

# 29th Annual General Meeting Minutes of AEARU

## I. Introductory Remarks

### 1. Welcome remarks by Prof. Jinlong YANG

Professor Jinlong YANG, Vice President of University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), on behalf of the AEARU Chairperson and USTC President, Professor Xinhe BAO, welcomed the delegates for participating in the 29<sup>th</sup> AEARU Annual General Meeting. Professor YANG extended his appreciation to HKUST for all the efforts made for the meeting and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all members for their significant assistance in many ways. He extended a warm welcome to a new member — the University of Macau — joining the AEARU.

### 2. Welcome Remarks by President Nancy IP

Professor Nancy IP, President from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) delivered a welcome remarks and expressed her genuine pleasure in hosting the event and affirmed AEARU's pivotal role as an invaluable platform for fostering collaboration among member universities in East Asia. Professor IP emphasized the importance of shared missions and collaboration among member institutions, highlighting the potential for collective action to drive positive change. She also underscored the global impact of the decisions made during the meeting and the responsibility that AEARU members hold in shaping the future of education and research. Professor IP concluded by extending a warm welcome to all attendees and expressing her belief in the collective ability of AEARU members to contribute to a brighter and more sustainable future in the region and beyond.

### 3. Announcement of recent change in presidency of member universities

Professor YANG introduced USTC delegate, Professor Kun QU, who served as the meeting moderator. He confirmed that, in accordance with clause 3.5 of the constitution, two-thirds

of the current AEARU members was required for the meeting to be valid. Since 16 members were present, this meeting was officially valid.

Professor QU informed attendees about changes in the presidency at Pohang University of Science and Technology. President Dr. Moo Hwan KIM was succeeded by President Prof. Seong Keun Kim on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

## **II. Confirmation of the Minutes**

USTC virtually hosted the 28<sup>th</sup> AGM on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2022. The electronic copy was sent in advance, and the final version will be made available on the AEARU website (aearu.com). As there were no further comments from the members, Professor YANG concluded that members had confirmed the 28<sup>th</sup> AGM meeting minutes.

## **III. Treasury Report**

Professor Qu reaffirmed that the 2023 membership fee has been waived and Secretariat did not send a membership fee invoice to any members. All AEARU members have paid 2022 membership fee, total amount \$134,112.9. Members who offered GLIP courses have received the corresponding amount of subsidy, total \$17,400.

The other expenditure to be paid include 2023 Future Scientist Exchange by USTC (\$10,000) and 2023 Summer Institute of Extended Flipped Education by HKUST (\$10,000). These will be discussed in the session of activity review. HKUST has requested financial support for the 53<sup>rd</sup> BOD and 29<sup>th</sup> AGM for \$7,000; this topic will be discussed in the session of scheduled activities.

For the GLIP subsidy, AEARU covered a 5% remittance fee, amounting to \$520. The remittance to USTC did not incur a remittance fee. The current sum totals \$116,192.9. The projected expenditure will be \$41,000, the projected balance will be 75,192.9.

#### **IV. Review of activities after April 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 (52<sup>nd</sup> BOD)**

##### **1. Global Learning Initiatives Program**

Professor QU updated the BOD members on the Global Learning Initiatives Program (GLIP) quoting data from the fall semester 2023 -- three member universities offered 11 courses with 4 applicants, 3 of whom were admitted.

Professor QU announced the final funding amount for the spring and fall semesters and the payment will be issued accordingly.

##### **2. The AEARU Future Scientist Exchange Program by USTC**

Professor QU reported the USTC Future Scientist Exchange Program was successfully hosted from July 9 to July 23, 2023. The 2023 Summer Camp selected 118 outstanding undergraduates major in science and technology from 34 universities worldwide. Among these, 12 students came from 5 AEARU member universities besides USTC.

The two-week Summer Camp included 54 academic lectures, 25 research projects, visits to about 30 top-notch laboratories and national labs, and 14 cultural events. Students were immersed in the intensity of the summer camp and the dynamic atmosphere at USTC. With unremitting efforts and a challenging spirit, all participants accomplished all tasks of the program. They enjoyed the program without tuition or registration fees.

Finally, all members gave the green light to subsidize USTC for this event with 10,000 USD.

##### **3. The AEARU Summer Institute for Extended Flipped Education Activity by HKUST**

Ms. Yvonne LI, representing HKUST, introduced the AEARU Summer Institute for Extended Flipped Education Activity that was organized by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Program took place from July 16<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>. It encompassed a wide range of activities, including visits to iconic locations in Hong Kong, cultural excursions,

museum visits, seminars, campus tours, as well as a specially arranged interactive course focused on China, delving into its history through data analysis.

Participating students came from various AEARU member universities, comprising over 70% of the attendees and maintaining a gender balance. Students expressed satisfaction with the program's design and content. It had a positive impact on enhancing understanding among peers from the collaborating universities.

No member objected to the report, and it was agreed that HKUST will receive sponsorship of \$10,000 from AEARU.

