**Minutes of the AsCA Council Meeting 2010**

**12:15 pm 2 November 2010**

**Meeting Room Level 2, BEXCO, Busan**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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| DELEGATES | |
| Mitchell Guss (President), Australia | mitchell.guss@sydney.edu.au |
| Se Won Suh (Vice-President), Korea | sewonsuh@snu.ac.kr |
| Kenneth Haller (Sec/Treas), Thailand | ken.haller@gmail.com |
| Mark Spackman (Trustee), Australia | mark.spackman@uwa.edu.au |
| Thammarat Aree, Thailand | thammarat,aree@gmail.com |
| Pinak Chakrabarti, India | pinak@boseinst.ernet.in |
| Gautam R. Desiraju, (IUCr), India | gautam\_desiraju@yahoo.com |
| Chwan-Deng Hsiao, Taiwan | hsiao@gate.sinica.edu.tw |
| Altaf Hussain, Bangladesh | altaf@univdhaka.edu |
| Bostjan Kobe, Australia | b.kobe@uq.edu.au |
| Zhi-Jie Liu, China | zjliu@ibp.ac.cn |
| Jenny Martin, Australia | j.martin@imb.uq.edu.au |
| Atsushi Nakagawa, Japan | atsushi@protein.osaka-u.ac.jp |
| Yuji Ohashi, (IUCr) Japan | yohashi@ibaraki-neutrons.jp |
| Jim Simpson, New Zealand | jsimpson@alkali.otago.ac.nz |
| Yu Wang, Taiwan | wangyu@ntu.edu.tw |
| Ian D. Williams, Hong Kong | ianduncanw@gmail.com |
| GUESTS | |
| William Duax, U.S.A. (IUCr Newsletter) | duax@hwi.buffalo.edu |
| Sine Larsen, Denmark (IUCr President) | sine@kemi.ku.dk |
| Alice Vrielink, Australia (AsCA’12) | alice.vrielink@uwa.edu.au |

**1. IUCR PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The AsCA council welcomed IUCr President, Professor Sine Larsen, who was attending AsCA 2010. The IUCr Executive had held its annual meeting in Busan, prior to AsCA 2010. Prof Larsen presented a report from the IUCr Executive covering the regional associates to the IUCr (ACA, ECA, AsCA) outlining the history and management of each. She discussed the outcomes of the IUCr executive committee meeting, and the proposal for the International Year of Crystallography (IYCr) in 2013 and also presented an update on the IUCr Congress and General Assembly to be held in Madrid in Aug 2011.

IUCr is currently seeking the support of the UN (through UNESCO) for the IYCr and will rely on support from regional and national committees. Current plans for IYCr include the development of a website, educational material, involvement of large facilities (synchrotrons), stamps, actions for developing countries, and design of a logo prior to the IUCr congress. An open competition will be announced shortly for the logo design.

**2. APOLOGIES:**

Shih-Lin Chang (Taiwan); Krishnan Lal (India); Wim Klooster (Singapore)

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The meeting was held on 24th October 2009, in Beijing, China. The minutes had been circulated previously and were accepted with minor amendments. Minutes of the AsCA Council Meeting 2010 AsCA Council Meeting Minutes 2 November 2010, Busan Page 2

**4. BUSINESS ARISING**

This item was carried over to be dealt with as items arising from various reports.

**5. FINANCIAL REPORT – TREASURER AND TRUSTEE**

The statement of finances was presented by Professor Mark Spackman on behalf of the AsCA trustees. The trustees are Professors Mark Spackman and Charlie Bond both at the University of Western Australia).

AsCA UniCredit account balances:

* Member number: 30482
* On call savings account 03614822: $17.10\* (down from $1,106.11 in last report)
* Term deposit account 379021923: $139,327.29 (up from $127,423.92 in last report)
* Combined balance is $139,327.29 (up from $128,530.03 in last report)

Notes: In the previous financial year (July 2009 to June 2010) the accounts earned $5,242.59 in interest. The interest rate on the term deposit account is currently 5% (up from 3.7% p.a. in last report), with monthly rollover. A debit of $6,020.20 to China was incurred in support of early career scientists attending AsCA’09. Payments of $400 from Indian National Science Academy (2009 dues) and $4,510.23 (USD $4,000) profit from AsCA’09 in Feb 2010 were received. The net cost of the support for the China meeting was therefore only $1,509.97.

\* All figures are given in Australian dollars.

The report was formally accepted by the AsCA Council.

**6. SUMMARY OF THE ASCA2010 MEETING AT BEXCO**

Professor Se Won Suh outlined the statistics (as of a week prior to the meeting) for the AsCA meeting being held in Busan. A total of 415 abstracts were received, 83 oral and 332 poster (142 of the latter from students). Of these abstracts, there were 155 in the biological sessions, 156 in the non-biological sessions, 90 in the technology sessions, and 7 in other areas. Registrations as of a week prior to the meeting stood at 626, of which 229 (36.6%) were Korean. Almost 235 registrants were students. Exhibitors had taken 31 booths, which include free booths for IUCr and AsCA.

