**Minutes of the AsCA Council Meeting 2012**

**Tuesday, December 4, 2012            13:00 – 15:30**

**Wednesday, December 5, 2012      14:00 – 14:50**

**Meeting Room 1, Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, Australia**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

DELEGATES

Se Won Suh, (President), Korea                                            sewonsuh@snu.ac.kr

Pinak Chakrabarti, (Vice President), India                        pinak@bic.boseinst.ernet.in

Alice Vrielink, (Secretary/Treasurer), Australia              alice.vrielink@uwa.edu.au

Mitchell Guss, (Past President), Australia                          mitchellguss@gmail.com

Jenny Martin                                                                                j.martin@imb.uq.edu.au

Bostjan Kobe                                                                               b.kobe@uq.edu.au

Altaf Hussain, Bangladesh                                                      altaf@univdhaka.edu

Duong Ngoc Huyen, Vietnam                                                 duonghuyen@mail.hut.edu.vn

Xiao-Dong Su, China                                                                  xdsu@pku.edu.cn

Takashi Kamiyama, Japan                                                        takashi.kamiyama@kek.jp

Chris Squire, New Zealand                                                 c.squire@auckland.ac.nz

Kurt Krause, New Zealand                                                      kurt.krause@otago.ac.nz

Ted Baker, New Zealand                                                          ted.baker@auckland.ac.nz

Atushi Nakagawa, Japan                                                          atushi@protein.osaka-u.ac.jp

Ian Williams, Hong Kong, China                                           chwill@ust.ust.hk

Xiao-Ming Chen, China                                                            cxm@mail.sysu.edu.cn

Zhi-Jie Liu, China                                                                       zjliu@ibp.ac.cn

Chwan-Deng Hsiao, China-Taipei                                         hsiao@gate.sinica.edu.tw

Hwo-Shuenn Sheu, China-Taipei                                          hsheu@nsrrc.org.tw

GUESTS

Ray Withers, Australia                                                             withers@rsc.anu.edu.au

Steve Wilkins, Australia                                                          steve.wilkins@csiro.au

JJ Vittal, Singapore                                                                    chmjjv@nus.edu.sg

Bill Duax, USA                                                                            duax@hwi.buffalo.edu

Gautam Desiraju, India                                                      gautam\_desiraju@yahoo.com

Peter Strickland, UK                                                                 med@iucr.org

APOLOGIES

Mark Spackman, Australia                                                   mark.spackman@uwa.edu.au

Eunice Eun Kyoung Kim, Korea                                          eunice@kist.re.kr

**1.  WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting commenced at 13:00 of the first day.  Professor Se Won Suh welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the guests.

Professor Samat Talipov (Uzbekistan) gave a presentation detailing crystallography activities in his country.

Dr. Bill Duax spoke to the group as the Editor of the IUCr Newsletter.  He stated that everyone should make strong use of the newsletter, particularly to support the IYCr in their countries.  People from smaller countries should send articles to the IUCr newsletter to report on their countries’ crystallographic activities.  In addition, countries should submit plans for activities aimed at promoting crystallography activities within your country during the IYCr.

Currently, the newsletter is published electronically and is sent to all crystallographers in the IUCr database. Printed copies are also sent to libraries as requested.  If individuals would like to have copies sent to their local library they should send the name and address of the library to Bill.  Also if you would like to have hard copies for meetings that you are hosting please let Bill know.

Finally, Bill has asked everyone to send a picture and a paragraph description of what crystal was the most important to you and these will be published in the newsletter.

**2. REPORT BY IUCr PRESIDENT – PROFESSOR GAUTAM R. DESIRAJU**

Professor Gautam R. Desiraju, IUCr President, presented an overview of the current activities of the IUCr. He commented on the growth of the community within AsCA and the high quality of talks and, particularly, the larger number of students in attendance.  AsCA is an important part of the IUCr and plays an important role in increasing the growth within the crystallographic community.  He spoke about the IYCr in 2014.  An important occasion and it is hoped that crystallographers in Asia take advantage of the IUCr for increasing leverage in exposing our science in their universities and throughout Asia, including at the high school level.  It is hoped that the future will see a Nobel prize come from the Asian Crystallographic community.  Asian crystallographers must make the best of this unique opportunity to have an international year within our science.  The activities will increase our opportunity to provide exposure to our science.

