

**MINUTES OF FASAS COUNCIL MEETING 2009
9 OCTOBER, 2009, DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

1.0 GENERAL

The FASAS Council Meeting 2009 was held on 9 October, 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Meeting was hosted by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS). The Meeting was held in-conjunction with the Board Meeting of the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) and the BAS-AASA-FASAS International Workshop on Science Education. A list of participants attended FASAS Council Meeting is shown in **Annex 1**.

2.0 REMARKS BY FASAS PRESIDENT

Academician Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman, FASAS President chaired the meeting. He welcomed FASAS Council Members and observers to the meeting and wished them a fruitful and productive meeting. He thanked BAS for hosting the meeting in Dhaka.

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

FASAS Council adopted the provisional agenda of the meeting.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FASAS COUNCIL MEETING 2008

Minutes of FASAS Council Meeting held on 15 October, 2008 in Ankara, Turkey was confirmed as a true record of the proceedings of the meeting.

**5.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF FASAS COUNCIL MEETING,
15 OCTOBER, 2008, ANKARA, TURKEY**

**5.1 REPORT ON SESSION 3 ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE ACADEMIES
& SOCIETIES IN SCIENCE EDUCATION – IN THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE EDUCATION IN ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC, 28-29 NOVEMBER, 2007, BANGKOK, THAILAND**

The Meeting was informed that the term of current FASAS Project Director who is also heading the network of Focal Point Persons (FPP) among FASAS and AASA members will come to the end by December, 2009.

The Meeting agreed to let the new FASAS President in January 2010 to discuss with AASA on whether the current FASAS Project Director, Datuk Dr. Soon Ting Kueh to continue to play the role as Head of FPP after the end of this year.

5.2 IAP PROGRAMME ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FASAS – WORK PROGRAMME & FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2008

The Meeting was informed that the financial statement of the contract between the Academy of Sciences Malaysia as a lead Academy for FASAS and TWAS has been sent to TWAS to reimburse USD 10,000 to FASAS.

5.3 PUBLICATION ON ROLE OF SCIENCE ACADEMIES IN SCIENCE PROMOTION AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

The Meeting discussed the initiative by Singapore to publish a book on the Role of Science Academies in Science Promotion and Science Education. The Meeting was informed that despite several reminders, only 3 papers were received so far namely from Australia, Bangladesh and Singapore.

The Meeting requested the Secretariat and the Singapore National Academy of Science to follow-up with FASAS members requesting them to submit their papers as soon as possible. The Meeting agreed to give FASAS members 3 months from the date of this meeting (i.e. up to January 2010) for them to submit their papers to the Secretariat or the Singapore National Academy of Science.

6.0 REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING BETWEEN FASAS AND AASA, 16 OCTOBER, 2008

The Meeting took note the Report of the Joint Meeting between FASAS and AASA which was held on 16 October, 2008. The Meeting agreed to discuss the issue of merger between AASA and FASAS under agenda item 8.0.

7.0 REPORT OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE EDUCATION IN ASIA AND PACIFIC, 16 OCTOBER, 2008, ANKARA, TURKEY

The Meeting took note of the report of the Second International Conference on Science Education in Asia and the Pacific which was held on 16 October, 2008 in Ankara, Turkey. The conference was jointly organised by the Turkish Academy of Science, FASAS and AASA.

The Meeting agreed that for future conferences organised by FASAS jointly with AASA, papers presented at the conferences should be made available to a wider audience than the participants. As a first step, the Meeting agreed that all papers presented to be uploaded into the FASAS website.

8.0 REPORT ON THE IAP-IOC/GAC COMMITTEE MEETING, AMSTERDAM, 9-10 FEBRUARY, 2009

The Meeting took note of the Report on the IAP-IOC/GAC Committee Meeting which was held in Amsterdam from 9-10 February, 2009. The Meeting was informed that FASAS Project Director, Datuk Dr. Soon Ting Kueh represented FASAS and AASA as the Head of FPP at this meeting.

9.0 REPORT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN AASA & FASAS ON MERGER OF THE TWO ORGANISATIONS, AMSTERDAM, 24 MARCH, 2009

The Meeting was informed that IAP invited FASAS President-Elect to attend a meeting with AASA and IAP on merger of the two organisations in Amsterdam on 24 March, 2009. However the meeting was called off as the relevant parties could not attend.

The Meeting discussed the proposed merger between FASAS and AASA and identified the following issues:

- i. Since FASAS has scientific societies as members, whereas AASA is limited only to academies, a merger will have to take these differences into consideration.
- ii. The issue of number of members from each country has to be dealt with as currently FASAS allows the admission of more than one member for each country, whereas AASA only one.
- iii. The focus area of FASAS is on science education as compared to AASA on sustainable development. There is another regional STI network called Science Council of Japan which also focuses on sustainable development.

Based on these issues, the Meeting agreed that until they are resolved a merger at this time will not be timely. The Meeting concluded that FASAS and AASA should work together in the present format until such time that there is a harmonization of the objectives of both organisations.

10.0 PRIMARY CONNECTIONS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN 2010 IN SINGAPORE

The Meeting was informed that the Primary Connections – Linking Science with Literacy Workshop will be held in Singapore in 2010. The date has yet to be finalised. The Australian Academy of Sciences will inform FASAS members accordingly. The workshop will be organised by the Australia Academy of Sciences with FASAS and AASA as partners. The focus of the workshop will be the training of trainers in science education at primary level.

11.0 ELECTION OF FASAS EXCO FOR 2010 - 2012

The Meeting agreed for the current FASAS President to write to Presidents of all FASAS members organisations to request nominations for the posts of FASAS President-Elect, Treasurer and Editor of Publications.

12.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

FASAS Treasurer presented a summary report of the annual FASAS subscription payment from 1996-2009 and statement of income & expenditure for the period 1 Jan – 31 July 2009.

The Meeting requested the Secretariat to follow-up with members who have outstanding payment. The Meeting also requested the Secretariat to update the payment records for Bangladesh based on the transaction slips given to the Secretariat.

The Meeting approved FASAS statement of income & expenditure for 2009 (up to 31 July 2009). The Meeting was informed that FASAS account will be transferred from Kuala Lumpur to Australia in 2010.

13.0 NEXT FASAS COUNCIL MEETING

The Meeting was informed that in principle Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST) agreed to host the 2010 FASAS Council Meeting in Seoul, Korea. The National Academy of Sciences Republic of Korea also expressed their support to co-host the meeting in Seoul. Tentatively the meeting will be held in October, 2010.

14.0 FORMAL HANDING-OVER OF FASAS PRESIDENCY

Since this meeting was the last meeting for the current FASAS President as Chair, the formal handing-over of FASAS Presidency was done at this meeting. The current FASAS President thanked all Council Members for their support during his tenure and urged them to continue to provide support to FASAS. He also wishes to see FASAS more active in the future.

FASAS President-Elect represented by the Foreign Secretary of the Australia Academy of Science gave short remarks as incoming FASAS President. In his remarks, he thanked the current President for his leadership which has brought FASAS to its present level. He also looks forward to work together with other Council Members to strengthen FASAS towards providing more impact on STI in the Asian region.