

Minutes of the Second General Meeting of the  
Association of East Asian Research Universities  
held on September 11, 1996 at  
the University of Tokyo

PRESENT:

Prof Sooyoung CHANG	President, Pohang University of Science and Technology
Prof CHEN Zhang-liang	Vice-President, Peking University (personal deputy of President CHEN Jia-er)
Prof Leo ESAKI	President, University of Tsukuba
Prof Junjiro KANAMORI	President, Osaka University
Prof Tsutomu KIMURA	President, Tokyo Institute of Technology
Prof Chun-Shan SHEN	President, Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu
Prof Jungho SONU	President, Seoul National University
Prof Chia-Wei WOO ( <i>Chairman</i> )	President, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Prof XU Mingzhi	Vice-President, Fudan University (personal deputy of President YANG Fujia)
Prof Duk Yong YOON	President, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
Prof Hiroyuki YOSHIKAWA ( <i>Vice-Chairman</i> )	President, University of Tokyo
Prof YU Shouwen	Vice-President, Tsinghua University, Beijing (personal deputy of President WANG Dazhong)
Prof ZHU Qingshi	Vice-President, University of Science and Technology of China (personal deputy of President TANG Honggao)

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Fudan University*

Prof Yuan XU

Director, Office of International Programs

*Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*

Prof Leroy CHANG

Dean of Science

Prof Jay-Chung CHEN

Director of Research Centre

*Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology*

Prof Sung Joo PARK

Dean of Academic Planning

Prof Jong-Duk KIM

Director, Office of Public and International Relations

*Osaka University*

Prof Hiroshi MATSUOKA

Vice-President

*Pohang University of Science and Technology*

Prof Chan Gyung PARK

Dean of Policy and Planning

*Seoul National University*

Prof Hiwon YOON

Associate Dean, Research Affairs

Mr Yoon-Jae YANG

Director, Office of International Affairs

*Tokyo Institute of Technology*

Prof Osamu FUKUNAGA

Senate Member

Prof Yoshihiko HATANO

Chairman, Committee for International Exchange in Science and Technology

*Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu*

Prof Wen-Hwa CHEN

Dean, College of Engineering

Prof Chun-Chen LIAO

Dean, College of Science

*University of Science and Technology of China*

Prof YANG jie

Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Office

*University of Tokyo*

Prof Shigehiko HASUMI

Vice-President for International Affairs

Prof Takeshi HAMASHITA

Director, Institute of Oriental Culture

Prof Yohichi GOHSHI

Former Dean, Faculty of Engineering

*University of Tsukuba*

Dr Kohsuke YAGI

Vice President for Research Development

Prof Tatsuzo KOGA

Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Secretary

Ms Loretta PANG

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology,  
Director of International Programs

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I. INAUGURATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman spoke briefly. The Chairman recalled the common academic traits and common cultural background which brought the founding members together, and expressed the belief that the Association would contribute not only to the advancement of higher education and scholarship, but also to cultural, economic, and social development in the region.

2. The Vice-Chairman observed that as we moved towards the 21st century, the world had become increasingly internationalized. There was, however, a lack of balance between the different sectors. Collaboration, therefore, was of the utmost importance, and collaboration in education, a crucial target.

II. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING

3. The Chairman consulted members on how they prefer the names of participants to be listed: by region, by alphabetical order of the names of institutions, or of the names of presidents. It was decided that the participants should be listed by alphabetical order of the name of the presidents to show a spirit of camaraderie. As for the content of the minutes, the Chairman stated that they would be kept as simple and readable as possible. President Esaki moved to confirm the minutes of the First General Meeting. The motion was seconded by President Chang. The minutes were confirmed as submitted.

III. STUDENT EXCHANGE AND TRANSFERABLE CREDITS

4. Members briefly exchanged information on student exchange at one another's institution, both at the undergraduate and graduate level. In view of the fact that the transfer of credits across different systems was difficult, and that language was a major barrier, though graduate students generally could handle English, it was decided that student exchange should first start at the graduate level — in particular for research students past their credit-taking stage.