Travel support applications numbered 58, and 16 travel awards were made [to India (8), Thailand (4), Taiwan (2), China (1) and the Philippines (1)]. Rising star applications numbered 38; with 8 awards to be made (note two pre-awards were made by the awards committee - these winners will make oral presentations in microsymposia). The remaining six rising stars will be selected from poster presentations. Four poster prizes will also be awarded (2 IUCr, 1 AsCA, 1 RCSB PDB). [Note: Following a strong recommendation by the Poster Committee, five poster prizes were actually given (2 IUCr, 2 AsCA, 1 RCSB PDB).]

The council thanked Professor Se Won Suh (organizing chair) and Professor Jenny Martin (programme chair) for their organization of AsCA'10 noting particularly that registrations were the highest yet for an AsCA meeting, and that the ratio of students to full registrants was very high. Minutes of the AsCA Council Meeting 2010 AsCA Council Meeting Minutes 2 November 2010, Busan Page 3

**7. PROPOSAL FOR ASCA’12**

Professor Alice Vrielink presented an update on the proposal from Adelaide, Australia, to host a joint AsCA/SCANZ conference and Bragg centenary celebration. November 2012 will mark the centenary of the presentation of Lawrence Bragg's paper to the Cambridge Philosophical Society that detailed the first crystal structure and Bragg's equation. Bragg was born in Adelaide and spent his first 19 years there. The dates for the 2012 meeting are proposed to be Sunday December 2nd through Thursday December 6th, 2012, with the conference dinner on the night of Wednesday December 5th. The Bragg symposium is scheduled for Thursday December 6th. The Bragg symposium is proposed to be a public forum with speakers including descendants of Lawrence Bragg, his former students and high profile scientists who can present public lectures.

Proposed fees for the meeting including the Bragg commemoration are 650 AUD for full registrants and 350 AUD for students. Fees for the Bragg symposium only will be 120 AUD. The budget is estimated to be 330,000 AUD and the committee is expecting about 500 registrants. The conference will be held in the Adelaide convention centre located near the middle of the city. Direct flights are possible from many Asian cities, and there are a number of accommodation options. The IUCr President noted that the meeting would be perfectly timed as a curtain raiser for the 2013 IYCr. However, concerns were raised by some AsCA council members about the budget, the cost of registration and the number of expected registrants. It was noted that the Broome conference in 2005 had only 300 full or student registrants.

The AsCA council formally accepted the proposal, but requested that the conference committee consider whether the cost of registration could be reduced (the strong Australian dollar could be an issue), and provide an update on the progress of the organization of the meeting at the next AsCA council meeting to be held at the IUCr in Madrid in Aug 2011. This should include full budget, with scenarios for different registration costs and numbers.

**8. PROPOSALS FOR ASCA'13 AND ASCA'15**

There was support for the proposal that AsCA'13 be held in a small country, and interest was expressed by representative of Japan on behalf of Vietnam. Professor Hussain presented a bid on behalf of Bangladesh. This meeting would be held in the Dhaka convention centre.

India indicated their keen interest in hosting AsCA'15, as a prelude to possibly hosting IUCr in 2017. Representatives from India indicated that if no suitable bids were made to host AsCA'13, and AsCA asked India to organize the 2013 meeting, they could manage this, though their preference was for 2015.

The AsCA committee decided to defer the question of where AsCA'13 will be held, until the next AsCA meeting. At that meeting, formal applications would need to be submitted from all interested countries. These applications should include cost estimates, and presentations would need to be made from each bidding country. Bidding would not be limited to Vietnam and Bangladesh. India was asked to prepare a bid in case no others were forthcoming. In the event that a country other than India was selected for AsCA'13, then AsCA would commit to selecting India for the 2015 conference.

AsCA President Mitchell Guss advised that he had already received a formal expression of interest from Singapore to hold the 2016 meeting. However, it was noted that if Iran is soon to be included within the AsCA region, then a future committee may wish to solicit a bid from that country. Minutes of the AsCA Council Meeting 2010 AsCA Council Meeting Minutes 2 November 2010, Busan Page 4

**9. APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President. The nomination of Vice-President Se Won Suh from Korea for the office of President was accepted unanimously. It was noted that it is not a constitutional requirement to elect the Vice-President as President, though it has the advantage of retaining corporate memory.

Vice-President. The nomination of Pinak Chakrabarti from India for the office of Vice-President was accepted.

Secretary-Treasurer. The nomination of Alice Vrielink from Australia was accepted. It was noted that having an Australian in this office would make the financial transactions simpler to carry out.

The council congratulated all the successful nominees.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ken Haller suggested that the constitution be changed to include the Past President as a member of the AsCA Executive. This suggestion was supported unanimously by the AsCA committee and now needs to be approved by the member countries. Ken Haller also suggested that AsCA establish an ethics committee. TheAsCA Committee considered that this should be taken up by IUCr ratherthan AsCA, though Mitchell Guss indicated that the topic would beeminently suitable for a lecture in upcoming AsCA meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was then declared closed.