

# AEARU 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2024 (Friday)

University of Macau

## AGENDA

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### I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson, Prof Yang WANG, Vice-President of HKUST
2. Welcome Remarks by Prof Yonghua SONG, Rector of University of Macau (Meeting Host)
3. Announcement of Name Change and Merger of Tokyo Institute of Technology

### II. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

1. 53<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
2. 54<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
3. 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes

### III. SECRETARY REPORT

1. Status Report of AEARU Sponsored Programs
2. Income and Expenditure Statement / Balance Sheet

### IV. REVIEW/REPORT OF AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2023-2024

1. Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program 2023
2. The HKUST Unicorn Day 2024

### V. PROPOSED AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2024-2025

1. AUA-AEARU HKUST Overseas Study Program 2025 – Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, HKUST
2. APRU-AEARU Multi-Hazards Summer School 2025, Tohoku University
3. AEARU Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program 2024-2025, Yonsei University
4. Overview of AEARU Activities (1996 – 2024)

### VI. ISSUES TO BE SHARED/DISCUSSED

1. Election Result of the AEARU Vice-Chairperson (2024-2025)

2. Announcement of Phase-out of Global Learning Initiatives Program (GLIP)
3. Announcement of Osaka University's Withdrawal of AEARU Membership
4. Discussion on AEARU Activity Format
5. Discussion on Invitation of New Members

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

1. Overview of AGM and AGM Hosts (2014 - 2024)
2. The host for 56<sup>th</sup> AGM, 57<sup>th</sup> AGM, and 31<sup>st</sup> AGM 2025

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

# Participants List

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## PRESENT

### The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology – HKUST (Chair)

1	Yang WANG	Vice-President for Institutional Advancement
2	Daisy CHAN	Associate Vice-President (Global Engagement & Communications)
3	Yvonne LI	Head (Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs)
4	Amy SIU	Senior Manager (Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs)
5	Rebecca LI	Assistant Manager (Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs)

### Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology – KAIST (Vice-Chair)

1	So Young KIM	Vice President of International Office
2	Eunjae LEE	Head of International Relations Team
3	Sean KIM	International Relations Team Coordinator

### University of Science and Technology of China – USTC

1	Jinlong YANG	Vice President
2	Guanglei CHENG	Deputy Director, Office of International Cooperation
3	Lin SU	Program Officer, Office of International Cooperation

### Fudan University – Fudan

1	Zhimin CHEN	Vice President
2	Yefang XU	Deputy Director
3	Shan NIU	Program Manager, Office of Global Partnerships

### Nanjing University – NJU

1	Aijun DING	Associate Vice President, Professor
2	Jie HU	Deputy Director, International Affairs Office

### National Taiwan University – NTU

1	Hsiao-Wei YUAN	Vice President for International Affairs
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### National Tsing Hua University – NTHU

1	Ali, Ying-Che HSIEH	Professor & Executive Director
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**National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University – NYCU**

1	Shun-Hua WEI	Senior Vice President
2	Li-Wei CHOU	Deputy Vice President for International Affairs
3	Meggie PENG	Manager

**Pohang University of Science and Technology – POSTECH**

1	Aram YOON	Coordinator
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**Seoul National University – SNU**

1	Jae-Wook LEE	Vice President of International Affairs
2	Seunwoung CHOI	Manager, Protocol & International Relations

**Tohoku University – Tohoku**

1	Toshiya UEKI	Executive Vice President for General Affairs, International Affairs, and Academic Resources
2	Moto KOBAYASHI	Global Engagement Officer, Global Engagement Division

**Tokyo Institute of Technology – Tokyo Tech**

1	Jun-ichi TAKADA	Dean, School of Environment and Society
2	Hideo MORITA	Head, International Engagement Division

**Tsinghua University – THU**

1	Xuedan HU	Senior Manager, Office of International Affairs
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**University of Macau – UM**

1	Yonghua SONG	Rector
2	Rui MARTINS	Vice Rector (Global Affairs)
3	Chunming WANG	Director of Global Affairs Office
4	Kiran LEI	Functional Head of Global Affairs Office

**Yonsei University – Yonsei**

1	Yong-Chan KIM	Vice President for International Affairs
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**ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES****Peking University – PKU****The University of Tokyo – UTokyo**

# The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes

## I. Introductory Remarks

Ms Yvonne LI (hereafter referred to as “the Secretariat”), Head of Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs from HKUST, welcomed attendees for attending the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM and invited Professor Yang WANG, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement of HKUST, on behalf of the Chairperson, to officially commence the meeting.

