

Minutes of the AsCA Council Meeting 2013

Date and time: Monday, December 9, 2013 16:00 – 18:30
Tuesday, December 10, 2013 13:00 – 13:40

Location: Lecture Theatre K, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

IN ATTENDANCE

DELEGATES

Se Won Suh, (President), Korea	sewonsuh@snu.ac.kr
Pinak Chakrabarti (Vice President), India	pinak@bic.boseinst.ernet
Mitchell Guss (Past President), Australia	mitchellguss@gmail.com
Alice Vrieling (Secretary/Treasurer), Australia	alice.vrieling@uwa.edu.au
Alison Edwards (Councilor for missing seat), Australia	alisonedwar@gmail.com
Charlie Bond (Councilor for Ray Withers), Australia	charles.bond@uwa.edu.au
Jenny Martin (Councilor), Australia	j.martin@imb.uq.edu.au
Bostjan Kobe (Councilor), Australia	b.kobe@uq.edu.au
Mozzafar Hossain (Councilor for Altaf Hussain), Bangladesh	mozaffor03@yahoo.com
Zhi-Jie Liu (Councilor), China	liuzj@shanghaitech.edu.cn
Na Yang (Councilor for Xiao-Dong Su), China	yangna@moon.ibp.ac.cn
Ian Williams (Councilor) (AsCA13 Chair), Hong Kong	chwill@ust.ust.hk
Chun-Jung Chen, (Councilor for Chwan-Deng Hsiao), China Taipei	cjchen@nsrrc.org.tw
Shwu-Huey Liaw, (Councilor for Shie-Ming Peng), China Taipei	shliaw@ym.edu.tw
Atsushi Nakagawa (Councilor), Japan	atsushi@proteins.osaka-u.ac.jp
Eiji Nishibori (Councilor), Japan	eiji.nishibori@riken.jp
Genji Kurisu (Councilor), Japan	gkurisu@proteins.osaka-u.ac.jp
Takahashi Kamiyama (Councilor), Japan	takashi.kamiyama@kek.jp
Myoung Soo Lah (Councilor), Korea	msoh@unist.ac.kr
Hyun Kyu Song (Councilor for Eunice Kim), Korea	hksong@korea.ac.kr
Nadiah Halim (Councilor for H.K. Fun), Malaysia	nadiahhalim@um.edu.my
Jim Simpson (Councilor), New Zealand	jsimpson@alkali.otago.ac.nz
Christopher Squire (Councilor for Kurt Krause), New Zealand	c.squire@auckland.ac.nz
J. J. Vittal (Councilor for Wim Klooster), Singapore	jj.vittal@nus.edu.sg
Thammarat Aree (Councilor), Thailand	thammarat.aree@gmail.com
Duong Ngoc Huyen (Councilor), Vietnam	duonghuyen@mail.hut.edu.vn

GUESTS

Y. Ohashi, Japan	yujiohashi@jcom.home.ne.jp
B. Duax, USA	duax@hwi.buffalo.edu
E. Boldyreva, Russia	eboldyreva@yahoo.com
G.R. Desiraju, India	desiraju@ssu.iisc.ernet.in

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J. Sivaraman, Singapore
K Swaminathan, Singapore
R. Murugael, India
R. Anand, India
Y. Wibisono, Indonesia
M. Obayed Ullah , Australia

dbsjayar@nus.edu.sg
dbsks@nus.edu.sg
vmv@chem.iitb.ac.in
ruche@chem.iitb.ac.in
yudi@formulatrix.com
obayed.obhi@yahoo.com

APOLOGIES

Ray Withers (Australia), Altaf Hussain (Bangladesh), Jianping Ding (China), Xiao-Dong Su (China), Chwan-Deng David Hsiao (China, Taipei), Krishan Lal (India), Ashwinia Nangia (India), D. M. Salunke (India), N. Gautham (India), Eunice EunKyoung Kim (Korea), H. K. Fun (Malaysia), Kurt Krause (New Zealand), Champika Vithana (Sri Lanka), Wim Klooster (Singapore)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting commenced at 16:00 of the first day. Professor Se Won Suh welcomed all to the meeting and all the guests introduced themselves.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 13:00–15:30 and on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 14:00–14:50, Meeting Room 1, Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, Australia and circulated by e-mail on April 2, 2013 by the Secretary/Treasurer, Alice Vrielink, were approved.

