



**Federation of Asian
Scientific Academies and
Societies**

Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies (FASAS)

Minutes of the FASAS Council Meeting Held on 21 October 2010, Seoul, Korea

1.0 GENERAL

The FASAS Council Meeting 2010 was held on 21 October 2010 in Seoul, Korea. The Meeting was hosted by the Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST). The Meeting was held in conjunction with the Ninth General Assembly Meeting of the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) and the KAST-AASA-FASAS International Conference on Science Education in Asia and the Pacific. A list of members attending the FASAS Council Meeting is at **Attachment 1**.

2.0 REMARKS BY FASAS PRESIDENT

Professor Kurt Lambeck, President of FASAS, chaired the meeting and welcomed FASAS Council Members and observers. He noted the attendance of twelve member countries and thanked them for travelling to Korea to participate in this and associated meetings. He also thanked KAST for hosting the meeting in Seoul.

Prof Lambeck advised that he had invited Prof Jinghai Li, President of the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA), the President of the Science Council of Asia (SCA), Prof Batbold Enkhtuvshin, and Prof Yoichi Muraoka, Secretary General/Treasurer of SCA, to join the meeting in order to provide comments on activities of their respective organizations that would better inform FASAS members and assist with the discussion on the agenda in relation to the future directions of FASAS.

Prof Lambeck had met briefly the previous day with Prof Li to have a general discussion on the future of FASAS and AASA. A copy of the report on this meeting is at **Attachment 2**.

Prof Li noted that AASA had been conducting workshops under the theme of sustainability, such as energy, water, and environmental resources, as there was common interest in these topics from countries in the region. He highlighted the fact that cooperation between AASA and FASAS was important as member countries of both organizations shared common problems. If both groups worked together they would have a unified opinion, have more visibility and influence to tackle not only global challenges but also the complex and diverse challenges facing the Asian region. There would also be financial and human resources savings.

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Prof Muraoka gave an overview of the SCA. He indicated that SCA was established in 2000 and currently had 19 member organisations from 11 countries. He noted that government agencies could be members of SCA. There was no fee associated to membership of the SCA. The Secretariat has been hosted by the Japan Council of Science. The Council had three joint projects in the areas of natural disaster mitigation, water resource management and environmental management. The projects were output oriented with reports on the projects being published.

Prof Lambeck thanked Prof Li and Prof Muraoka for making themselves available to address the meeting. At this time Prof Li and Prof Muraoka, together with Prof Enkhtuvshin, left the meeting.

Before continuing with the meeting, Prof Lambeck reminded members that the President of FASAS was able to decide who would fill the position of Secretary General and Director of Projects of FASAS. He had asked Nancy Pritchard, Manager-International Programs, Australian Academy of Science, to take on the position of Secretary General. Ms Pritchard has extensive expertise in international matters. He would give further thought as to who might fill the position of Director or Projects and would advise members in due course.

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

FASAS Council adopted the agenda of the meeting.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FASAS COUNCIL MEETING 2008

Minutes of FASAS Council Meeting held on 9 October 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings of the meeting.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF FASAS COUNCIL MEETING, 9 OCTOBER 2009, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Prof Subramanian Ramanathan (Singapore) was asked to report on the publication on the *Role of Science Academies in Science Promotion and Science Education*. Prof Ramanathan indicated that the situation was the same as he had described at the FASAS Council meeting in Dhaka in 2009. Only three countries, Australia, China and Singapore had contributed chapters. If the book is to be published by Springer, he would require at least three additional chapters by the end of December 2010. There was commitment by Korea (KAST), Academy of Sciences Malaysia and the Science Society of Thailand to contribute this material by the deadline. Prof Lambeck

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remarked that if the chapters were not received by the due date then the project should be terminated and chapters produced to date made available on the FASAS website.

Prof Subramanian indicated that Springer had been selected as the publisher due to its extensive reach and international reputation.

6.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer, Prof M R Jisnuson Svasti spoke to the report, noting that the current FASAS Secretariat hosted in Australia had received USD 61,002.81, or AUD 71,239.92, from the previous FASAS Secretariat in Malaysia. Membership subscriptions as at 15 September 2010 had been received from nine members totaling AUD 7,261.19. The Australian Academy of Science was required by law to keep of FASAS account in Australian dollars and the total amount in the FASAS account as at 30 September 2010 stood at AUD 78,501.11.