### 1. Opening Remarks

For and on behalf of the AEARU Chairperson and the President of HKUST, Professor WANG welcomed the delegates to the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the University of Macau (UM) for hosting the event. He emphasized that AEARU served as a beacon of shared wisdom and collaborative spirit among 17 leading research-oriented universities in East Asia. With over 28 years of development, AEARU has encountered numerous challenges, particularly the three-year pandemic gap that hindered our ability to organize face-to-face activities. It is essential to explore how we can gradually resume in-person engagements while revitalizing our alliance to regain its former vibrancy. Professor WANG encouraged all members to discuss and share ideas about the direction and way forward for the alliance’s programs.

### 2. Welcome Remarks

Professor Yonghua SONG, Rector of the UM, warmly welcomed AEARU members to Macau and expressed his gratitude for their presence at UM. He emphasized UM’s position as the only public research university in Macau, highlighting the institution’s commitment to collaborating with regional partners while fostering global connections and achieving recognition as a university of excellence. Professor SONG highlighted the critical importance of international cooperation for research-led universities. Celebrating a decade on its new campus, AEARU offered UM a valuable platform to strengthen both regional and global collaborations, aiming for enhanced development alongside all member universities. UM plans to open a new campus in four years, which will further support AEARU’s initiatives and growth.

### 3. 3. Announcement of Name Change and Merger of Tokyo Institute of Technology

The Secretariat provided an update to all AGM members regarding the name change and merger of the Tokyo Institute of Technology. The institute would merge with Tokyo Medical and Dental University to form a new institute called Institute of Science Tokyo, which was set to be established on October 1, 2024.

Professor Jun-ichi TAKADA, Dean of the School of Environment and Society, at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, shared details about the integration of the Institute of Science Tokyo, now abbreviated as “Science Tokyo”. He introduced his new role as the Executive Vice President for Global Affairs at Science Tokyo and expressed his commitment to continuing AEARU membership to foster further collaboration.

## II. Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of 53<sup>rd</sup> BOD and 29<sup>th</sup> AGM hosted by HKUST on November 7, 2023, and the minutes of last 54<sup>th</sup> AGM via videoconference hosted by KAIST on April 25, 2024, were confirmed without amendment. The final versions are available on the AEARU website ([www.aearu.com](http://www.aearu.com)).

## III. Secretary’s Report

The Secretariat reaffirmed that, in line with the decision made at the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM on November 7, 2023, a financial support amount of USD10,000 has been allocated to sponsor the 2023-2024 Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program.

The Secretariat reported that the total projected expenditure for 2024 would be USD19,880.36. The estimated remaining balance at the end of 2024 would be USD 106,569.64.

## IV. Review/Report of AEARU Activities In 2023-2024

### 1. Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program 2023

Professor Yong-Chan KIM, Vice President for International Affairs of Yonsei University, reported that the 2023 Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program (WAY) was successfully held from December 27, 2023 to January 17, 2024. The program engaged 1,100 student participants, including 59 students from four AEARU member universities. Yonsei University received AEARU funding support of USD 10,000 for this three-week program, which was used to cover 50% of the tuition fees for the nominated students. A total of 15 students were awarded the AEARU-WAY scholarship.

## 2. The HKUST Unicorn Day 2024

Ms Yvonne LI, Head of Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs of HKUST, reported that during the 54<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting, Professor WANG invited BOD members to attend the 2024 HKUST Unicorn Day, scheduled for the end of May 2024. This event featured representatives from three BOD member institutions: Tohoku University, Yonsei University and UM. No funding support was required from AEARU. HKUST sponsored the member representatives' on-campus accommodation. In view of the enthusiastic support from BOD members, HKUST planned to expand the event to all AEARU members in the coming year.

