

**AEARU 33<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors Meeting**

**December 8, 2013**

**Tsing Hua University - Hsinchu, Taiwan**

**PRESENT**

Lih J. CHEN	Chairperson; President, Tsing Hua University - Hsinchu
CHEN Jun	Vice Chairperson, President; Nanjing University
Toshio HIRANO	President, Osaka University
Susumu SATOMI	President, Tohoku University
Junggi IM	Executive Vice President, Seoul National University
Eden Y. WOON	Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
CHENG Xu	Assistant to the President Peking University

**SECRETARY**

Sabrina LI	AEARU Secretariat, Tsing Hua University - Hsinchu
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu**

Da-Hsuan FENG	Senior Vice President of Global Strategy, Development, and Evaluation
Wei-Chung WANG	Vice President of Global Affairs
Chen-Fu CHIEN	Vice President and Chief of Staff
Chung-min CHEN	Counselor, Office of the President

**Nanjing University**

PU Lijie	Associate Vice-President
KONG Jianfeng	Deputy Director
HU Melissa	Section Chief
CHEN Grace	Program Officer

**Osaka University**

Kenzo ABE	Vice President
Kenji SUMIYOSHI	Assistant Head, International Affairs Division
Gareth CONNAH	Administrative Staff, International Affairs Division

**Peking University**

Rongxiang YANG	Deputy Section Chief, Office of Human Resources
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Professor of the Department of Chinese Language  
and Literature

**Seoul National University**

SHEEN Seongho

Associate Dean, Office of International Affairs

**Tohoku University**

Toshiya UEKI

Executive Vice President

Sanae AOKI

Managing Professor for International Affairs

Sayaka YAMAGUCHI

Staff Member, International Exchange Division

## MEETING MINUTES

### I. INTRODUCTION REMARKS

The Chairperson began the meeting by greeting and welcoming BOD members. He also stated that the day before today's meeting, NTHU held the AEARU-LERU Presidents' Forum, which had attracted many students and faculty participation as well as attentions internationally. The Chairperson further introduced a new BOD member, President Wang Enge of Peking University, who was not able to attend personally the meeting and had Professor Cheng Xu representing him.

### II. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> BOD meeting held on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Tohoku University, Japan

The minutes of the above meeting were compiled by the AEARU Secretary and distributed to all members. With no comments or amendment, the minutes were confirmed.

### III. SECRETARY REPORT

1. Status report of AEARU Activity Sponsorship

Two AEARU activities had been sponsored. First, the 5<sup>th</sup> AEARU Advanced Material Workshop organized by Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, which was originally held between December 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, but was postponed to the Summer of 2014. A total of US \$10,000 was granted to provide assistance for the cost of accommodation as well as providing an AEARU Prize for the best paper.

Second sponsorship of US \$10,000 was given to Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in organizing the AEARU 2013 Symposium: Green and Resilient Growth (GRG) of Asian Cities in upcoming February 2014. The funding is intended to be used in assisting AEARU students on their accommodation, lecture and field trip costs.

2. Financial status of AEARU Treasury

The Secretary reported that for this period, there is an out-going expenditure of US \$20,000 for AEARU activities with all memberships collected. She further reported that there's a total of US \$78304.92 brought forward from last period, subtract with

the expenditure mentioned previous, it left the AEARU Treasury a total of US \$58304.92 in the account.

#### **IV. ISSUES DISCUSSED**

##### **1. Publication of the AEARU 2014 Biannual Brochure**

Prof. Chung-min Chen reported that the 2013 AEARU Brochure has been prepared and published by the current Secretariat, and will mail them out to each member universities. Meanwhile, there's a copy for reference included in the meeting portfolio.

##### **2. Changeover of AEARU Chairperson and Headquarters**

Prof. Chung-min Chen reported that President Lih J. Chen of NTHU has been serving as next Chairperson of AEARU since 2012 and his term will finish by the end of this year. The Chairpersonship will to President Chen Jun of Nanjing University.

##### **3. Next Vice-Chairperson and Board of Directors**

Prof. Chung-min Chen reported that President Chen Jun of Nanjing University will serve as the Chairperson of AEARU stating from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. However, the new Vice-Chairperson is still vacant. He further stated that the Secretariat has studied the tradition of BOD composition, which is to share the responsibility within different regions of AEARU, thus we nominate the President of Seoul National University to be the AEARU's next Vice-Chairperson.

The Chairperson stated that AEARU has a tradition to balance responsibilities within each region. After mapping out AEARU Chairperson and BOD members by year, it is Korean member's turn to serve Vice-Chairperson. Since Seoul National University is the only Korean university on the Board, thus he encourages the University to take on the role.

Executive Vice President Junggi Im stated his gratitude for nomination and indicated it should be no problem for SNU to serve the Vice-Chairpersonship; however, he needs to report this issue to his President before confirmation.

The Chairperson thanked Prof. Junggi Im's effort and will be waiting for his confirmation.

Prof. Chung-min Chen further reported that Osaka University had informed AEARU Secretariat regarding its resignation from the BOD before the meeting, and had contacted the University of Tsukuba to be their successor.

President Toshio Hirano confirmed and briefly explained the resignation. He also recommended and reported on the willingness of the University of Tsukuba.

The Chairperson thanked Osaka University for their contribution in past years and welcomed the University of Tsukuba on the Board.

