

AEARU 17th Annual General Meeting

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
FENG Xiaoyuan	Vice-President for International, Fudan University
CHEN Jun	President, Nanjing University
Akira TAKAHASHI	Trustee, Osaka University
Ke YANG	Executive Vice-President, Peking University
Yongmin KIM	President, POSTECH
Seong-Ho SHEEN	Associate Dean, Office of International Affairs, SNU
Hsiao Wei YUAN	Dean, Office of International Affairs, Taiwan University
Akihisa INOUE	President, Tohoku University
Yoshinao MISHIMA	Executive Vice President for Education and International Affairs, Tokyo Institute of Technology
YUAN Si	Vice President, Tsinghua University – Beijing
HOU Jianguo	President, University of Science and Technology of China
Akihiko TANAKA	Vice President, The University of Tokyo
Yutaka TSUJINAKA	Vice President, University of Tsukuba

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

Fudan University

ZHU Chouwen International Director
ZHAO Min Assistant

Nanjing University

HU Jie Section Chief, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges

Osaka University

Akira TAKAHASHI Trustee
Hiroshi MUKAI Head, International Affairs Division
Dai TOMIYAMA Administrator, International Affairs Division

Peking University

GUO Aihua Associate Director of President Office

POSTECH

JUNG Hee Yang Manager of International Relations

Seoul National University

Jeongnam HWANG Director of International Exchange and Education

Tohoku University

Hiroyuki UCHIYAMA Managing Professor
Sayaka YAMAGUCHI Office Staff Member

Tokyo Institute of Technology

Mshahiko HARA Professor
Harumi OKAWA Head, International Cooperation Division
Naoki OZAWA Staff, International Cooperation Division

Tsinghua University - Beijing

XIA Guangzhi Deputy Director, Office of International Cooperation and Exchange

University of Tsukuba

Hiroyoshi MATSUZAKI Associate Head, Division of International Affairs
Yukiko KUSAKA Official, Division of International Affairs
Akiko ABERCROMBIE Administrative Assistant, Division of International Affairs

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

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

Chairperson Chan began the meeting by thanking the assembled AEARU members for their attendance and thanking President Hiroshi Matsumoto and the staff of Kyoto University for hosting the meeting.

2. Welcome remarks by President Hiroshi Matsumoto, Kyoto University

President Hiroshi Matsumoto welcomed all of the participants to Kyoto University and expressed his pleasure to host the Annual General Meeting of AEARU.

3. Announcement of recent changes of member university presidencies

(1) Osaka University: from Former President Kiyokazu Washida to President Toshio Hirano in August 2011

(2) POSTECH: from Former President Sunggi Baik to President Yongmin Kim in September 2011

Chairperson Chan welcomed both President Toshio Hirano and President Yongmin Kim. On behalf of AEARU, he presented certificates of appreciation to the representatives of the above universities, to be conveyed to the former presidents as tokens of appreciation for their valued contributions to AEARU.

II. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the 28th BOD Meeting; April 9, 2011; Tsing Hua University- Hsinchu
2. Minutes of the 16th AGM; October 28, 2010; Tsinghua University - Beijing
3. Minutes of the 27th BOD Meeting, October 28, 2010; Tsinghua University - Beijing

The Chairperson explained that the minutes of the above meetings were compiled by the AEARU Secretary and distributed to all members. With no further comments or objections, he confirmed the minutes.

III. REVIEW OF AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2010 & 2011

Note: Items 1–2 were reported at the 16th AGM (Oct. 2010)

1. The 9th Student Summer Camp; August 16–21, 2010, POSTECH
2. The 4th Advanced Materials Science Workshop; August 29–September 3, 2010, University of Tsukuba
3. The 9th Web Technology and Computer Science Workshop; January 17–18, 2011, Kyoto University
4. The 5th Network Education Workshop; November 30 – December 2, 2011; Nanjing University

Activities 1–2 had already been reported at the 16th AEARU AGM in October 2010. The Chairperson asked the following universities to give brief reports on activity items 3 & 4:

- *Kyoto University on the 9th Web Technology and Computer Science Workshop*

Vice President Junichi Mori of Kyoto University reported that the 9th Web Technology and Computer Science Workshop was held at Kyoto University on January 17–18, 2011, covering various topics including – data mining, web intelligence, and cloud computing. Session participants included researchers and interested parties from many different higher education institutions, as well as from the private sector. The workshop attracted over 100 participants. With the sponsorship from AEARU, Kyoto University provided partial assistance with accommodation expenses for 9 PhD-level students from seven member universities, who worked and discussed with their peers and presented their own research during the PhD Roundtable session.

A related event, the 9th International Conference on Creating, Connecting and Collaborating through Computing (C5 2011), was held at the same venue on January 18–20. Many of the AEARU workshop participants took advantage of the opportunity to participate in both events.