3. IUCr ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP AND NEW IUCr CATEGORY I MEMBERS FROM THE AsCA REGION

Professor Desiraju gave an update on the activities within the IUCr regarding other regional associates. In particular he informed us that Latin American countries are in the process of forming a regional association. This will make a fourth regional associate within the IUCr. He has advised Latin American countries to take note of what is happening within the regional association of AsCA. He stressed that the AsCA region should have a greater voice within the IUCr, particularly given the volume of crystallographic research that is being carried out in Asia. He stressed that one reason why this is not the case may be due to inconsistencies regarding to membership of countries within the region. He stressed that belonging to an IUCr member country is very important and that regularizing membership is the best way to receive full recognition and a larger voice. In this regard he discussed the Associate country memberships within AsCA and reminded the Council that these memberships were established initially as an avenue for subsequent full membership of the IUCr. Currently these Associate members have a single as a group vote in the IUCr General Assembly. This, in turn, weakens the voice of the Asian region in general. He advised that countries wishing to become members do not need to have a “National Academy” but any recognized scientific association that

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can for a National Committee, but they need to be willing to pay 1000 Swiss francs in fees to IUCr for full membership. He strongly suggests that this matter should be discussed amongst the Council.

He also strongly suggested that the geographical jurisdiction of Asia be discussed and strongly recommended that countries such as Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan and countries within the western region of Asia be invited to join AsCA.

It was suggested that the Secretary write to each of the Associate member countries (Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Bangladesh) as well as countries not currently part of AsCA but who have had delegates attend past meetings, to ask them to decide whether they wish to become full members of IUCr. This email should also advise them of the implications of their decision (for example, this would incur that fees to IUCr would be payable directly and that this membership would provide them with voting rights at the General Assembly). Se Won Suh suggested that AsCA should approach IUCr for a new Associate Membership consisting of countries other than Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Bangladesh. (Mike Dacombe will be asked for clarification regarding this matter before emails are sent).

4. AsCA FINANCIAL REPORT

The statement of finances was prepared by Alice Vrielink on behalf of the AsCA trustees. The trustees are Professors Mark Spackman, Alice Vrielink, and Charlie Bond, all at the University of Western Australia.

AsCA UniCredit account balances on 24 September 2013 (by Alice Vrielink)

Member number: 30482 [All figures in Australian dollars.]

On call savings account 03614822: A\$8,527.53

Term deposit account 379021923: A\$172,708.84

Combined balance = A\$181,236.37

(up from A\$176,404.80 in 2012 1114 report and A\$165,684.26 in 201108 report)

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

2010 – 2011 \$7298.24

2011 – 2012 \$7798.57

2012 – 2013 \$6524.89

2013 – present \$1176.09

The interest rate on the term deposit (monthly rollover) account varies monthly, and is currently 2.85% pa.

Activity on the account since October 2012 (as presented at AsCA2012):

Debits: \$1821.57 June 2013 IUCr membership of 5 Asian Countries

\$6513.08 June 2013 Costs incurred to A. Hussain for Dhaka meeting organization

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\$6.00	August 2013 Payment fee
Credits: \$597.40	October 2012 Interest
\$659.39	November 2012 Interest
\$507.45	December 2012 Interest
\$540.90	January 2013 Interest
\$528.94	February 2013 Interest
\$464.20	March 2013 Interest
\$483.99	April 2013 Interest
\$470.60	May 2013 Interest
\$472.32	June 2013 Interest
\$407.67	July 2013 Interest
\$411.95	August 2013 Interest
\$800.00	August 2013 China annual fees 2012 – 13
\$7727.73	August 2013 AsCA/SCANZ 2012 meeting profits
\$356.04	September 2013 Interest

