

# AEARU 56<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025 (Thursday)

National Tsing Hua University

## AGENDA

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### I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. Opening Remarks by the Chair, Prof Kar Yan TAM, Acting Vice-President for Institutional Advancement, HKUST
2. Welcome Remarks by the Host, Prof Shin-Yi PENG, Vice President for Global Affairs, NTHU
3. Announcement of Membership Withdrawal from The University of Tokyo

### II. MEETING MINUTES

1. 56<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes
2. 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

### III. ACTIVITIES' REPORT (FROM OCTOBER 2024)

1. AEARU Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program 2024-2025
2. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HKUST Entrepreneurship Center

### IV. UPCOMING AEARU STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### V. ISSUES TO BE SHARED / DISCUSSED

1. Chairperson's Updates
2. Updates on New Members' Invitation
3. Revisit of Constitution 3.8 on AEARU Members' Commitment

### VI. DATE FOR THE 57<sup>th</sup> BOD MEETING AND THE 31<sup>st</sup> AGM

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Closing Remarks by the Chair
2. Group Photo

# Participants List

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

1	Kar Yan TAM	Acting Vice-President for Institutional Advancement
2	Amy SIU	Senior Manager (Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs)
3	Rebecca LI	Assistant Manager (Global Engagement and Greater China Affairs)

## Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (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

1	Hsiao-Wei YUAN	Vice President for International Affairs
2	Sheila WU	Manager for Global Engagement

## National Tsing Hua University

1	Shin-Yi PENG	Vice President for Global Affairs, Office of Global Affairs
2	Ying-Che Ali HSIEH	Director, Division of Global Academic Collaboration, Office of Global Affairs
3	Hui-Chun LEE	Coordinator, Division of Global Academic Collaboration, Office of Global Affairs

## Tohoku University

1	Toshiya UEKI	Executive Vice President for General Affairs, International Affairs, and Academic Resources
2	Masako NYUI	Director, Global Affairs Department
3	Hirohisa MIYAMOTO	Director, Global Engagement Division
4	Kei SATO	Deputy Director, Global Engagement Division
5	Moto KOBAYASHI	Global Engagement Officer, Global Engagement Division

## University of Macau

1	Rui MARTINS	Vice Rector (Global Affairs)
2	Kiran LEI	Functional Head, Global Affairs Office
3	Aimee TAM	Administrative Assistant, Global Affairs Office

## Yonsei University

1	Sang Hoon YOUM	Associate Vice President for International Affairs
2	Kileun OH	Director, Office of International Affairs
3	Jaeyung SHIN	Manager, Office of International Affairs

# The 56<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## I. Introductory Remarks

Prof Ying-Che Ali HSIEH, Director of Division of Global Academic Collaboration, Office of Global Affairs from National Tsing Hua University (NTHU), served as the moderator of this meeting and welcomed Board members to participate in the 56<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting. Prof Kar Yan TAM, Vice-President for Administration and Business and Acting Vice-President for Institutional Advancement of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), on behalf of the Chairperson, was invited to officially commence the meeting.

### 1. Opening Remarks

HKUST Prof Kar Yan TAM presented the meeting on behalf of Chairperson and President of HKUST Prof Nancy IP. He welcomed the participants to the 56<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting and expressed gratitude to the NTHU for hosting the meeting. He also encouraged the Board members to participate in open discussions regarding student mobility, collaborative research and program variety.

### 2. Welcome Remarks

NTHU Prof Shin-Yi PENG, Vice President for Global Affairs, expressed her gratitude to the Board members for their presence. She expressed that advancing academic collaborations across disciplines and borders, as well as fostering partnership, provided valuable opportunities for all AEARU members to strengthen collaboration and explore new opportunity.

### 3. Announcement of The University of Tokyo's withdrawal of AEARU membership

It was announced that the Secretariat had received the withdrawal letter from the University of Tokyo. Prof TAM appreciated The University of Tokyo's contribution during its time with AEARU.

## II. Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting and 30<sup>th</sup> AGM, hosted by the University of Macau on September 27, 2024, were unanimously confirmed. The final version would be published on the AEARU website ([www.aearu.com](http://www.aearu.com)) following its approval at the forthcoming 31<sup>st</sup> AGM.

## III. Activities' Report

### 1. Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program 2024-2025

Prof Sang Hoon YOUM, Associate Vice President for International Affairs of Yonsei University, reported that the 2024-2025 Winter Abroad at Yonsei Program (WAY) was successfully held from December 27, 2024 to January 17, 2025. The program engaged 1,260 student participants, including 116 students from five AEARU member universities: Nanjing University, National Taiwan University, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Tsinghua University.

