**Minutes of the Ninth Council Meeting**

**Asian Crystallographic Association (AsCA)**

**Held in association with AsCA'01, the Fourth Meeting of the Asian Crystallographic Association Bangalore, India.**

**Date:19 November 2001 Time 12.30 pm Venue: Indian Institute of Science**

Attended by the **Executive members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Professor Y. Ohashi | (President) | yohashi@cms.titech.ac.ip |
| Professor J. Simpson | (Vice President) | jsimpson@alkali.otago.ac.nz |
| Professor S.-L. Chang | (Secretary/Treasurer) | slchang@phvs. nth4.edu.tw |

and **Council members** from

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Australia (III) | Dr M. Guss | m.guss@biochem.usvd.edu.au |
|   | Dr C.J. Howard | cjh@ansto.gov.au |
| Bangladesh (I) | Professor A. Hussein | nitub@bangla.net |
| China (II) | *(absent)* |   |
| Hong Kong, China (I) | Professor T.C.W Mak | tcwmak@cuhk.edu.hk |
|  India (III) | Dr K. Lal | klal@csnpl.ren.nic.in |
|   | Professor M. Vijayan | vijayan@mbu.iisc.ernet.in |
| Indonesia (I) | Dr Muhammad Hikam | hikam@makara.cso.ui.ac.id |
| Japan (III) | Professor F. Iwakasi | fuji(@pc.uec.ac.jp |
|   | Professor Y. Matsui | matsui.voshoi@nims.go.ip |
| Korea (II) | Professor Y.J. Park | yjpark@sookmvung.ac.kr |
| New Zealand (II) | Dr G.B Jameson | g.b.jameson@massey.ac.nz |
| Malaysia (I) | *(absent)* |   |
| Pakistan (I) | *(absent)* |   |
| Philippines (I) | (absent) |   |
| Singapore (I) | Dr J.J. Vittal | chmjjv@nus.edu.sg |
| Sri Lanka (I) | *(absent)* |   |
| Taiwan (II) | Professor Y. Wang | yuwang@xtal.ch.ntu.edu.tw |
| Thailand (I) | *(absent)* |   |
| Vietnam (I) | Professor N. Van Tri | nvtri@mail.hut.edu.vn |

and invited Ex Officio representatives

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Professor S.R. Hall | (AsCA Trustee) | syd@crystal.uwa.edu.au |
| Dr J.L Martin | (Vice President, SCANZ) | j.martin@imb.uq.edu.au |
| Dr I.D. Williams | (AsCA'04 Proposer) | ianduncan@yahoo.com.hk |

\* The number in parenthesis indicates the membership category of themember country

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | I | II | III |
| Number of Councillors | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total number of votes | 1 | 2 | 4 |

1.       **Apologies** were received from Professor Z. Rao (China), Professor W.T. Robinson (New Zealand) and Professor J.W. White (Australia).

2.       **Minutes** of the Eighth Council Meeting held on 9th August 1999 in Glasgow, Scotland were confirmed**.**

3.       **Matters Arising:** Professor Hall reported that AsCA money held in Australia was still lodged in fixed interest accounts as the fallin the share market made investment in shares a doubtful proposition.

4.       **President's Report:** Professor Ohashi spoke to his report, which had previously been circulated to delegates. He asked Professor Simpson to Chair discussion on proposals contained in the report (items 7 and 8 below).

5.       **Financial Report:** Professor Chang reported on the situation of Membership payments from Category II and III member countries as at October 2001. A summary is appended to the minutes. He also detailed the accounts of the Association held in Japan and asked Professor Hall to report similarly on the funds held in Australia. The current account balances are as follows, with August 1999 figures shown in parenthesis:

Japanese Account Balance**YenJap 633,862**               (YenJap 573560)

Australian Account Balances

Challenge Bank: Savings                      $A 8,550.04

Unicredit: Saving                                    $A 762.18

Term accounts 120                            $A 26,424.01

                       112                             $A 10,664.78

Total Australian balance**$A 46,381.01** ($A 29,472.44)

The Council **accepted** the Financial Report and thanked the Treasurer and Trustees.

6.       **Interim report on AsCA'01:** In the absence of Professor Rao (Chair of the International Organising Committee), Professor Vijayan presented the report as Chair of the National Organising Committee, making the following points:

He first thanked the Association for the opportunity to host an AsCA meeting in India and hoped that it would be successful.