## **V. Scheduled AEARU Activities after November 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 (29<sup>th</sup> AGM)**

### *2023-2024 Winter Abroad at Yonsei by the Yonsei University*

Professor Dong-hun KIM from Yonsei University presented the Winter Abroad program for the academic year 2023-2024, highlighting the resumption of the 2019 winter program that had been suspended due to COVID-19. Professor KIM proposed restarting the program to enhance students' global experiences. The program has been scheduled to run from December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, spanning three weeks and offering diverse academic courses, Korean language classes, and cultural activities. The plan will provide a 50% tuition fee discount for students nominated by each member university, with scholarships awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, for up to a total fund of \$10,000 USD.

Ms. Jie HU, Deputy Director from Nanjing University, mentioned that she had not received an official announcement, and the deadline was still a few days away. She inquired whether she could communicate with the Yonsei University coordinators to obtain more information. Professor KIM responded that he recalled that the coordinator had already announced it to all partners, but he would double-check to confirm.

Professor QU emphasized that BOD members had engaged in an extensive discussion about the program, even though the deadline for applications was approaching, and potential misalignments with the academic schedules of various universities. At USTC, the program's duration conflicted with its final exams. Professor QU acknowledged the unique benefits of the program for Yonsei University, noting that the winter season provided an ideal opportunity for campus exploration. Despite the scheduling challenges, he affirmed the program's overall excellence and encouraged members to nominate their students to apply.

At the end, Professor QU announced the proposal had been approved.

## **VI. Other Issues**

### **1. Use of Membership Fees: support meeting activities or not**

Professor QU provided an introduction, mentioning that in preparation for the 53<sup>rd</sup> BOD meeting and the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM, all BOD members convened for a virtual preparatory meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>. During that meeting, HKUST sought financial support from AEARU for the event. He then welcomed Ms. Yvonne LI from HKUST to provide further details on this matter.

Ms. LI mentioned that in the past, members had to cover their own expenses for tickets and accommodation. However, this time, HKUST hoped to enhance the meeting experience by arranging accommodations at on-campus hotel. To facilitate this, HKUST was requesting financial support of 7,000 USD from AEARU, which constitutes approximately 50% of the overall budget.

Professor QU presented his stance, supporting HKUST for the following reasons:

Firstly, the current balance of AEARU is USD 116,192.90. Even after accounting for activity subsidies, AEARU can comfortably cover the costs. Secondly, he recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted individuals and institutions. He also

mentioned that it was understandable that most universities have been facing tighter financial constraints than before. He appealed to alleviate the financial burden on members, and offering complimentary accommodations would be a substantial benefit for AEARU members. Additionally, as the BOD meeting and AGM marked the first in-person gatherings since the pandemic, he inclined to extend additional support to HKUST.

Professor Nobuhiro HAYASHI, Vice President for International Affairs from the Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech), referenced the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on December 3, 2009, for the members' consideration.

In response, Professor QU expressed his gratitude to Professor HAYASHI and all Tokyo Tech delegates for the reminder. He emphasized that, according to the 15<sup>th</sup> AGM minutes, membership fees were intended to support academic and student activities rather than administrative meetings. Therefore, if the members agree to provide financial support to HKUST, a review and potential modification of the constitution and/or regulations such as Guidelines for Managing the AEARU Treasury should be considered.

At the end, no member objected to HKUST's proposal, and modification of the constitution and regulations will be discussed during the 54<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting.

## 2. Vote for BOD Members (2024-2025)

Following an anonymous vote, Professor QU announced the 2024-2025 BOD members and their respective vote counts as follows:

- University of Macau: 17 votes
- Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology: 16 votes
- Yonsei University: 13 votes

- Tohoku University: 12 votes
- National Tsing Hua University: 9 votes
- National Taiwan University: 8 votes

Other members applauded the newly elected BOD members.

### 3. Arrangement for Future Meetings: 54<sup>th</sup> BOD, 55<sup>th</sup> BOD & 30<sup>th</sup> AGM

Professor QU mentioned at the last AGM, members reached a consensus to alternate between online and offline formats for the BOD meetings in the coming years. Consequently, the 54<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting next spring has been scheduled to be held online, while the 55<sup>th</sup> BOD & 30<sup>th</sup> AGM have been planned as offline events. Even non-BOD members still remain the right to host BOD meetings, which means all members share an equal opportunity to organize and host BOD meetings as demonstrated by Osaka University during the 50<sup>th</sup> BOD on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Then, Professor. Rui Martins, Vice Rector for Global Affairs from the University of Macau (UM) graciously volunteered to host the 55<sup>th</sup> BOD & 30<sup>th</sup> AGM, extending a warm welcome to all members to attend the events at UM.

Following this, Professor. Shuping XIONG, Associate Vice President for International Engagement from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) expressed their willingness to host the 54<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting.

All members responded with applause, and Professor QU extended his appreciation for their support.

### 4. Chairperson's Handover Ceremony

Professor YANG (USTC) and Professor IP (HKUST) had a ceremony for AEARU chairperson hand-over. Professor IP received a flag of AEARU from Prof YANG, which symbolized the official transfer of chairperson.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Professor YANG extended his deepest appreciation to all members for their valuable time and contributions. He emphasized that it had been a great pleasure to meet and collaborate with all members during the meeting. Furthermore, he warmly invited all members to consider visiting the USTC campus, expressing that USTC would be honored to host their visit and continue building their shared vision for the future. After that, HKUST organized all AEARU members to take a group photo to commemorate this moment.