5. In order to identify one or two pilot areas, the Chairman called for proposals from the floor. Members decided on two areas which were unanimously supported: molecular biology and biotechnology, and computer science, after considering also environmental science, microelectronics, the MBA, and laser science and technology.

6. A task force was to be set up in each area. Two temporary groups were to hold their first meeting the next day (September 12,

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1996) and were to come up with time-tables for specific topics to be identified, and the date and venue of at least one workshop. The member institutions (one from each region) of the task forces are:

- a) Collaborative Research and Sharing of Graduate Students in Computer Science:

Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu (Wen-Hwa CHEN — interim convenor)

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

Tsinghua University, Beijing

University of Tsukuba

- b) Collaborative Research and Sharing of Graduate Students in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology:

Peking University (CHEN Zhang-liang — convenor)

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Osaka University

Pohang University of Science and Technology

Tokyo Institute of Technology

Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu

7. The two convenors were requested to report to the Secretary the names of task force members in due course, and to keep the Secretariat posted on progress of work of the task forces.

Youn-Long  
LIN;  
CHEN Zhang-  
liang

*(Post-meeting note: Prof Youn-Long LIN, Chairman of Department of Computer Sciences, Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu has been nominated Convenor of the Task Force for Computer Science.)*

IV.

SHARING OF FACILITIES, INFORMATION AND MATERIALS

8. The Chairman explained that the idea was for each member institution to come up with a list of selected facilities which indeed strongly welcome researchers from other member institutions. The Chairman proposed that there be a short form and a long form of such a list; the short form should carry one brief descriptive paragraph for each facility listed; the long form should feature more detailed descriptions, and if appropriate, with published write-ups in English attached.

9. It was generally felt that the World-Wide Web was the best medium for sharing such information. It was therefore decided that this item should be further discussed together with Item V.

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V. WEB SITE / ON-LINE NETWORKING / COMMON DATABASE

10. Members agreed that the Association should have a Web site and that the Web home pages of all 13 Member institutions should be linked to this site. It was decided that a task force be set up to look into its format and content and to coordinate the setting up of such a Web site. Members of this task force are:

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Jay-Chung  
Chen — convenor)  
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology  
Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu  
Tsinghua University, Beijing  
University of Tokyo

11. As with the two task forces previously formed, a temporary group was formed and was requested to meet the next day to come up with a general plan of action prior to handing over the work to the task force.

Jay-Chung  
CHEN

VI. COOPERATION ON ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND APPLIED PROJECTS

- a) Faculty Exchange  
(This sub-item was discussed with Item VII.)
- b) Exchange of Administrative Staff

12. Though Members believed that the exchange of administrative staff would enhance the understanding of one another's administrative organization, operation, and functions, it was felt that the language barrier and difficulty of finding adequate funding would pose problems. It was decided that activities under this sub-item be arranged between institutions bilaterally.

- c) Exchange of Information on Opportunities of Collaborative Projects

13. The Chairman explained that collaborative projects could be in the form of working together to go after contracts let out by governments and international organizations. As illustration, the Chairman asked Prof Jay-Chung Chen, Director of Research Centre at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to make a brief presentation on the Eco-Net project, an environmental study of wind, sea current, air and water quality of the coastal region of the South China Sea. Prof Chen explained that as pollution knew no national boundaries, inter-regional collaboration was a pre-requisite to the success of such projects.

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14. Some Members pointed out that in their respective regions, although universities did engage in some aspects of environmental studies, most environmental data were collected by government agencies which were often reluctant to share such data with non-governmental organizations and institutions. Moreover, the field of environmental science being multidisciplinary, was in a developmental stage where institutions were still in the process of learning how to organize their manpower and other resources.

15. As another example, the Chairman mentioned Hong Kong Government's intention of setting up a science park and the need for feasibility studies and consultancies in the various stages of this project. Members with expertise in this field could well collaborate to bid for these consultancies.