UNESCO has been asked to help extend activities of our science in smaller countries such as Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and Bangladesh.  UNESCO has proposed support for traveling exhibitions particularly in smaller countries.  Prof Desiraju suggests that AsCA select an Asian country, as a host country, to travel with an exhibition composed of crystallographic equipment, to smaller Asian countries and present to young people in these countries.

Prof. Desiraju suggested that the larger countries (Australia, China and India) could play an important role in the responsibilities of promoting crystallography in the region.  They should send their manuscripts to IUCr Journals in order to continue to support the IUCr.   These countries can also help in gathering funds or in kind contributions to support IYCr.  He has asked that all National committees formulate plans and communicate their plans to the IUCr.

Prof Desiraju reported that the IUCr will soon appoint a project manager to promote IYCr activities.  All communications about regional activities should be sent to the project manager. The IUCr strongly encourages activities such as the publication of textbooks about crystallography in various languages to help teach the science to young undergraduates from diverse countries.

**3. REPORT BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF IUCr JOURNALS – PROF. SAMAR HASNAIN**

Prof Samr Hasnain, the newly appointed Editor in Chief of the IUCr journals, spoke about his vision for the IUCr Journals.  His presentation is entitled “Responding to a new era of crystallographic-based science and changes in its global distribution”.

He began by outlining some of the challenges for IUCr Journals:

1)   Is it acceptable for the bulk of the very high impact work that is underpinned by crystallography to appear in journals outside of the IUCr journals?

2)   Should we serve the crystallographic community or the science community that uses crystallography?

His aims for the future development of the IUCr journals are:

1.     To make IUCr journals the natural home for many of the high-quality scientific publications that are currently published elsewhere. We should be comfortable dealing with high-quality science rather than simply the ‘crystallographic aspects’ of a publication.

2.     To take a pro-active approach in encouraging chemists, biologists, physicists, material scientists, mineralogists, computational scientists and archaeologists to report the best of their crystallographic results (rather than just method or approach) in the IUCr journals.

3.     Our Journals should cater for all of the best science resulting from communities that are served by our commission publishing original research articles as well as review articles (topical, trends, opinions, etc) in all areas of the commissions.

Prof Hasnain reported that the establishment of a Management Board for the IUCr Journals has been approved and the Board has held its first meeting in October.  Membership to the Board consists of the Editor in Chief of the IUCr Journals, an Executive Managing Editor, IUCr President, IUCr General Secretary and Treasurer and a Main Editor of each IUCr journal.  The Board will be responsible for the management of the publication basis of the IUCr and for covering the activities and interests of all of its commissions.  The commissions are listed below:

1. Aperiodic Crystals

2. Biological Macromolecules

3. Charge, Spin and Momentum Densities

4. Crystallographic Computing

5. Crystallography of Materials

6. Crystal Growth and Characterization of Materials

7. Electron Crystallography

8. High Pressure

9. Inorganic and Mineral Structures

10. Magnetic Structures

11. Mathematical & Theoretical Crystallography

12. Neutron Scattering

13. Powder Diffraction

14. Small-Angle Scattering

15. Structural Chemistry

16. Synchrotron Radiation

17. XAFS

Prof Hasnain then summarized developments for a number of journals:

1.              **Acta A** – Simon Billinge and John Miao have been appointed as new editors.  The journal will develop a premier section in the form of a “rapid communication” format and to be accompanied by publicity campaign accompanying and following publication (including press releases and commentaries on the paper aimed at a broad audience). Further developments will include expanding the scope of the journal (to include coherent diffraction imaging, XFELS, computational structure analysis and polycrystalline materials).   Consideration is being given to subtitle the journal to “Advances in Crystallography” or “Impacts and Advances in Diffraction”.  The goal is to encourage each co-editor to consider sections as an alternate to Science, Nature and PNAS for one paper per year.

