantly boost the association's value and status.

All BOD members agreed with the proposal, Chairperson Chan would present the recommendations at the AGM.

President Matsumoto added that Kyushu University, a very active research-based university, indicated great interest in joining AEARU.

IV. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. 30th BOD Meeting: Spring 2012, host undecided
 - *At the 28th BOD Meeting, Nanjing University proposed to host this meeting in conjunction with its 110th anniversary.*

All BOD members agreed with the proposal

2. 18th AGM and 31st BOD Meeting: Autumn 2012, host undecided

The Secretariat had received no indication from members to host the meetings. At the 28th BOD Meeting, Chairperson asked SNU to consider hosting AEARU meetings as they had not hosted any so far and Vice President Seung Jong Lee of SNU responded that it would be discussed internally. Chairperson asked Mr Sheen if a decision had been reached yet.

Mr Sheen explained that the SNU would have been tied up with university privatization for the coming year and he needed to seek advice from the president further.

Chairperson highlighted that the previous meetings (BOD & AGM) in year 2010/2011 were held in Japan, Taiwan and China. It was naturally a Korea University be the meeting host, plus the fact that SNU had not hosted any so far. He also listed other potential meeting hosts including Peking University, Tokyo Institute of Technology and University of Tsukuba, which also had not hosted any meetings.

The Board agreed that:

- Seoul National University would be the first priority candidate.
- Peking University came as the second priority candidate as 17th AGM was held in Japan already (Kyoto University), it would be better for a hosting university from another country (if not Korea).
- Tokyo Institute of Technology as the third priority candidate as there was no AEARU meeting held in Tokyo city so far.

Chairperson Chan asked Ms Ke Yang of Peking University to consult her president about this, while asked SNU to come back by January with its decision.

On the other hand, President Chen Jun of Nanjing University offered to host 19th AGM & 33rd BOD Meeting in 2013.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments, Chairperson Chan adjourned the meeting. He thanked the members for their participation.

**AEARU 29th Board of Directors Meeting
(Post-AGM)**

December 14, 2011

Kyoto University, Japan

PRESENT

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Lih J. CHEN	Vice Chairperson; President, Tsing Hua University - Hsinchu
Hiroshi MATSUMOTO	President, Kyoto University
CHEN Jun	President, Nanjing University
Akira TAKAHASHI	Trustee, Osaka University
Ke YANG	Executive Vice-President, Peking University
Seong-Ho SHEEN	Associate Dean, Office of Int'l Affairs, Seoul National University

SECRETARY

Cherry LEUNG	AEARU Secretariat, HKUST
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Chung-min CHUNG	Counselor, the Office of President
Sabrina LI	Project Manager

Kyoto University

Junichi MORI	Vice-President
Kunio TAKEYASU	Professor, Graduate School of Biostudies
Teruo TOKURA	Director, Research and International Affairs Department
Masanobu KOBAYASHI	Section Chief, International Affairs Division
Ainslie KERR	Administrator, International Affairs Division
Ayako ITO	Administrator, International Affairs Division

Nanjing University

HU Jie	Section Chief, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges
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Osaka University

Hiroshi MUKAI	Head, International Affairs Division
Dai TOMIYAMA	Administrator, International Affairs Division

Peking University

GUO Aihua	Associate Director of President Office
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MEETING MINUTES

I. Introductory Remarks

Chairperson Chan began the meeting by confirming with the BOD members that all of the matters discussed at the AGM had been successfully agreed upon by all of the attending AEARU delegates. No objections or questions were raised by the BOD members. He then summarized the items requiring action following the discussions of the AGM.

II. Next Vice Chairperson

President Chen Jun of Nanjing University would become Vice-Chairperson for year 2012/13 and Chairperson for year 2014/15.

III. Change of Board of Directors

Tohoku University would take up the role of Board of Director in succession to Kyoto University.

IV. AEARU Activity Sponsorship Program

Sponsorships would be granted to support the following activities:

- The 5th Workshop on Network Education, Nanjing University (US 4,000)
- Summer Camp 2012 - Asian Research Network (ARN), Tokyo Institute of Technology (US 10,000)

V. AEARU Annual Thematic Flagship Event

All members agreed that:

- AEARU should have a thematic flagship event
- Themes should be broad enough and maintain the uniqueness of East Asia region
- Themes should be inclusive to allow member universities flexibility to setting up their topics
- Coordination of themes should be required to avoid same theme rolling consecutively too many years
- The flagship event could be in conjunction with AGM to draw wider participation

Chairperson Chan asked Seoul National University to work with the committee in formulating the ideas on what themes and in what formats the flagship event should be run. He asked the committee to also think about whether the flagship event could be detached from the AGM.

VI. AEARU MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND NOMINATION PROCESS

There was a general consensus to increase the number of members up to 20.

Concern was expressed by members towards membership revocation. Chairperson Chan asked the President Lih J. Chen, being the next Chairperson, to continue the discussion about the membership revocation with Kyoto University and other universities in the working group and bring the ideas to the next BOD meeting.

VII. Dates & Venues for Future Meetings

1. 30th BOD Meeting would be hosted by Nanjing University on 20 May 2012
2. Hosted was undecided for 18th AGM and 31th BOD Meeting. The members agreed that
 - Seoul National University would be the first priority candidate.
 - Peking University came as the second priority candidate as 17th AGM was held in Japan already (Kyoto University), it would be better for a hosting university from another country (if not Korea).
 - Tokyo Institute of Technology as the third priority candidate as there was no AEARU meeting held in Tokyo city so far.

Mr Seong-Ho Sheen of SNU replied that the university would have a decision if it could host the AGM as well as the thematic event by January 2012.

VIII. Other Suggestion - AEARU Public Lecture

President Lih J Chen suggested having experts from member universities to conduct public lectures during BOD meeting. It could be either 7 lectures in 1 day or 17 lectures in 2 days. Other BOD members appreciated the new idea which could promote AEARU to the public with minimum costing.

IX. Adjournment

As there were no further comments or matters to be discussed, Chairperson Chan thanked the members and adjourned the meeting.