## IX. PROPOSED AEARU ACTIVITIES IN 2024-2025

### 1. AUA-AEARU HKUST Overseas Study Program 2025 – Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, HKUST

Ms Yvonne LI, on behalf of HKUST, introduced a tentative 7-day summer camp scheduled from July 8 to 14, 2025, designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Hong Kong for students from the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) and AEARU members. The camp would feature an entrepreneurship bootcamp, company visits, and networking events with a plan to invite two fully-funded students from each AEARU member institution to participate. During the meeting, the proposed budget for AEARU funding was revised from the original USD 10,000 to USD 5,000, while the total program cost expected to be USD 22,149.

### 2. APRU-AEARU Multi-Hazards Summer School 2025, Tohoku University

Professor Toshiya UEKI, Executive Vice President of Tohoku University, introduced a 4-day student camp scheduled for late July 2025. The camp would provide students from AEARU members with the opportunity to share experiences from the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and discuss strategies to mitigate future disaster risks. The program would include seminars, group work, and a field trip to the affected area, in collaboration with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU). Professor UEKI mentioned that one student from each AEARU member institution would be invited to participate in the program. Tohoku University applied for AEARU funding of USD8,500 for sponsorship.

Professor WANG from HKUST, emphasized the importance of focusing on disaster management in light of the increasing frequency of global disasters environmental challenges.

### 3. [AEARU Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program 2024-2025, Yonsei University](#)

Professor Yong-Chan KIM, Vice President for International Affairs of Yonsei University, presented the 2024-25 Winter Abroad at Yonsei (WAY) program, scheduled from December 27, 2024 to January 17, 2025 for a duration of three weeks. The program would emphasize academic achievement through various courses while providing opportunities for participants to explore Seoul and experience Korean culture. Yonsei University would allow each AEARU member institution to nominate one student for this program and requested a total sponsorship amount of USD10,000 from AEARU.

With no further comments from AGM members, the Secretariat confirmed the approval of the three proposed programs along with respective funding requests.

## **X. ISSUES TO BE SHARED/DISCUSSED**

### 1. [Election Result of the AEARU Vice-Chairperson \(2024-2025\)](#)

The Secretariat reported that an anonymous vote was held during the 54<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting to select the Vice-Chair of AEARU for the two-year term from 2024 to 2025. KAIST received the most votes, and in accordance with the constitution, the Secretariat also announced that KAIST would serve as the Chair from 2026 to 2027.

### 2. [Announcement of Phase-out of Global Learning Initiatives Program \(GLIP\)](#)

According to the decision made during the 54<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting, the Global Learning Initiatives Program (GLIP) would be phased out. This program was initiated by NTU in 2020 during the pandemic, providing each course-offering institution with a sponsorship of USD 1,000. The Secretariat reported the participation statistics: in 2020, there were 48 courses offered with 200 students participating; in 2021, 27 courses were offered with 11 students; in 2022, 11 courses were offered with 3 students, and in 2023, only one course was offered with no student enrollment. Given this overview, it was suggested to reassess the previous commitment of GLIP and proposed phasing-out the Program while focusing on providing other physical enrichment programs for students. The decision to phase out GLIP was confirmed, as no comments or objections were raised during the meeting.

### 3. Announcement of Osaka University's Withdrawal of AEARU Membership

The Secretariat announced that Osaka University had withdrawn from AEARU, following the receipt of a withdrawal letter in March 2024. Professor WANG and the Secretariat expressed their regret regarding this decision and acknowledged all the members for their efforts and contributions.

### 4. Discussion on AEARU Activity Format

A review of AEARU activities over the past 28 years was conducted. The Secretariat highlighted that a three-year gap caused by the pandemic hindered the organization of face-to-face AEARU activities, resulting in a less active role in organizing student and academic events. The Secretariat invited a discussion on the future format of AEARU activities and the overall direction of AEARU.