- *Nanjing University on the 5th Network Education Workshop*

President Chen Jun of Nanjing University reported that the 5th AEARU Workshop on Network Education was the second AEARU workshop of this nature held by Nanjing University to gather CIOs, IT administrators and researchers from member universities. The theme of this workshop was “Using Cloud Computing in Higher Education: Innovation in University Teaching and Learning Support Systems”..

17 representatives delivered speeches during the workshop. IT administrators and researchers from Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Peking University, the University of Science and Technology of China, Kyoto University, the University of Tsukuba and Taiwan University introduced cases and successful experiences in internet technology integration and teaching and learning innovation under the support of cloud computing.

Consensuses were reached on the following aspects after full discussions on the theme of the meeting:

- a. A stable IT-based channel among AEARU member universities needed to be constructed.
- b. Joint research on “21st Century University Spirit and Cultural Innovation” was to be implemented to lead a new vision in curriculum innovation and green learning.
- c. The AEARU Graduate Students Forum on Network Education is to be held.

Representatives from different countries have reached an agreement that the above-mentioned consensus would never achieve success without the support and participation of university decision-makers and the AEARU Board of Directors. It is suggested that the high-speed and stable digital channel, as well as the long-distance strategic conference room for presidents and leaders at university level should be built among AEARU universities. The facilities would be of important strategic value in expanding the impact of AEARU member universities on the internet by reducing exchange cost and elevating exchange efficiency.

IV. SCHEDULED AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2011 & 2012

1. The 1st Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters;
December 15–16, 2011, Kyoto University
2. The 11th Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Workshop;
December 20–22, 2011, HKUST
3. The 4th Energy and Environmental Workshop; March 2012, Taiwan University
(Originally planned for Oct 2011, now postponed to March 2012)
4. The 3rd Development and Collaboration of Asian Business Schools Workshop;
May 19, 2012, Nanjing University
5. The 2nd Workshop on Collaboration among Universities in the Ubiquitous World;
May 24–25, 2012, Seoul National University
6. Summer Camp 2012 – Asian Research Network (ARN);
August 31–September 3, 2012, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Activities 1–3 were proposed and approved at previous meetings. The Chairperson asked the other host universities to give a brief introduction to their activities.

- *Nanjing University on The 3rd Development and Collaboration of Asian Business Schools Workshop*
President Chen Jun explained that its Business School proposed to host the workshop on 19 May and the BOD meeting on 20 May, in conjunction with the 110th anniversary of the university in 2012. It was believed that the meeting would provide an opportunity to demonstrate the achievements that Nanjing University has made over its 110 years' development. It would also further promote internationalization of its Business School and strengthen the connection and cooperation among the member business schools. There were 3 themes proposed:
 - a. The Future of Asia and the Missions of Business Schools
 - b. The Internationalization of Business Schools
 - c. Cooperation among Business Schools: Opportunities and Challenges

- *Seoul National University on The 2nd Workshop on Collaboration among Universities in the Ubiquitous World*

Mr. Seong-Ho Sheen explained that the workshop would provide a platform to share each member university's IT policy on campus so as to identify common problems and challenges that arise from the maintenance and management of university-wide digitalization. Eventually, it would come up with solutions to tackle those problems and suggestion to facilitate digitalization and e-learning on each campus as well as promote possible collaborations among member universities.

He further added that the theme of workshop could be adapted to accommodate the theme of "The Rise of Asian Universities" and become an AEARU flagship event bundled with the next AGM (if next AGM is to be held at SNU).

- *Tokyo Institute of Technology on Summer Camp 2012 – Asian Research Network (ARN);*

Prof. Msahiko Hara explained that the 4-day summer camp would include 2 lectures on the following topics, plus a poster session and discussion sessions to encourage the active participation of students.

- a. “Envisioning Asian and Global Partnership in Science and Technology”
- b. “Crises are Chances: Actions and Reactions after Mar. 11, 2011”

V. UNSCHEDULED AEARU ACTIVITIES

1. The 6th Cultural Workshop
2. The 3rd Medical Center Workshop
3. The 4th Science and Technology Parks Workshop
4. The 5th Advanced Material Science Workshop
5. The 2nd Microelectronics Workshop
6. The 10th Web Technology and Computer Science Workshop
7. The 6th Network Education Workshop
8. The 3rd Student Physical Competition
9. Additional Activities (members are invited to propose any additional activities)

Chairperson concluded that AEARU would have at least 4 activities scheduled in 2012 and asked if members are interested to host any others.

USTC proposed to host The 2nd Microelectronics Workshop in June or July 2012. The finalized date would be decided and communicated to the AEARU Secretariat.

VI. ISSUES TO BE REPORTED

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

Since the AEARU Activity Sponsorship program launched in 2010, four AEARU activities had been funded, mainly supporting students with 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 in 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

Chairperson Chan clarified the point that AEARU sponsorship could be granted to students outside AEARU. The Secretary added that priority would be given to students from AEARU member universities.

