

**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE FEDERATION OF
ASIAN SCIENTIFIC ACADEMIES AND SOCIETIES (FASAS) AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES IN ASIA (AASA)
9 OCTOBER 2009, DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

INTRODUCTION

The Second Joint Meeting between the Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies (FASAS) and the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) was held on 9 October, 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was held in-conjunction with the Board Meeting of AASA and Council Meeting of FASAS. FASAS-AASA-BAS International Conference on Science Education in Asia and the Pacific was also organized during the meeting. The Joint Meeting was attended by members of both organizations. List of participants is attached. FASAS was headed by Academician Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman, FASAS President while AASA was headed by Prof. Jinghai Li, AASA President.

The meeting was organized as a follow-up from the First Joint Meeting of the two organizations held last year in Ankara, Turkey and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations which was also done last year in Ankara. The joint meetings are also organized in response to the recommendation made by the InterAcademy Panel (IAP) in 2006 for FASAS and AASA to look into possibility to work together. Since the two organizations have an overlap of membership and work towards the mutual goal of promoting the centrality of sciences in the region, this idea was well received by both FASAS and AASA.

At the invitation of FASAS, AASA representatives attended the FASAS Council Meeting 2006 in Singapore as observers. Subsequently both organizations jointly organized an International Conference on Science Education in Asia Pacific in Bangkok in 2007 with the financial support of IAP. AASA representatives also attended FASAS Council Meeting 2007 in Bangkok. During this meeting it was agreed that both organizations should have a joint meeting and jointly organized the Second International Conference on Science Education in Asia Pacific in 2008 in Turkey. In another meeting of the Regional Network of Science Academies organized by IAP in Canberra, Australia on September, 2007, representatives from both FASAS and AASA mooted the idea of the parties to sign MOU for collaboration. From 9-10 October 2009, both parties organized their board and council meeting respectively as well as FASAS-AASA-BAS International Workshop on Science Education in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

THE JOINT MEETING

The meeting began with both parties presented a report on their ongoing projects, coming workshops and symposia. Following the presentations, the session was

opened for discussion focusing on AASA-FASAS cooperation plan. Several items discussed and agreed include:

- i. Both parties agreed to extend the benefits of their jointly organized science education workshops beyond the participants from both organizations to include others interested parties. This could be done by uploading the presentations made at the workshops in the website of the both FASAS and AASA.
- ii. Singapore's initiative on publication of book on the Role of Science Academies in Science Promotion and Science Education will be expanded to include AASA members.
- iii. Report on three Science Education Workshops jointly organized by both parties will be included in the AASA project report on sustainable development.
- iv. Both parties agreed to encourage their members to attend the Primary Connections Workshop to be held next year in Singapore. The workshop will be organized by the Australian Academy of Science with FASAS and AASA as partners.
- v. Both parties agreed for their websites to be hyperlinked.
- vi. To explore the possibility for Presidents of both FASAS and AASA to meet with IAP Co-Chairs.
- vii. A joint committee to be formed to look into joint projects as well as the future integration or disintegration of the two organisations.