5. PROGRESS REPORT FOR AsCA2013 MEETING (12th AsCA Conference)

In the 2011 AsCA Council meeting in Madrid, it was decided that the AsCA2013 meeting would be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh [Prof. Altaf Hussain, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee; Prof. Takashi Kamiyama (Japan), Chair of the International Program Committee]. Due to a local political instability, the Council decided to move the venue to another country/region by a majority e-mail voting (1 vote for none of the two options, 2 votes for option No. 1, 20 votes for option No. 2) and the decision was informed on March 25, 2013. [Option No. 1 was to 'Go ahead with the Dhaka AsCA meeting as originally planned and let the LOC decide the course of the Dhaka meeting'. Option No. 2 was to 'Stop the organization of the Dhaka meeting. Try to find an alternative venue outside Bangladesh. If an alternative site cannot be found in time by the EC, the AsCA2013 meeting will be cancelled']. The AsCA Executive Committee accepted a proposal by Prof. Ian Williams for the new venue at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), with new conference dates of December 7-10, 2013. To speed up the program organization, three Co-chairs were invited to join the International Program Committee in mid-June. The Chairs and Co-chairs of LOC and IPC for AsCA 2013 are as follows.

LOC Chair

Ian Williams (China, Chair)

ianduncanw@gmail.com

IPC Chair and Co-chairs

Takashi Kamiyama (Japan, Chair)

takashi.kamiyama@kek.jp

Zhi-Jie Liu (China, Co-chair in Area 1)
[xtalfarmer@gmail.com]

liuzhj@shanghaitech.edu.cn

JJ Vittal (Singapore, Co-chair in Area 2)

chmjiv@nus.edu.sg

jj.vittal@nus.edu.sg

Alison Edwards (Australia, Co-chair in Area 3)

alisonedwar@gmail.com

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Report by Ian Williams (Chair, LOC) and Takashi Kamiyama (Chair, IPC) as of November 14, 2013:

“The AsCA13 meeting is to be held in Hong Kong during 7-10 (Sat-Tues) December at the campus of HKUST. This was the venue for a successful earlier AsCA meeting in 2004. The academic program had a disruption due to this venue change but fortunately the conference is back on track to be reasonably well attended. As of 14 November, there are around 340 registrants with a final total around 400 anticipated. The conference will run at a profit and AsCA will receive around US\$8,000-10,000 from sponsorship funds. Registration fees are supposed to be retained by HKUST since no charge for the venue will be made. The conference has received reasonably generous support from commercial companies and a banquet boat trip and welcome mixer have been partially funded. The Oral program has now been more or less finalized with around 20 2-hour sessions as well as Plenary and Keynote talks and a session on IYCr2014. A good geographic makeup and gender balance of speakers has been sought and in general achieved. The geographic makeup of participants is pleasingly rich in delegates from China, Japan, India, and Australia are well represented as well and now Korea after the successful conference there in 2010. About 30 awards to Early Career travel and Rising Star speakers have been made using IUCr and AsCA funds. A number of awards and prizes have been set up. Approximately 20 commercial and non-commercial exhibitors will attend, despite the short notice and change of venue, and this should proceed smoothly. Several workshops and a 1-day Saturday Structural Biology Symposium have also been organized and attendance at these should be encouraging.”

Oral Sessions (excluding a Special Session on IYCr2014 and General Interest Sessions (MS-19, 20))

Area 1. Structural Biology:

Membrane Proteins (MS-1)

Macromolecular Complexes & Assemblies (MS-4)

New Tools and Methods in Structural Biology I (MS-7A)

New Tools and Methods in Structural Biology II (MS-7B)

Drug Discovery/Disease-related Proteins (MS-10)

Hot Structures in Biology (MS-13)

Enzymes and Enzyme Inhibitors (MS-16)

Area 2. Chemical Crystallography:

Metal-Organic Structural Chemistry (MS-2)

Chemical Crystallography - Structure and Properties (MS-5)

Dynamic Aspects of Crystals (MS-8)

Magnetic and Conductive Materials (MS-11)

Nano- and Energy-Related Materials (MS-14)

Crystal Engineering (MS-17)

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Area 3. Physical methods:

Computation in Crystallography (MS-3)

Neutron Diffraction (MS-9)

Charge Density and Electron Diffraction (MS-6)

X-ray Sources and Detectors (MS-12)

X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) (MS-15)

