

**Report of the Third International Conference on Science Education in
Asia and the Pacific,
10 October 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Introduction

The Third International Conference on Science Education in Asia and the Pacific was co-organised by the Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies (FASAS) and the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA). The conference was hosted by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) and supported by the InterAcademy Panel (IAP).

The conference was held on 10 October 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh in-conjunction with the Board Meeting of AASA and Council Meeting of FASAS. The conference was organized as a follow-up from the Second International Conference on Science Education in Asia and the Pacific held in Ankara, Turkey in October, 2008. The conference was organized as part of the initiative by FASAS and AASA to provide opportunity to their members to share experiences on science education practices in the region.

The conference was attended by about 100 participants from FASAS and AASA member organizations as well as local participants.

Objectives of the Conference

The objectives of the conference were:

- i. to promote participation and collaboration among national science academies and societies in the Asia Pacific region on science education activities;
- ii. to generate regional program on science education in Asia and the Pacific region jointly organized by AASA and FASAS which can collaborate with other similar programs in the Americas, Africa and Europe and with global initiatives that IAP Program is undertaking;

Programme

The one-day conference was divided into four sessions namely:

- Session I : Inauguration
Session II: Status of Science Education – Country Reports
Session III: Promotion of Science Education
Session IV: Open Session on AASA – FASAS Interaction for the Development of Indigenous Science Kits

Session V: Discussion on Recommendations

In addition to the above sessions, an exhibition of indigenous science equipment for secondary and higher secondary level was also organized in conjunction with the conference.

The conference was declared open by the Honourable State Minister of Science and Information & Communication Technology, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Architect Yeafesh Osman. During the inauguration session, both FASAS and AASA Presidents delivered their welcome speeches. Prof. Dr. M. Shamsher Ali, the President of Bangladesh Academy of Science gave a plenary lecture entitled "Ways and Means of Increasing Interests in Science Education in Asia".

In session II, 10 speakers from FASAS and AASA member organizations presented a country reports on status of science education in their countries including from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Korea, Malaysia, Iran, Russia, Singapore, Turkey and Thailand. The following session on Promotion of Science Education was covered with four presentations by speakers from FASAS and AASA members. Programme of the conference is attached.

The final session was focused on conference recommendations and follow-up actions. The action plans recommended from the conference include:

1. To adopt immediately a teacher-training programme for science teacher who could fire the imagination of children in enquiry based science education. The teachers could use very simple facts of life to make their teaching interesting and innovative. They could also learn a lot from nature.
2. Efforts should be launched by member Academies of AASA and FASAS to construct indigenous equipment to overcome the problem of lack of equipment in schools in rural areas in Asia.
3. ICT-based methods should be used to communicate pedagogical meetings among the teachers of member countries.
4. AASA and FASAS could encourage the member countries to prevail on their governments to create a knowledge-network TV channel to promote science education as well as the public understanding of science.
5. The Science Academies in different countries should monitor regularly curricula at the school and college level and give their suggestions to the authorities for necessary improvement.

6. AASA and FASAS should hold joint workshop and monitor the implementation of the recommendations.
7. Science Academies should exchange among themselves materials prepared for science education.

Full recommendation of the conference is attached.