Prof Naiyyum Choudhury (Bangladesh) noted that the conversion of Australian dollar to US dollars in the financial report was incorrect. The correct amount should be USD 77,434.07. (**Attachment 3.**)

7.0 REPORT ON PROJECTS

Prof Lambeck circulated a paper (**Attachment 4**) regarding the *Primary Connections* workshop that was to have been held in Singapore in June 2010. He noted that the workshop did not go ahead due to the reduced number of registrations. He was however hopeful that it could be re-scheduled to take place in Australia in 2011.

Prof Lambeck sought input from members regarding the low level of registrations. Some members indicated that the deadlines were too tight. Prof Ramanatahn remarked that nominations needed to be sought from government departments and that Academies could do this in their respective countries. Prof Omar Rahman (Malaysia) thought that if the workshop was held in Australia there would be a better response.

Prof Soon Ting Kueh (Malaysia) mentioned that the main projects for FASAS in the last 6 years had been those related to science education. He had been the focal point person for FASAS and AASA in relation to the InterAcademy Panel (IAP) activities on science education and had produced reports on his attendance at these events. A copy of Prof Soon's report on the IAP-IOC/GAC Committee Meeting, held in Amsterdam in February 2009, is at **Attachment 5**.

Prof Lambeck thanks Prof Soon for his commitment and contributions as Director of Projects for FASAS.



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There was a discussion about improving communications between the FASAS Secretariat and members. Prof Lambeck indicated that in future information regarding FASAS would be sent to those attending the meeting in Seoul, Presidents of Academies and Societies and Foreign Secretaries or Secretaries General, plus any other FASAS dedicated person in each of the member organisations.

The FASAS Secretariat also indicated that it will send reminder notices to members when their feedback and comments are sought. The FASAS website would also be used extensively to disseminate information and a Members Only page will be considered by the Secretariat.

8.0 FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF FASAS

Prof Lambeck reiterated the advantage of having a single Asian science grouping in line with what the IAP has been seeking for some time from AASA and FASAS. A good example of how this could work was the Latin American group IANAS (InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences), that was an effective organization in the region and had an excellent working relationship with IAP.

Members provided positive feedback on the potential merger of FASAS and AASA, as long as the present representatives from science societies were not disenfranchised, and that where currently a country had more than one representative this multiple membership would continue. For example, currently, FASAS allowed academies and associations of science from the same country to be members, as was the case of Korea and Malaysia. It was hoped that this would continue at least for those members of FASAS and AASA. If similar cases arose in the future for other countries, this matter could be handled on a case by case basis.

It was also noted that as all academies and societies of science have a remit to conduct science promotion and science education and that this would remain a focus of a new organisation.

Prof Lambeck sought and obtained the authority from those present for him to explore the merger issue with Prof Park, President of AASA, subject to a satisfactory membership solution being achieved.

9.0 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Prof Choudhury requested clarification on the election process for the President-Elect. Prof Rahman noted that as President of FASAS in 2009 he sought nominations for various Executive positions. Only one name, that of Prof Svasti of Thailand, had been put forward for the position of President-Elect. Two countries had also been

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nominated (Korea and Bangladesh) for this vacancy with no names attached to them. Korea had indicated that it did not want to be nominated. Prof Rahman had emailed members on 24 December 2009 with his recommendations, including that Prof Svasti be endorsed as President-Elect and sought comments. None were received.

After extensive discussions it was decided to defer the endorsement of Prof Svasti as President-Elect and go out again to members seeking re nominations. This situation arose from a failure in communication between members and the then President and was in no way a reflection on the actions of Prof Rahman or the appropriateness of Prof Svasti as candidate. Since the meeting Prof Svasti has written to the President indicating that he would like to withdraw from candidacy for the position of President-Elect of FASAS due to other work commitments.

As the meeting had to end at 4pm due to other social arrangements made by the host organisation, the President closed the meeting at 4:10pm and the issue of other matters and venue for the next FASAS meeting were not discussed.

The President undertook to get back to members on these matters as soon as possible.

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