Professor WANG commented that the AEARU would be gradually resuming activities after the pandemic. He emphasized the need to discuss the future direction of AEARU, suggesting that by aligning universities with common goals focused on research and innovation, member institutions could leverage the network to build stronger institutional connections. As a result of collaboration within AEARU, HKUST signed more comprehensive agreements with other universities in the Association. Professor Wang encouraged members to fully utilize the opportunities offered by the AEARU to foster partnerships among institutions, which he believed would be the Association's most significant role moving forward.

Professor Yonghua SONG from UM noted that as a new member of AEARU, UM had been actively engaging with the Association. He highlighted that a research-oriented university should consider two key dimensions: students and faculty. First, he suggested offering programs with research elements to attract students. Second, he proposed fostering closer collaboration among faculty members to facilitate co-authorship, joint publications, and joint research within the Association. He mentioned that UM had launched several global engagement initiatives and offered a wide range of financial support. He offered to extend some of these activities to AEARU members in the future. Additionally, Professor Rui MARTINS, Vice Rector (Global Affairs) of UM, proposed organizing a Microelectronics Workshop in 2026.

Professor Shun-Hua WEI, Senior Vice President of National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, emphasized the importance of student activities in fostering global perspectives. He highlighted the disaster-related program proposed by Tohoku University as an excellent initiative, believing it would provide students with valuable experiences and knowledge. He suggested that Tohoku to share insights from hosting this program at next year's AGM.

Professor Zhimin CHEN, Vice President of Fudan University, noted that while AEARU member institutions may not receive sufficient funding from the Secretariat, they could still seek assistance in sharing and disseminating their program information within the Association.

Professor Toshiya UEKI, Executive Vice President for General Affairs of Tohoku University, stressed that global warming and disasters had become urgent issues both globally and locally. He highlighted the need for cooperation, information sharing, and academic collaboration, urging AEARU to identify critical areas in the East Asian region and ensure that member institutions uphold strong social responsibilities.

Professor WANG raised about the negative influence of geo-political tension for international collaboration. However, he emphasized the importance of encouraging academic dialogue on sustainability and climate change between the U.S. and China. He also highlighted AI security as another crucial area for collaboration, noting that many AEARU member institutions had made significant investments in AI research. Professor WANG stressed the need for a comprehensive discussion on AI security and its social impact, suggesting that AEARU should consider developing a program focused on this area in the future.

## 5. Discussion on Invitation of New Members

The Secretariat reported that three Japanese universities - Osaka University, Kyoto University, and University of Tsukuba - have withdrawn from the Association. In response, the Board of Directors discussed the possibilities of inviting new members during the 54<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting. Three universities were proposed for consideration: Waseda University (Japan), Kyushu University (Japan), and Sungkyunkwan University (South Korea).

Professor Jae-Wook LEE, Vice President of International Affairs of Seoul National University, raised a question about why all three withdrawing universities were from Japan. Professor UEKI explained that leading Japanese universities were facing intense competition, which may overshadow collaborations effort. He mentioned that both Waseda University and Kyushu University are prestigious research institutions in Japan. Professor KIM from KAIST responded that SKKU had made significant advancements over past decade, largely due to substantial investment from Samsung. She suggested inviting universities from both Japan and South Korea.

Professor KIM from Yonsei inquired about the order of inviting new members. After closely reviewing and discussing Clause 3.3 on Membership in the Constitution, it was agreed that the Association should invite the three proposed universities simultaneously without violating the Constitution, as the total number of members would remain under 20, effectively replacing those that had withdrawn.

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

The Secretariat announced the dates and hosting universities for upcoming meetings.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Hosted by</b>	<b>Country/ Region</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Time</b>
56 <sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting	National Tsing Hua University	Taiwan	Videoconference	Spring 2025
57 <sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting 31 <sup>st</sup> AGM	Tohoku University	Japan	Face-to-Face	Fall 2025

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

In closing, Professor WANG expressed gratitude to all the delegates for their participation in the meeting, thanked UM for their warm hospitality, and formally adjourned the meeting.