16. A general exchange of views ensued.

VII. JOINT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, FACULTY WORKSHOPS, AND STUDENT CONTESTS

a) A Topic for an Academic Conference

17. Several topics were proposed, such as technology transfer; environmental science, "China-Hong Kong — July 1, 1997". As there was no overwhelming support for any of these topics, Members decided to give this some more thought before coming to a decision. The Chairman proposed that Members should look into what future conferences their institutions were planning, and if they believed that joint-sponsorship by AEARU might add prestige or coverage, that they propose such conferences to the Association.

All Members

b) Themes for Faculty Workshop

18. Members decided on two themes, as indicated under Item III, where student exchange (the sharing of graduate students) was discussed. The task forces for Computer Science and for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology were entrusted to work out a schedule and decide on the date and venue of the workshops in these two areas.

Youn-Long  
LIN; CHEN  
Zhang-liang

c) Student Contests

19. After considering the problems of logistics and traveling expenses, Members decided to hold a student contest on the game of "Go", and gratefully accepted President Shen's offer to organize this contest.

Chun-Shan  
SHEN

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VIII. ANNUAL STUDENT CAMP

20. After an exchange of information on the facilities available and experience gained of member institutions, Members gratefully accepted President Chang's offer to host a student camp at POSTECH in July/August 1997 for up to 70 students for up to 10 days. POSTECH would provide room and board, while participating students would only need to obtain funding for travel. For students from the Chinese Mainland, President Chang pointed out that there was a ferry service which run from Tianjin to a port in Korea. This should be explored as an alternative and less expensive means of transportation.

Sooyoung  
CHANG

IX. HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

a) Nominating and Admitting New Members

21. Before taking up the question of admission of new members, the pending question of invitation to Taiwan University was discussed. President Shen reported on the initiatives he had undertaken on behalf of the Association. Members decided to adopt the "Tsing Hua, Hsinchu" model, and agreed that the Chairman should send a letter of invitation to the President of Taiwan University to join as founding member.

CHAIRMAN

22. On the question of admission of new members, Members generally felt that they did not have sufficient experience at the present time to lay down rules and criteria. Moreover, it was agreed that the consensus reached at the first General Meeting to keep membership small should be adhered to. Members reviewed the representation from each region, i.e. the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, and decided to invite two, possibly three more institutions: Kyoto University and Nanjing University, and possibly Kim Il Sung University if an appropriate opportunity should arise for the latter to express a strong interest to take part. The Chairman was instructed to write to invite Kyoto and Nanjing.

CHAIRMAN

b) Affiliated Members

23. Members felt that this should be considered at a later stage.

c) Frequency of General Meetings

24. It was decided that there should be only one General Meeting annually, with special meetings to be convened when necessary. The General Meeting should now be renamed Annual General Meeting beginning with the next session.

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d) Representation at General Meetings

25. It was reaffirmed that to ensure high-level representation, member institutions should be represented by their presidents at all General Meetings. If a president was truly unable to attend a meeting, he or she should be represented by an acting president or a personal deputy who was fully empowered to make decisions in his or her behalf.

e) Expenses of General Meetings

26. It was agreed that expenses related to participation in General Meetings should, in principle, be borne by the participants themselves. In the case of the First General Meeting held at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and the present Second General Meeting, the host institutions paid for the local expenses of Members and a certain number of the other delegates. It should be up to host institutions of future meetings to decide on the level of contribution, if any.

f) Membership Fees

27. The majority of Members did not believe that membership fees were necessary.

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. One Member proposed that the subject "management of research in the Asian context" be discussed at the next General Meeting. Discussion could include topics such as, the evaluation of faculty performance, academic autonomy, humanities programs in a science and technology institution, and the justification for basic research.

XI. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

29. President Chang invited Members to hold the next Annual General Meeting at POSTECH sometime in mid-October 1997. President Sonu invited Members to visit Seoul National University either on the way to, or when returning from Pohang. Members accepted both invitations.

30. Vice-President Chen Zhang-liang extended an invitation from President Chen Jia-er of Peking University to hold the 1998 Annual General Meeting at Peking University, in conjunction with the University's centennial celebrations in May 1998. Members appeared favorably inclined.