Diffraction and Complementary Methods (MS-18)

Ian Williams provided a brief progress report. The finances are not yet finalized but he expects to make a small profit. Attendance, based on original registrations was approximately 400 people. Actual attendance to the meeting and associated symposia and workshops was 413 individuals. The total number of countries represented at the meeting was 30 with most delegates from Japan, followed by China, Korea and Hong Kong. The breakdown of attendees by country is as follows:

Country	# Delegates	Country	# Delegates	Country	# Delegates
Japan	97	Thailand	8	Denmark	1
China	56	Germany	5	France	1
Korea	47	Malaysia	4	Indonesia	1
Hong Kong	46	New Zealand	4	Ireland	1
China, Taipei	31	Russia	4	Macau	1
Australia	30	Sweden	3	Mexico	1
India	25	Switzerland	3	Netherlands	1
United Kingdom	16	Italy	2	Pakistan	1
USA	10	Austria	1	Poland	1
Singapore	10	Bangladesh	1	Vietnam	1

Ian reported that there was difficulty in that symposium topics become too specialized. He suggested that, in the future the topics should be broader. Jenny Martin suggested that we have proposed symposium topics and we can finalize the symposia afterwards. Ian and the IPC committee members were thanked for their excellent efforts at organizing the meeting on such a short notice.

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6 PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE AsCA2015 MEETING

Alice Vrielink gave an update for the International Program Committee:

Alice Vrielink	Australia	Chair, IPC	
Pinak Chakrabarti	India	Chair, LOC	AsCA Executive
Jennifer Martin	Australia		AsCA Executive
Se Won Suh	Korea		AsCA Executive
Ian Williams	Hong Kong	Chemical Crystallography	Co-chair (Chemical Crystallography - Area 2)
Vadapalli Chandrasekhar	India	Chemical Crystallography	
Jan Wikaira	New Zealand	Chemical Crystallography	
Jagadese Vittal	Singapore	Chemical Crystallography	
Sue-Lein Wang	China - Taipei	Chemical Crystallography	
Masaki Kawano	Korea	Chemical Crystallography	
Catherine Day	New Zealand	Structural Biology	Co-chair (Structural Biology - Area 1)
Daniela Stock	Australia	Structural Biology	
Zhi-Jie Liu	China	Structural Biology	
Jayaraman Sivaraman	Singapore	Structural Biology	
Eunice Kim	Korea	Structural Biology	
Rajan Sankaranarayanan	India	Structural Biology	
Masaki Takata	Japan	Specialized Techniques	Co-chair (Specialized Techniques - Area 3)
Yoshinori Nishino	Japan	Coherent Diffraction Imaging & XFEL	
Osami Sakata	Japan	Surface scattering	
Je Geun Park	Korea	Magnetic Materials & Neutron	
Di-Jing Huang	China - Taipei	Synchrotron Radiation & SR Spectroscopy	
Richard Garrett	Australia	Neutron Scattering	

Attempts have been made to achieve subject balance, geographical balance and gender balance (32% female and 68% male). Work will now be undertaken to select and invite Plenary and Keynote speakers and suggested symposium topics will be selected. Pinak Chakrabarti gave an update on the Local Committee organization. A logo for the meeting has been designed and the website is expected to be in place before the end of the year. The dates for the meeting will be finalized within a week.

7. Proposals for AsCA2016 and beyond

For the AsCA meetings in 2016 and beyond, New Zealand, Singapore, and Vietnam (in alphabetical order) expressed interest. New Zealand has agreed to wait for a couple of years. Singapore is also happy to wait and has advised that they would prefer to host a meeting in June in order to minimize the cost of the conference (they would be able to use NUS as the venue which would provide cheaper student accommodation). It was therefore decided that the AsCA2016 meeting will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam. Prof Huyen spoke briefly about his ideas regarding the organization of the meeting.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

1. Membership Fee Structure

The fees for Category B, D and Corporate Affiliation need to be fixed. It was suggested that Category B members be exempt from fees for the next 3 year-term. Se Won Suh suggested 1 and 3 units of membership fee for category B and D countries. Regarding Corporate Affiliation it was decided that before fees and membership from corporations be finalized we must first put some details in place regarding what the Association would be willing to provide. It would also be advised to consult ACA and other societies regarding their corporate fee models. Opinions regarding the complexity of the existing membership structure were expressed. The Secretary will summarize these matters for review at the next Council meeting.