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

The Association started to collect the AEARU membership fee in 2010. Each member pays US 2,000 per year. A total of US 68,000 has been received from members in the 2-year period. Deducting the AEARU sponsorship of US 40,000, it was anticipated that there would be a balance of around US 28,000 by the end of year 2011 (upon granting the sponsorship to Taiwan University in support of the 4th Energy and Environmental Workshop).

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 environmentally friendly and easy to distribute. 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.

VII. 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)

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, taking up the role of Chairperson from 1 January, 2012 to 31 December, 2013. The Association had to decide the Vice-chairperson for 2012/2013, and who would become the Chairperson for 2014/2015. According to article 4.6 of the AEARU Constitution, the "Vice-Chairperson shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by a majority of Members present and voting, and shall be appointed as the next term's Chairperson. Only Chief Executives representing Members of the Association shall be eligible for election as Vice-Chairperson."

Chairperson Chan presented the recommendations made by the AEARU Board of Directors during the 29th BOD Meeting. Taking the regional representation into account, the BOD suggested it might be logical to consider a BOD member from China for the next candidate. The last time a representative from China served as Chairperson dated back to 2004/2005 when the president of USTC assumed the role of Chairperson. With the support of all BOD members, including Peking University, Nanjing University was recommended to take the role of next Vice-Chairperson of AEARU. All present members supported to the recommendation. Nanjing University will become the Vice Chairperson for 2012/2013 and Chairperson for 2014/2015.

Regarding the change of the Board of Directors, Chairperson Chan acknowledged Kyoto University's request in reviewing the current BOD member situation and briefly explained how many consecutive years had been served by each current BOD member at the end of 2011. Kyoto University had served on the Board for 8 years, and expressed that it might be an appropriate time for a change.

Chairperson Chan continued that the BOD recommended Tohoku University to take up the role of BOD member representing Japan. President Inoue of Tohoku University welcomed the recommendation and was asked to leave the meeting venue to allow for deliberation among all other AEARU members.

President Matsumoto added that Tohoku University was active in supporting AEARU, for instance, it has hosted the 15th AGM and 25th BOD Meeting. He believed that Tohoku University would make great contributions to the Association. All AGM members indicated agreement to the recommendation. President Inoue agreed to join the Board of Directors.

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)

The first proposal was from Nanjing University who applied for AEARU sponsorship to support 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 which time the workshop would have been held (2 December). However, they were still hoping to obtain the sponsorship to offer financial support for student participation.

Chairperson Chan explained that the proposal was circulated among BOD members and the Secretariat alerted the members about the special situation of this case, but did not ask for a decision through email. The Chairperson commented that for similar cases in the future, the Secretariat should obtain a decision from the BOD by e-mail before the activity is held.

As for the proposal of Nanjing University, the Board agreed to support the activity for its good aims and in consideration of the healthy financial status of the Association, plus the fact that the actual amount of sponsorship applied for was smaller than originally proposed (reduced from US 10,000 to US 4,000).

The second proposal was from Tokyo Institute of Technology, applying for US 10,000 to support the Asian Research Network Summer Camp 2012. The funding would 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 facilities and related materials, valued at a lump sum of US 1,000.

The Board was supportive to granting a sponsorship of US 10,000 to the summer camp as it was a student-oriented activity and for the good and development of students.

With no further comment from the other members at the AGM, the sponsorships for both proposals were approved.

3. AEARU Annual Thematic Flagship Event 2012

(Please refer to 28th BOD Meeting, page 5–6, Issues to be Reported, Item 4)

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

- Format A - selected themes (a maximum of 3 themes would be identified) are 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 adding new elements to the flagship events.
- Format A & B could be held simultaneously

He summarized the suggestion from Mr. Seong-Ho Sheen of Seoul National University during the 29th BOD Meeting about grouping the topics into 3 broad themes below, which might allow the flexibility for a timely response to hot issues.

- i. Asian Culture – which could cover different unique culture in the East Asian region, including, but not limited, to Chinese Characters and Japanese culture.
- ii. Disaster Management – which could cover nuclear accidents, earthquakes and other natural or man-made disasters.
- iii. The rise of East Asian universities in higher education

Chairperson Chan explained that there were many issues worthy of discussion with regard to the rise of Asian universities including education philosophy, education systems, the flow of people and ideas, the relationship between higher education and economy, as well as science and technology. The main point was not to forget the uniqueness of East Asia in examining those issues. As for the theme of disaster management, it might be too broad and is required to be more specific in order to maintain the uniqueness of the East Asian region.

Chairperson Chan pointed out that Tsing Hua University – Hsinchu and Peking University had already indicated interest in hosting the 2nd and 3rd Symposia on Chinese Characters. “The Rise of East Asian Universities in higher Education” would be another possible theme.