2.              **Acta B** – Sandy Blake has been appointed as an additional main editor and Andrew Bond has been appointed as an additional co-editor.  Further co-editors will be appointed during 2013 in order to enhance both geographical and subject coverage.  The aim is to expand the scope of the journal to include more crystal engineering and materials chemistry.  In this vein, a new subtitle is being considered: “Structural Science” or “Crystal Engineering and Materials”.  There will be a selection of papers for commentary from 2013.  As with Acta A there will be an active publicity campaign accompanying and following the publication.

3.              **Acta D and Acta F:** Acta D benefits from a very strong Impact factor (12.6) but there is a need to broaden the science base to attract papers of several commissions.  There is a concern that the title is somewhat restrictive and the thought is that it should become the natural home of papers coming from Serial Crystallography and Diffractive imaging as well as electron crystallography/microscopy, X-ray and Neutron Scattering.  The journal is actively seeking authors in biology and medicine.  With regards to Acta F, the aim is to reach an impact factor of 1 in 3 years.  Consideration is being directed at reducing the costs to make the journal open access in the longer term.  A focus is also based towards actively targeting authors of unpublished deposited structures and to work closely with the PDB on new means of submission.  Possible title changes of the journals are being considered as Acta D – “Structural Biology” and Acta F – “Structural Biology and Crystallization Letters”.

4.              **Journal of Synchrotron Radiation:** Ilme Schlichting and Gene Ice have been appointed as editors with expertise in free-electron lasers and X-ray optics.  Friso Van der Veen has been appointed as editor to cover synchrotron radiation science and technology.  Subject to retirements, recommendations for an additional main editor from an active synchrotron radiation centre from either the USA or Japan will be forthcoming in the future.  As with the above journals, there will be a selection of papers in 2013 that will be targeting for commentary and accompanied by publicity campaigns.

5.              Consideration is being given to start a fully comprehensive open-access IUCr journal (entitled IUCr**J**). This will be in line with current trends towards other open-access peer-reviewed journals that cover a wide subject area (such as PLoS One, Open Biology, ChemistryOpen etc). The journal will be highly comprehensive in subject akin to the PNAS style and with the aim of capturing high profile papers.  Up to six main editors will be appointed, responsible for selecting papers for review.  Each editor will recommend 4 co-editors covering a spread of expertise to the management board.  The aid is for the launch of IUCr**J** to coincide with the IYCr.  The goal is to publish at least 100 articles in the first year, half of which will be during 2013, making use of the IUCr Commissions, the ACA and ECA meetings.  These papers will also include high-impact science papers from keynote and plenary speakers at the IUCr2014 and celebratory meetings for IUCr2014.

Finally Prof Hasnain expressed concern that relatively few main and co-editors to the journals come from AsCA countries (41 as opposed to 156 from non AsCA regions).  He stressed that it is vital that there be pro-active engagement of all countries for the journals to have a greater influence.  If you have any names of individuals that could contribute please nominate them or send a short 2 page CV to Peter Atrickland or Samar Hasnain.  For IYCr2014 ideas please send to [iycr2014@iucr.org](mailto:iycr2014@iucr.org)

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AsCA MEETING**

Prof. Ray Withers moved that the minutes of the meeting be accepted.  All agreed.

**5. AsCA FINANCIAL REPORT**

Prof. Alice Vrielink presented the AsCA financial report:

**AsCA UniCredit account balances at 14 November 2012**

*All figures in Australian dollars.*

On call savings account 03614822:                                   $5.37

Term deposit account 379021923:                                    $176,399.43

Combined balance =             $176,404.80

Interest earned in each financial year (July 1 to June 30):

2010 – 2011             $7298.24

2011 – 2012             $7798.57

2012 – present         $3056.49

The interest rate on the term deposit (monthly rollover) account varies monthly, and is currently 4.15% pa.

Activity on the account since October 2010 (as presented at AsCA2010):

Debits:                   nil

Credits:            $500 Apr 2012       New Zealand triennial fee 2011-13

                          $400 Jun 2011        China annual fee 2011

                        $1000 Apr 2011       Japan triennial fee 2011-13

                        $1000 Apr 2011       India triennial fee 2011-13

                        $1000 Apr 2011       Australia triennial fee 2011-13

                          $500 Apr 2011       Taiwan triennial fee 2011-13

                          $600 Dec 2010       Korea fees 1995-1999

                          $500 Dec 2010       Korea triennial fee 2011-13

                $15,696(\*) Dec 2010       Korea returns from AsCA2010

(\*) To save the paperwork, a debit of US$4,392 to Korea was not actually transferred in support of early career scientists attending AsCA’10. The net income from the AsCA2010 meeting is therefore A$15,696 plus US$4,392.

