

AEARU 55th Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2024 (Friday)

University of Macau

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson, Prof Yang WANG, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement of HKUST
2. Welcome Remarks by Prof Rui MARTINS, Vice Rector (Global Affairs) of University of Macau (Meeting Host)
3. Announcement of Name Change and Merger of Tokyo Institute of Technology

II. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

1. 54th Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

III. SECRETARY REPORT

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

IV. 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

V. ISSUES TO BE SHARED/DISCUSSED

1. Discussion on AEARU Activity Format

VI. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Participants List

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

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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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

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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The 55th Board of Directors 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 joining the 55th BOD meeting 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 Yang WANG, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement of HKUST, welcomed the delegates to the 55th BOD meeting and expressed gratitude to the University of Macau for hosting the meeting. He highlighted the proposal from the 54th BOD meeting about inviting BOD members’ representatives to attend the HKUST’s 2024 Unicorn Day in May. Professor WANG expressed his hope for having more entrepreneurship and innovation activities within the Association in the future. He also encouraged BOD members to engage in open dialogues to discuss how the Association could gradually resume face-to-face activities and restore its former vibrancy.

2. Welcome Remarks

Professor Rui MARTINS, Vice-Rector of Global Affairs at the University of Macau (UM), expressed his gratitude to the BOD members for attending the meeting in Macau. He gave an overview of UM, highlighting the campus expansion, the growth of startups, and recent academic advancements. He looked forward to having an engaging and productive discussion during the BOD meeting and hoped that UM could play an active role in contributing to the Association.

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

The Secretariat updated members on the name change and merger of Tokyo Institute of Technology. It would merge with Tokyo Medical and Dental University to form a new institution called the Institute of Science Tokyo which was set to be established on October 1, 2024.

II. Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the 54th BOD meeting hosted by KAIST were confirmed without amendment. The final version would be made available on the AEARU website (www.aearu.com).

III. Secretary Report

The Secretariat confirmed that, in accordance with the decision made at the 29th AGM held on November 7, 2023, a financial support amount of USD10,000 had been allocated to sponsor the 2023-2024 Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program. Additionally, the Secretariat introduced the 2024 HKUST Unicorn Day, featuring representatives from three BOD member institutions, namely Tohoku University, Yonsei University and University of Macau. No sponsorship was required from AEARU funding. HKUST planned to expand the event to all AEARU members in the coming year.

The Secretariat reported that the total projected expenditure for 2024 would be USD 19,880.36. The estimated remaining balance at the end of 2024 would be USD 106,569.64.

IV. Proposed AEARU Activities in 2024-2025

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

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

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

Professor Toshiya UEKI, the Executive Vice President of Tohoku University, introduced a 4-day student camp scheduled for late July 2025. This camp would provide students from AEARU members the opportunity to share their experience from the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and discuss strategies to mitigate future disaster risks. The program, featuring seminars, group works, and a field trip to the affected area, would be held in collaboration with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU). Professor UEKI mentioned that one student from each AEARU members would be invited to participate in the program. Tohoku University proposed to apply for AEARU funding of USD 8,500 for sponsorship.

Professor Yang WANG from HKUST, emphasized the importance of focusing on disaster management in light of the increasing frequency of global disasters. He shared that HKUST launched a satellite last year specifically for disaster monitoring.

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 WAY program, scheduled for December 27, 2024 to January 17, 2025 (3 weeks). The program would be focusing on academic achievement through various courses while providing opportunities to explore Seoul and experience the Korean culture. Yonsei University invites each AEARU member to nominate one student for this program and has requested a total sponsorship amount of USD10,000 from the AEARU fund.

Professor So Young KIM, Vice President of KAIST, inquired about the funding support from collaborative alliances for the activities proposed by HKUST and Tohoku University, noting that these programs would also receive sponsorship from other alliances. Ms Yvonne LI responded that the AUA would sponsor USD 5,000 for the program and proposed adjusting the requested sponsorship from AEARU from USD 10,000 to USD 5,000. With no further comment from the BOD members, the Secretariat confirmed that the board approved the programs and their corresponding funding.

V. Issues to be Shared / Discussed

1. 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 decline of proactiveness in organizing student activities and academic events. A discussion was held regarding the future format of AEARU activities and overall direction of the AEARU.

Professor WANG inquired about the reasons behind the decline in the number of AEARU activities. The Secretariat explained that the pandemic had led to a decrease in physical events resulting in fewer proposals received from AEARU members. The Secretariat expressed a desire for discussion and hoped to receive more shared information from members to better promote future activities.

Professor WANG further inquired about the funding of previous AEARU activities. The Secretariat responded that most activities prior to the pandemic were in-person and received limited AEARU funding. Many workshops were shared events, inviting participants from AEARU members to attend without financial support from AEARU. Professor WANG suggested considering a model for bilateral workshops to encourage AEARU member participation, thereby creating more opportunities for faculty interaction in the future.

Professor Rui MARTINS, Vice Rector of UM, proposed that UM would like to host a Microelectronics Workshop in 2026. Professor So Young KIM from KAIST commented on the need for an evaluation to assess the performance and impact of the Association’s activities, such as participant number or other metrics to measure the outcome. Additionally, Professor KIM suggested prioritizing and targeting specific domains to better cater to either faculty-oriented or student-oriented initiatives.

Professor Toshiya UEKI from Tohoku referenced the membership obligations outlined in the Constitution, specifically point 3.8 which stated that newly admitted members must hold at least one activity within two years of joining the Association while all other members are required to hold at least one activity every six years.

Professor WANG emphasized that global engagement should be a top priority, especially following three-year of pandemic isolation. HKUST is committed to establishing bilateral or multilateral relationships to enhance global connections and is eager to engage in regular dialogues and interaction as an event host. He regarded AEARU as an excellent platform for fostering collaboration.

VI. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

After discussion among BOD members, the Secretariat announced the dates and hosting universities for upcoming meetings.

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

Professor Hsiao-Wei YUAN from National Taiwan University added that NTU would celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2028 and proposed to host the autumn meeting in Taiwan in 2028.

VII. Adjournment

In closing, Professor WANG expressed his gratitude to all the delegates for their participation in the meeting. He also looked forward to collaborating with all member universities in the future .