#### 4. Review of AEARU Activity Sponsorship Program proposals

Prof. Chung-min Chen introduced that Osaka University would like to organize AEARU 2014 Student Summer Camp and welcomed delegates of the University to explain further.

President Toshio Hirano reported that Osaka University would like to apply for funding of US \$10,000 to support the AEARU 2014 Student Summer Camp, which will be a one week event to be held in mid-August of this year. He further reported that this activity will include 60 AEARU students to examine inter-university exchanges from a student's point of view as well as to discuss regarding AEARU activities. Proposals and presentations will also be shared and exchanged. The usage of AEARU funding is to cover the accommodation expenses of all participants.

The Chairperson opened the floor for discussion. With no objections, the activity application is approved.

#### 5. Recommendation of new member

Prof. Chung-min Chen stated that the Constitution has been amended in November 2013, and AEARU has increased membership for three more applicants. He further recalled that in the last meeting, the Association has agreed on accepting one new member per year, however, the Secretariat has not yet received any application. He opened the floor for discussion.

The Chairperson confirmed on the above statement and stated that the opening of membership has already received much attention, but it is a sensitive subject for the

interested intuitions.

President Chen Jun suggested that we shouldn't push for applications, just be patient and wait.

The Chairperson stated that there are few Taiwanese institutions who are highly interested but aren't quite sure about their competitiveness and qualifications.

Vice President Eden Y. Woon stated that he could think of many universities in AEARU region who are suitable to be a member; however, he is not sure about the Association; position to approach to them. Thus, he suggested that before accepting application, the Organization should think about our position like C9 and APRU. Prof. Woon concluded that AEARU should wait for the application until we are sure with our vision.

#### 6. AEARU and LERU cooperation statement

Prof. Chung-min Chen reported that this discussion is regarding to AEARU endorsing other organizations i.e. Association of American Universities (AAU), League of European Research Universities (LERU), Group of Eight Australian Universities (Go8), and The C9 League (C9) in the Hefei Statement on the Characteristic of Contemporary Research Universities. He also stated that the above mentioned organizations have already signed a joint statement last October in the hope to get more support from government for research projects as well as visibility for their members and organizations.

He further reported that AEARU is invited by LERU to join other organizations in this statement and will bring this discussion to the AGM meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed the floor to share their thoughts and introduced President Chen Jun of Nanjing University, who is a member of C9 and has to share his ideas.

President Chen Jun stated that Nanjing University participated in the joint statement meeting two months ago with members from LERU, AAU and Go8. Before the meeting, he had a chance to look over the draft statement and discussed with his executives. After a long discussion, they all came to the conclusion that joining with other big research university organizations from other parts of the world, would enhance Nanjing University's growth and visibility in academia.

With no further comment and discussion, the Chairperson stated that this topic will be discussed again in AGM.

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

1. The 34<sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting; Spring 2014, host undecided
2. The 35<sup>th</sup> BOD & 20<sup>th</sup> AGM Meetings; Fall 2014, host undecided
3. The 36<sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting; Spring 2015, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
4. The 37<sup>th</sup> BOD & 21<sup>st</sup> AGM Meetings; Fall 2015, Peking University
  - In conjunction with 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters

Prof. Chung-min Chen reported that there is not yet a host for 34<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting, but knowing the fact that the University of Tsukuba will replace for Osaka University in BOD, thus the Secretary has approached the University to ask for their intention to host the upcoming BOD meeting. Prof. Chen is happy to announce that the University of Tsukuba is willing to host the 34<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting in Spring 2014.

He further stated that the 35<sup>th</sup> BOD and 20<sup>th</sup> AGM which are a year from now has not host yet, however, the Secretary had a chance to talk with Nanjing University regarding to this matter before the meeting. Nanjing University informed the Secretary that since the AEARU Headquarter will move to their campus in the beginning of 2014, thus, it is ideal for the University to host the next AGM meeting as well as the 35<sup>th</sup> BOD.

President Chen Jun further stated that he is more than happy to be the successor of the Chairperson and be in the service for the next two years. He will do his best to serve AEARU and hope that the AEARU family can be bigger and closer. President Chen further confirmed that Nanjing University will host the 35<sup>th</sup> BOD and 20<sup>th</sup> AGM in Fall 2014.

The Chairperson thanked President Chen Jun his hospitality.

Prof Chung-min Chen reported that Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has agreed to host the 36<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting in Spring 2015 in conjunction with the opening of their new tower.

Vice President Eden Y. Woon stated that they had previously agreed to host the 36<sup>th</sup> BOD in celebration of the opening of their new tower; however HKUST has been told by the construction company to delay the meeting date further as the construction might not be completed in time. He further requested the Board for the change of date to May or June instead of March, thus if HKUST cannot rearrange the date with Peking University, he hoped that the Board can allow them to host the 36<sup>th</sup> BOD in late May or early June.

Prof. Cheng Xu responded that he cannot give an answer at the moment without reporting it to his president, but he was well informed that Peking University will organize the 2015 Fall AGM and BOD in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters. Thus, he will notify HKUST and the Board after discussion with President Wang Enge.

The Chairperson thanked the future hosts for their hospitality and will discuss about the date switch in the next BOD meeting. He further reported that NTHU is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters tomorrow, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and he welcomed the Board to attend the activity.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

With no motions, the Chairperson thanked all BOD members for their attendance of 33<sup>rd</sup> BOD meeting and closed the program.