Yonsei University would receive 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 12 students were awarded the AEARU-WAY scholarship.

*[Post-meeting note] The Secretariat completed the transfer of USD10,000 in sponsorship to Yonsei University on April 17, 2025.*

### 2. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HKUST Entrepreneurship Center

Prof TAM reported that the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HKUST Entrepreneurship Center was a week-long carnival held in November last year, bringing together students, faculty, startups, industry partners, and investors, showcasing over 100 startup projects across the HKUST campus. Participants also engaged in entrepreneurial workshops and experiential courses, including an innovative Monopoly-themed exhibition for an immersive experience.

HKUST was honored to welcome representatives from three AEARU institutions: Fudan University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), and Tohoku University. KAIST also showcased innovative projects at a student booth. HKUST covered the on-campus accommodation, and no funding resources were required from AEARU. HKUST would continue to organize similar

events in the future and extend invitations to AEARU members to foster collaboration within our network.

#### **IV. Upcoming AEARU Student Activities**

##### **1. APRU-AEARU Multi-Hazards 2025 Summer School**

Prof Toshiya UEKI, Executive Vice President of Tohoku University, introduced a 4-day student camp scheduled for July 29 to August 1, 2025. This camp would provide students from AEARU members the opportunity to share their experience from the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Prof UEKI mentioned that an early bird application would be available, allowing one student from each AEARU member institution to participate with complimentary accommodation and meals. The Secretariat had sent out the invitation and uploaded the information to the website under the “Events & Spotlights” category.

#### **V. Issues to be Shared / Discussed**

##### **1. Chairperson’s Updates**

Prof TAM reported that AEARU’s income primarily came from membership fee paid by 16 member institutions, with a total projected income of USD32,000 for 2025. Overall, the financial statement indicated a balance of USD 112,569.64 in 2025 Q1, with an estimated surplus of approximately USD 3,000.00 for the entire year of 2025.

Prof TAM thanked everyone for their valuable feedback about the AEARU website from the last meeting. In response, the Secretariat had proactively initiated a revamp of the website. The team had dedicated efforts to enhance clarity and improve user experience. All members were invited to navigate the website and share their view and feedback.

Prof TAM reported that following the success of the last Unicorn Day at HKUST, this signature event was scheduled to be held in mid-June and would be extended to all AEARU members this year. This event was seen as a great opportunity for innovators and industry stakeholders to come together, share insights, explore collaboration opportunities, and showcase high-potential start-ups. Invitations would be sent out by HKUST shortly.

*[Post-meeting note] The Secretariat had sent out the invitation to members on April 25, 2025*

## 2. Updates on New Members Invitation

Prof TAM reported that, as discussed in the previous BOD meeting, the Board decided to invite new members to join the alliance. The Secretariat extended invitations to Waseda University and Kyushu University in Japan, as well as to Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) in South Korea. He announced that SKKU had accepted our invitation and submitted their application to the Secretariat. Prof TAM expressed heartfelt gratitude to KAIST for their invaluable support in facilitating the introduction.

To warmly welcome SKKU, Prof TAM suggested inviting SKKU to attend the upcoming 31<sup>st</sup> AGM as an observer. All members unanimously agreed to the proposal. The membership would be officially established next year with the payment of the AEARU membership fee from SKKU for the year of 2026.

Regarding the Japanese universities, Waseda University was still considering the invitation, while Kyushu University has declined it.

## 3. Revisit of Constitution 3.8 on AEARU Members' Commitment

Prof HSIEH highlighted the membership obligations and emphasized that as AEARU approached its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it was important to reflect on the alliance's collective growth. It was encouraged to host more activities and events to strengthen our dedication and develop plans to bring new energy to AEARU.

## VI. Date for the 57<sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting and the 31<sup>st</sup> AGM

Prof UEKI updated that the 57<sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting and the 31<sup>st</sup> AGM would be held in Sendai, Japan by Tohoku University on October 3, 2025. The program would span three days including a welcome dinner on October 2 and an optional tour on October 4.

A special accommodation discount would be provided for participants. He also suggested different flights and transport routes to Sendai.

## VII. Adjournment

In closing, Prof TAM expressed his gratitude to all the delegates for their participation in the meeting. He also conveyed his enthusiasm for future collaboration with all member universities. The meeting was adjourned.