2. Corporate membership application from Agilent Technologies

Agilent Technologies have already expressed an interest in joining AsCA as a Corporate member. It was decided to approve this membership in principle but provide further details regarding membership fees once we have reviewed this matter in more detail.

3. Major renovation of the AsCA homepage (<http://asca.iucr.org>)

The early version of the AsCA website began in 2006 thanks to the efforts of Dr. Sekar (India), and Prof. Mitchell Guss (Australia), and Prof. Sydney Hall (Australia). Since 2012 the site has been maintained by Alice Vrielink (Australia) with the assistance of Brian McMahon (IUCr). Together they made a major upgrade to the underlying site structure in moving the host location to the IUCr. A major renovation is necessary to accommodate new demands, including the AsCA history section (to be added in 2014) and archiving of correspondence among Executive and Council members. Updating the AsCA mailing list via the homepage is also necessary for distributing the Newsletters and making announcements such as job opening and meetings. The new website may be modeled after IUCr, other regional associates, and national societies. Your ideas on the content and style of the new website will be most welcome.

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4. Proposal for position of commissions within AsCA

Se Won Suh reported that his attempts to establish Interest Groups have not been well received. In place of this he has suggested establishing AsCA Commissions including: i) Small Angle and Neutron Scattering, ii) Biological Crystallography, iii) Powder Diffraction, iv) Chemical Crystallography and Materials, v) Methods and Instrumentation, vi) Electron Crystallography and Microscopy, and vii) Crystallographic Education are being proposed. The Commissions will assist the program organization of future AsCA Conferences and may also plan other activities. 1 Chair and 1 Co-chair are proposed for each Commission, with a 3-year term (2014-2016). Some concerns were raised that the principal function of the Commissions would overlap with the functions of International Program Committee. It was decided that there should be a trial for one three-year term. Se Won Suh reported that Dr. Masaki Takata expressed a strong interest in forming a Commission on Methods and Instrumentation. He also suggested that there is no need to establish all of the above Commissions at the same time. If sufficient interest can be generated, the Commissions should be officially incorporated in the Constitution.

5. Proposal for position of an advisory committee within AsCA

Se Won Suh also proposed the establishment of an advisory committee, to consist of a few of the former AsCA/IUCr Presidents and other members. This committee would be approached for advice to the Executive and Council. For 2014-2016, Syd Hall, Yuji Ohashi, Gautam Desiraju, and Mitchell Guss are recommended.

6. Proposal for position of a Web Secretary within AsCA

Se Won Suh proposed to establish the position of Web Secretary. They will supervise the construction of the new AsCA website, adding new functionality using the appropriate web design and management software (e.g. Squiz Matrix) and will thereafter maintain the site. For 2014-2016, Alice Vrieling was proposed to be the most suitable person. The Council agreed to these changes and is very grateful to Professor Vrieling for agreeing to undertake this task. She will present proposals for changes to the website to the Council for approval.

9. ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Ian Williams moved that the current Vice President, Prof. Pinak Chakrabarti, become the new AsCA president as has become the custom. There were no further nominations. The Council approved that the new president for 2013 – 2016 be Prof. Pinak Chakrabarti.

Nominations for Vice president are:

Prof. Masaki Takata
Prof. Xiao Ming Chen
Prof. Jennifer Martin

A vote was taken by secret ballot and a majority was obtained. Prof. Jennifer Martin was elected as the new Vice President for 2013 - 2016.

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Secretary/Treasurer: Prof. J. J. Vittal was nominated. There were no further nominations so Prof. Vittal has been approved as the new Secretary/Treasurer for 2013 – 2016.

The next Council meeting will be held during August 5-12, 2014 at the 23rd IUCr Congress, Montreal, Canada.

The meeting adjourned at 13:40 of the second day.

Minutes prepared by Professor Alice Vrielink, AsCA Secretary/Treasurer (2010-2013)