**6. PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE AsCA2012/CRYSTAL25 MEETING AND THE BRAGG CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM**

Prof. Ray Withers reported on the AsCA2012/Crystal28.  He was very pleased to report that there were over 425 attendees. The final budget still requires review but he is optimistic that there will be no loss.  He reported that the meeting has three concurrent sessions all to a high standard.

Prof Ray Withers also reported on the Bragg Symposium.  The expectation is that there will be ~350 delegates including school children.  A marquee will be set up outside the symposium centre and will highlight special posters. In addition the city of Adelaide will unveil a bust of Lawrence Bragg on Friday, December 7th.

The reports for the meeting have been attached to these minutes as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

**7. PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE AsCA2013 MEETING (12TH AsCA CONFERENCE)**

Prof Altaf Husain and Prof Takashi Kamiyama reported progress on the Dhaka, Bangladesh meeting to be held in 2013.

Prof Kamiyama updated the council regarding the members of the International Programme Committee.  The members include:

*Macromolecular*

Jose Varghese - Australia

Atushi Nakagawa - Japan

Zihe Rao – Peoples Republic of China

*Chemistry*

Tamiko Kiyotani - Japan

Further members to be selected

*Physics Chemistry Materials Science*

K. Ohshima  - Japan

Masatomo Yashima - Japan

Further members to be selected

Fifteen microsymposia titles have been tabled so far with a number of additional microsymposia being suggested.  A schedule for the presentations was also presented.

Prof Hussain presented the local organizing update.  The meeting will be held from Dec 1 – 4, 2013.   A web site has been registered ([www.asca2013.org](http://www.asca2013.org)) and is under construction.  Accommodation in Dhaka, the programme and other necessary information will be posted on the website.  Prof. Hussain reported that he expects to obtain financial support from a series of National and International agencies such as OPCW, ISESC, AsCA, IUCr.

Estimated income will be ~US$196,000.  Estimated expenditures will be ~US$190,000.  The venue will be at the Dhaka Conference Centre.  If the necessary participants are lower than expected the venue may have to shift to the Dhaka University.

Ted Baker emphasized that the IUCr requires that the program committee have a balance of gender and geographical balance of speakers.

Concern was expressed about the numbers of attendees and that it would be less than 400 so perhaps it would be better to go straight to the university as the venue of choice.

**8. PROPOSAL FOR AsCA2015**

Prof Pinak Chakrabarti presented a proposal by India to host the 2015 meeting in Kolkata (Calcutta).  It will be supported by the Indian National Science Committee and the Indian Crystallographic Association.  The meeting will be held at Science City in Kolkata.  The main auditorium has a capacity of 2232 people and a mini auditorium has a capacity of 392.  An alternate location could be in the Hyatt Hotel but Science City is preferred.  The latter half of November is the preferred time period for the meeting.  The expected budget is ~US$190,909.  It is expected that a grant from the Indian government will be received to help pay for the venue ahead of time.  Currently solicitations are being made for a chair of the International Programme Committee. No objections to this proposal were made.

**9. PROPOSALS FOR AsCA2016 AND BEYOND**

Ted Baker, Prof. Kurt Krause and Prof. Chris Squire discussed the possibility of hosting an upcoming AsCA meeting in New Zealand.  In particular, he suggested that New Zealand would be willing to host the 2016 AsCA meeting.  If this is not possible then they would consider a future meeting.  Prof Krause gave a brief presentation on hosting the meeting in Auckland, New Zealand.  The venue would be the Owen G. Glenn Centre at the University of Auckland.  An alternate location could also be the Convention Centre.  He stressed that there are a wide variety of hotels in Auckland ranging from 3.5 – 5 star.  Taxis and buses are easy and not overly expensive.