Chairperson Chan opened the discussion with the members on the following:

- i. *Whether AEARU should have a thematic flagship event*

Members agreed that AEARU should have a thematic flagship event, though it required a clear definition to make different from regular AEARU workshops.

- President Chen Jun stated that the flagship event should have very clear themes.
- Mr. Seong-Ho Sheen commented that the themes should make an impact, and be broad enough with flexibility and a sense continuity, to enable each member university to choose and to set up its own topic.
- President Yongmin Kim agreed that it was best not to place too much constraint on the themes, as long as the flagship event was broadly relevant to the member universities and to the East Asian region.
- Chairperson Chan agreed that the theme should be broad enough and unify the East Asian region, like the topic of Chinese characters.
- President Matsumoto echoed the point from Chairperson Chan that the flagship event should be relevant to the East Asian region, and that a clear criteria of what constitutes a flagship event should be established.

ii. *Whether the thematic flagship event should be tied to the AGM*

- Vice President Akihiko Tanaka of the University of Tokyo commented that it would be good to have AGM and flagship event held together to differentiate it from a normal AEARU workshop.
- Chairperson Chan agreed that it would draw larger participation if the AGM and flagship event were held together, with all member universities present. Yet if there were more than one thematic flagship event within a single year, then one of the events could be held separately from the AGM.

iii. *Whether the thematic flagship event could be tied to the AGM, with different organizers for the AGM and flagship events.*

- President Hou Jianguo of USTC indicated interest in hosting a flagship event on the topic of Nuclear Safety (which falls under one of the suggested themes: “Disaster Management”), and said that he would aim for a larger-scale event with a bigger audience. However, he said it might be technically difficult to host it at the campus of the university hosting the AGM.

The Chairperson asked Mr. Seong-ho Sheen to draw up the criteria for the flagship event, and circulate it among the member universities by email by the end of January 2012.

3. AEARU Membership Criteria and Nomination Process

(Appendix 5a: Report from the Working Group

Appendix 5b: 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.

Chairperson Chan summarized the proposal –

- 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 the quality of membership and limiting the size of the association in accordance with Article 3.3 of the AEARU Constitution.
- It was suggested that the number of members may be increased by a maximum of 1 member per year, provided the total number does not exceed 20.
- A key feature of the proposal was the inclusion of clauses for membership obligations, and the revocation of membership of institutions which did not meet the obligations. The proposal required members to hold an AEARU activity at least once every three years.
- New members need to hold at least one AEARU activity within 2 years of their admission

President Matsumoto added that the proposal aimed to encourage members to be more active and significantly boost the association’s value and status.

Vice President Akihiko Tanaka of the University of Tokyo asked for clarification of “other AEARU activities” as stated in the proposal. President Matsumoto replied that it referred to regular AEARU activities such as workshops, symposia, etc.

President Yongmin Kim expressed his concern about adding the membership revocation clause to the Constitution, and said that extra care should be taken when proceeding. He said he would prefer more positive measures to encourage member participation.

President Matsumoto agreed that the clause for membership revocation should be carefully considered to avoid negative consequences. The proposal suggested the secretariat should identify members that fail to fulfill the membership obligations. The members in question would then be carefully assessed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors would then vote on whether or not the institution's membership should be considered for revocation by vote at the AGM.

President Lih J. Chen suggested a grace period for members to take any remedial action (*note: the proposal already allows for such a grace period. See proposed Article 3.9*).

As for the number of members, President Yongmin Kim agreed it could be increased to 20. President Matsumoto was concerned whether 20 would be sufficient, as there are many prestigious research universities in the region which are not members. Chairperson Chan responded that 20 should be optimum for the near future, and that it was good to have competition among potential candidates. He added that that the number could be raised in the future if needed.

Chairperson Chan asked the President Lih J. Chen, as the next Chairperson, to continue the discussion about the membership revocation with the working group and bring new ideas to the next BOD meeting.

VIII. 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

Chairperson Chan highlighted that the previous meetings (BOD & AGM) in year 2010/2011 were held in Japan, Taiwan and China. It was logical, therefore, that a Korean university would host the next AGM. The Chairperson explained that, among the Korean members, SNU would be the most appropriate host as they had not hosted any meetings so far. The Chairperson also outlined the Board's also suggestions that:

- Seoul National University was the first preferred candidate.
- Peking University was the second preferred candidate, as the 17th AGM was held in Japan (by Kyoto University). It would, therefore, be better for the hosting university to be located in another country (if not Korea).
- Tokyo Institute of Technology was the third preferred candidate, as there have been no AEARU meetings held in Tokyo so far.

Mr. Seong-Ho Sheen of SNU replied that the university would decide whether or not it could host the AGM as well as the thematic flagship event by January 2012.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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