**Minutes of the AsCA Council Meeting 2009**

**Time: 12:00 pm 24 October 2009**

**Location: Meeting Room 3, Jingyi Hotel, Beijing**

**In Attendance**

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| Mitchell Guss (President), Australia | m.guss@usyd.edu.au |
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**1. Apologies:**

* Altaf Hussain, Bangladesh, altaf@univdhaka.edu
* Mark Spackman, Australia (Trustee) [mark.spackman@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mark.spackman@uwa.edu.au)

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting - held 25th August, Osaka, Japan**

The minutes had been circulated previously and were accepted with minor amendments.

**3. Business arising**

(Carried over to be dealt with as items arose from various reports.)

**4. President's report**

Mitchell Guss welcomed all those who were able to make it to the meeting and expressed his regret that Altaf Hussain was unable to travel to Beijing because of last minute visa problems that also prevented attendance by two students from Bangladesh.

AsCA has made some important new initiatives in the last few years. The first, originally proposed by Yuji Ohashi as IUCr President, is the formation of a regional grouping of Asian nations who are recognised as a joint member of the IUCr. Together they have a single vote at IUCr General Assemblies but individuals from the countries may attend. The dues of 1000 Swiss Francs per annum are currently shared by the Society for Crystallographers in Australia and the Crystallographic Society in Japan. The application that was approved by the IUCr reads as follows:

*Applications for membership of the Union*

*Regional Committee of Crystallographers from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam The President of the Asian Crystallographic Association, on behalf of the AsCA council, has submitted an application for membership of the IUCr in Category I. The Regional Committee of Crystallographers from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam would be the Adhering Body and undertakes to pay the dues (guaranteed by the Crystallographic Association of Japan and the Society for Crystallographers in Australia and New Zealand for two triennia). The proposed membership of the National Committee for Crystallography is: W. Klooster (Chair; Singapore), H.K. Fun (Secretary, Malaysia), A. Hussain (Bangladesh), N. Van Tri (Vietnam), Thammarat Aree (Thailand)*

The second major initiative is to utilise interest from the accumulated reserves of AsCA to support attendance at AsCA meetings by students and early career scientists from the region. The use of AsCA funds was supported at the previous AsCA council meeting and confirmed by email correspondence. AsCA offered 5 such scholarships to attend this meeting valued at $1000 USD each. It is the intention of the AsCA executive that a similar level of support will be provided for the forthcoming meeting in Busan in 2010. It was noted that additional sources of funding to increase the total AsCA investment portfolio are required to sustain these initiatives in the long term.

The third initiative by Yuji Ohashi supported by the AsCA president is an agreement from the President of the IUCr, Professor Sine Larsen, to provide direct financial support from the IUCr for attendance by two members of the AsCA council who would not otherwise be able to afford to attend council meetings. The agreement is for three years but one individual can only receive support on one occasion. This recognises the special needs of AsCA that are distinct from those of the American and European regional associates of the IUCr. Altaf Hussain and Wim Kloosters received support to attend this meeting but unfortunately Altaf was unable to attend to due last minute visa problems.

There was extended discussion of the President’s report with a number of suggestions to raise capital funds for AsCA. (1) We should consider instituting corporate membership of AsCA as is currently available for the ACA, including pharmaceutical companies. (2) To include a small additional fee at registration for AsCA conferences, say $10, to go directly to support travel funds. These suggestions will require constitutional changes to be implemented, so will need to be brought forward at the next AsCA meeting. Further, any profit made from AsCA conferences should be shared between the local organizing committee and AsCA.

**5. Financial report**

The statement of finances was presented by Mitchell Guss on behalf of the AsCA trustees, Mark Spackman and Charlie Bond.

AsCA UniCredit account balances:

* Member number: 30482
* On call savings account 03614822: $1,106.11
* Term deposit account 379021923: $127,423.92
* **Co combined balance is** $128,530.03

In the previous financial year (July to June) the accounts earned $6961.41 interest; this financial year $1610.25 to November.

The interest rate on the term deposit account is currently 3.7% pa, with monthly rollover.

The only meaningful debit has been $6,020.20 as requested for transfer to China in support of early career scientists attending AsCA '09

**6. Busan 2010 update**

Se Won Suh outlined the state of preparations for the full AsCA meeting to be held in Busan in 2010. The council noted that the progress towards AsCA '10 was excellent. The programme format will be the same as the Beijing meeting, including a rising stars session. Registration fees will also be similar. Several options were provided for hotels including cheaper accommodations for students. The availability of direct flights from many Asian countries directly to Busan was noted as was the more scenic route via Seoul and then train to Busan.

**7. Proposal for AsCA '12**

Steve Wilkins presented a proposal from Adelaide in Australia to host a joint AsCA/SCANZ conference and Bragg centenary celebration. It was noted that November 2012 will be 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. Adelaide is the birthplace of Lawrence Bragg and he spent his first 19 years there. Fees for the meeting are expected to be 650-700AUD, and it will run for 5 days including the Bragg commemoration. The committee includes Jose Varghese, Grant Booker, Maria Hrmova, Ian Menz, Allan Pring, Chris Sumby and Linda Cooper (from Department of Premier and Cabinet of the South Australian government). Airline access is good with some direct connections to Asian capitals. The conference will be held in the Adelaide convention centre located conveniently near the middle of the city. There may be a possibility of holding a dinner at the Bragg 's home in Adelaide. The proposal received strong support from AsCA Council and the committee was requested to bring forward a definite proposal including dates, costs, details of accommodation, etc to the next AsCA council meeting. The organizers were encouraged to ensure integration of the AsCA/SCANZ meeting and the Bragg celebration.

**8. Proposal for AsCA '13**

Interest was expressed by representatives of India, China, Thailand, Bangladesh and Vietnam to hold the conference in their countries. The committee was pleased to see so much interest in hosting the meeting; this is recognition that AsCA conferences are highly regarded. Proposals were requested to be brought forward to the next AsCA council meeting.

**9. Other business**

In the absence of other business the meeting was declared closed.