Prof. J.J. Vittal from the National University of Singapore also tabled a bid to host the 2016 AsCA conference in Singapore.  He stressed that there are currently approximately 50 – 100 crystallographers in Singapore and approximately 10 different research groups.

Prof. Duong Ngoc Huyen (Vietnam) also presented a bid to host AsCA2016.  The location for the meeting would be at either the National Convention Centre or the National Science Centre (HUST Library).  A wide range of hotels from 2 – 5 star are available a short distance from the conference venues.  Dates for the meeting would most likely be late November or early December.

**10. AsCA HOMEPAGE**

The AsCA homepage has been moved to the IUCr website.  Its new address is http//asca.iucr.org

**11. ANNUAL FEE OF THE AsCA GROUP OF FIVE COUTRIES (BANGLEDESH, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND VIETNAM) TO THE IUCr**

The membership fees for the group of 5 countries are to be paid by AsCA.  Japan had already paid these fees. However, Japan decided that, rather than have AsCA return the fees to Japan, these fees would be donated to AsCA. AsCA acknowledges this donation and will pay the CHF500 from their funds.

**12. RECORDING OF AsCA HISTORY**

Prof Syd Hall is organizing a detailed recording of the history of AsCA.  Anyone wishing to contribute any information on AsCA’s history should send details to Prof. Hall.

**13. INTER-REGIONAL TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND POSTDOCS FROM IUCr**

Twelve applications for student and postdoc travel support to attend conferences were recommended to IUCr and seven of these applications were selected.  The successful applicants were from Austria, Bangladesh, People’s Republic of China, South Africa, Spain and UK.  The IUCr supported six students/postdocs to travel to the ACA meeting. No applications to the AsCA meeting from outside Asian regions were made.  Discussion focussed around trying to get an understanding from the IUCr as to what the basis was for receiving travel support. For example, it was noted that an applicant from the Philippines was not successful at receiving travel support and some clarification as to why this occurred would be useful.

**14. IYCr2014 AND AsCA**

Ideas for AsCA based activities for IUCr2014 that were tabled during the 2011 council meeting were reviewed:

-         Publish AsCA newsletters

-         Establish Interest Groups within AsCA – no proposals have been received until now.  Interested individuals should send applications to the AsCA executive.  Such groups could have a session dedicated to their interest group at forthcoming AsCA meetings

-         Introduce Corporate members – it was noted that this would require a change to the constitution (see below).

-         Establish AsCA Prizes – it was noted that this would require some fund raising from corporate bodies.  Currently, at AsCA meetings there are AsCA poster prizes, a PDB prize and an IUCr prize.  Concern was raised that the AsCA Rising Star session was cancelled at the Adelaide meeting.

**15. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE**

Proposals for changes to the constitution shall be communicated in writing to the President at least six months prior to a Council meeting.  Items 4(a) and 4(b) have proposed changes to the wording to 1) increase the membership category to 6 including a corporate membership category 2) the executive committee should include the immediate past president.  There were no objections to the change so the changes were passed.  The Councilors/ National Committees should be contacted and given the opportunity to provide the names of their councilors.  Countries willing to become category A members should also contact the council.

The following wording will constitute item 4a in the constitution:

**(a) The Association shall be administered by a Council consisting of Councillors from each member country. The number of Councillors from a country/region** **and the voting power given to each Councillor shall be in accordance with the membership category, as follows,**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Membership**  **Category** | **Number of Councillors** | **Entitled**  **Votes** |
| **A** | **1** | **0** |
| **B** | **1** | **1** |
| **C** | **2** | **2** |
| **D** | **3** | **3** |
| **E** | **4** | **4** |
| **Corporate/Affiliation** | **1** | **0** |

**The Councillors representing each country/region** **shall be appointed by the National Committee affiliated with the International Union of Crystallography or, in its absence, by the Crystallographic Society of that country/region. If neither of these bodies exists, the member shall be co-opted by the Executive from among the practicing crystallographers in the country.**

Item 4b in the Constitution will now be as follows:

**(b) The Council shall elect a President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Committee consists of those three members elected as well as the** **immediate Past President.**

The meeting adjourned at 14:50 of the second day.

**Appendix 1**