



**Federation of Asian  
Scientific Academies and  
Societies**

## **Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies (FASAS)**

### **Minutes of the FASAS Council Meeting Held on 3 November 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal**

#### **1.0 GENERAL**

The 2011 FASAS Council Meeting was held 2.30pm-4:30pm on 3 November, 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Meeting was hosted by the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). The Meeting was held in conjunction with the 2011 Executive Committee Meeting of the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) and the NAST-AASA Workshop on *Economic Advancement through Science, Technology and Innovation*. A list of members attending the FASAS Council Meeting is at **Attachment 1**.

Prior to the FASAS Council meeting, Professor Kurt Lambeck, President of FASAS, met with Prof Won-Hoon Park, President of AASA to work through a series of draft constitutions for a new merged organisation that they could both present to members of the FASAS Council and members of the AASAS Executive Committee for their discussion and endorsement. The proposed name of the merged body will be the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA).

Prior to the FASAS Council meeting, Professor Lambeck had also invited FASAS members to two pre-meetings to discuss and seek their views on the draft constitution of the proposed merged organization and these views were incorporated into the version presented at the Council Meeting.

#### **2.0 REMARKS BY FASAS PRESIDENT**

Professor Lambeck chaired the annual Council meeting and welcomed FASAS Council Members. He noted the attendance of twelve of the sixteen member organisations and thanked their representatives for travelling to Nepal to participate in this important meeting. He also thanked NAST for hosting the meeting in Kathmandu.

Prof Lambeck advised that he had invited Park, as President of AASA, to join the meeting in order that he could contribute to the discussion on the agenda in relation to the merger with AASA.

#### **3.0 ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

FASAS Council adopted the agenda of the meeting.

**Australian Academy of Science**

*Secretariat*

GPO Box 783, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia | Tel +61 (0)2 6201 9400 | Fax +61 (0)2 6201 9494 | Email [fasas@science.org.au](mailto:fasas@science.org.au) | [www.science.org.au](http://www.science.org.au)



#### **4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FASAS COUNCIL MEETING 2010**

Minutes of FASAS Council Meeting held on 21 October 2010 in Seoul, South Korea, were confirmed by Prof Omar Abdul Rahman and Prof Ghulum Abbad Miana as a true record of the proceedings of the meeting.

#### **5.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF FASAS COUNCIL MEETING, 21 OCTOBER 2010, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**

Prof Subramanian Ramanathan (Singapore) was asked to report on the publication *Role of Science Academies in Science Promotion and Science Education*. Prof Ramanathan indicated that he had received book chapters from five countries: Australia, China, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore. Prof Gunaratna of Sri Lanka noted that his Academy had also sent a book chapter but Prof Subramanian indicated that he had not received it. Ms Pritchard promised to follow-up on this. Prof Lambeck indicated that, as a long period of time had elapsed since the submission of the chapters, the six book chapters now available should be posted on the FASAS website immediately as *discussion papers* only. Prof Ramanathan mentioned that he would be happy to coordinate this project. He would check with each of the authors to get the go ahead to post the documents on the website. As new chapters were received these would be added to the website.

#### **6.0 CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF THE FASAS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN MONGOLIA 2011**

The report of the FASAS Executive Council Meeting held 2-3 July 2011 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, were confirmed by Prof Tipaporn Limpaseni and Ms Nancy Pritchard as a true record of the proceedings of the meeting.

#### **7.0 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Treasurer, Prof M R Jisnuson Svasti, was not able to attend the Council meeting. Ms Pritchard noted that Prof Svasti had only received the financial statement a few days before the meeting and had not had the opportunity to provide comment. However, the Secretariat would get in touch with him on this matter after the FASAS meeting.

In his absence, Ms Pritchard spoke to the report, noting that the current FASAS Secretariat hosted in Australia had in July 2010 received USD 61,002.81, (AUD 71,239.92), from the previous FASAS Secretariat in Malaysia. The Australian



Academy of Science was required by law to keep of FASAS account in Australian dollars.

Membership subscriptions as at 30 September 2010 had been received from nine members totaling AUD 7,261.19, and the total amount in the FASAS account as at that date stood at AUD 78,501.11 (USD 77,434.07).

The financial statement produced for the FASAS Council as at 20 October 2011, indicated that income from membership dues amounted to AUD 9,416.04. After covering the expenses for the ICSU subscriptions, webpage costs, meeting costs of the Seoul and Mongolia meetings as well as some costs of the Nepal meeting of AUD 39,950.94, the total amount in the FASAS account was AUD 47,966.21 (USD 51,162.32). (**Attachment 2.**)

Prof Lambeck informed FASAS members that he had written on 9 September 2011 to the IAP co-chairs requesting financial assistance as FASAS had held two meetings in 2011 in order to progress the issue of the FASAS and AASA merger. IAP declined to provide a grant. Since the Nepal meeting, Prof Lambeck has again written to the IAP asking them to re-consider their decision as FASAS has incurred substantial expenses during the year by holding two meetings.

The President observed that he will seek the acceptance of the accounts by the Treasurer and advise the members accordingly.

## **8.0 REPORT ON PROJECTS**

In the absence of the Director of Projects, Prof Bruce McKellar, Ms Pritchard informed members that the Australian Academy of Science had re-submitted a proposal to the IAP for funding to hold a *Primary Connections* workshop in Australia in mid 2012. The Academy had requested \$79,000 to undertake this activity and had received unofficial advice that IAP would fund the workshop. However, subsequent to the Nepal meeting the Academy had been informed that IAP would only provide \$43,000. The Academy will need to re-look at its original proposal to see how it can manage to organise the workshop with the reduced grant.

Prof Lambeck commented that notification on the workshop will need to go out in plenty of time to the right people in government education departments and teacher training institutes and that he would seek the assistance of member academies and societies to ensure that this dissemination of information happens quickly and in a targeted manner.

Prof Rahman (Malaysia) reminded members that the main projects for FASAS in the last 7 years had been those related to science education and that FASAS had a good record in this area.



## **9.0 MERGER OF FASAS AND AASA**

There was considerable discussion among members on matters relating to a new constitution for the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA). As noted above, Prof Park, President of AASA, participated in these discussions. The main concern by FASAS members was that countries that had more than one member organization (such as Malaysia and Korea) would not be excluded.

Prof Lambeck confirmed that the present representatives from science societies and associations would not be disenfranchised, and that where currently a country had more than one representative this multiple membership would continue in AASSA.

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.

Members provided positive feedback on the potential merger and on the constitution. Professors Lambeck and Park received a mandate from their members to move quickly with the merger and Prof Lambeck received authority from FASAS members to approve a final constitution. As AASA was only holding an Executive Committee meeting in Nepal, Prof Park will go out electronically to all his members for endorsement for the merger and new constitution. He hopes to do this by early 2012.

It is expected that elections for Executive Council members of AASSA will be held in Sri Lanka in September 2012.

## **9.0 TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (TUBA)**

The Presidents of FASAS and AASA indicated that they would like to sign a joint statement on the Turk Government decree to impose government control of the Turkish Academy of Sciences elections. After discussions on this matter it was decided that both presidents would issue a joint statement. (**Attachment 3.**)