Final participant numbers were not currently available, but at least 400-420 participants were anticipated to attend. These figures were made up approximately as follows:

Indian participants                                                   260

Participants from other countries                           ~160

Professor Vijayan advised delegates of the difficulties faced by the organisers following the events of September 11, with a significant number (> 50) of participants from countries outside India cancelling their registrations. This also had an affect on the Scientific Programme as a number of scheduled speakers withdrew, requiring some alterations to the programme of oral presentations. In this context he also reported on the cancellation of the satellite meeting on Powder Diffraction, which had been scheduled in Kolkata prior to AsCA'0l. The meeting on Crystallography and Bioinformatics in Structural Biology was to take place as scheduled in Bangalore following the main conference, with more than 370 registered participants.

Professor Vijayan also commented on the particular character of AsCA'01, the first AsCA conference to be held in a country with a significant body of crystallographers. He suggested that, in such a situation, it would have been useful, and practical to have the Chairpersons of the International Organising Committee and of the Programme Committee from the country in which the meeting was being held. He also commented on the difficulties in ensuring good local participation at an international meeting, because of the costs involved. He suggested that Council might have to consider some concessions to local participants in the future.

The Council **accepted** Professor Vijayan's report with acclamation.

7.              Future **AsCA** Meetings:

The council discussed the proposal by the President that, in addition to the normal AsCA meetings, AsCA meetings also be held in conjunction with the meetings of the Society of Crystallographers in Australia and New Zealand (SCANZ) and the Crystallographic Society of Japan (CrSJ), such that AsCA members would have the opportunity to confer as a body twice in three years. Professor Hall spoke in favour of the proposal and suggested that the upcoming Crystal 23 meeting of SCANZ, to be held in Broome, Western Australia in August 2003, be the first such meeting to be jointly hosted with AsCA. It was noted that SCANZ meetings normally attract around 100 participants. A workshop on Biological Structure and a Sagamore Meeting, run by the lUCr Commission on Charge, Spin and Momentum Densities, would be associated withCrystal-23 and would provide additional opportunities for participation by AsCA members. Details of these meetings can be found on the conference website: http://www.crystal. uwa.edu. au/CrvstalsDownUnder/.

Dr Martin, Vice President of SCANZ, endorsed this proposal and looked forward to greater cooperation between SCANZ and AsCA in the future.

The proposal was supported by Professor Iwakasi, President of CrSJ, who suggested that a joint meeting of AsCA and CrSJ could beheld in 2006. Professor Vijayan indicated that the Indian Crystallographic Association would also be interested in joint meetings with AsCA in the future.

In discussion it was stressed that it would be important not to lose the unique quality of the triennial AsCA meetings and that this could be achieved by flexibility in the timing of these meetings and maintaining the excellent rates of student participation.

The proposal for a joint AsCA'03 and SCANZ meeting in Broome Western Australia was **carried.**

8.       **Timing of AsCA Elections:** A second proposal from the President's report concerned the timing of the election of officers and selection of venues for forthcoming AsCA meetings. Traditionally both had been done at the triennial lUCr Congress, a situation that arose from the fact that, when the Association was inaugurated, there were no AsCA conferences. There was general agreement that such important decisions would be more appropriately made in Council meetings held at AsCA conferences. In particular, this would ensure a more inclusive representation of Councillors from throughout the region. It was **agreed** that this proposal should be endorsed at the next Council meeting, to be held in at the lUCr

Congress in Geneva in 2002. It was also noted that it may be necessary to make minor changes to the Constitution of the Association to incorporate this process. Proposals for such a change would be brought to the next Council meeting.

9.       Election of Next **AsCA** Executive: The President proposed that Professor Yu Wang be nominated for the Presidency at the next Council meeting. He also indicated that he would like to see nominations for office holders discussed extensively prior to the election of officers so that a consensus view could be reached. It was pointed out that elections for the Executive Committee and for other positions such as the Chair of AsCA Organising and Programme Committees could be and often were held as allowed for in the Constitution, if a consensus view could not be reached. Other nominations for the Presidency and other executive positions should therefore be discussed, preferably by electronic mail, between Councillors prior to the next meeting.

It was also pointed out that it would be preferable to have some degree of continuity in the executive, so that knowledge of procedures and processes of the organisation can be maintained. It was suggested that such continuity could be achieved if the elected Vice President assumed the role of President after a three-year term. If this change were to be adopted, elections would be required only for the positions of Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. It was agreed that Section 4 of the Constitution of the Association should be reviewed before the next Council meeting, with a view to establishing such continuity. Councillors should discuss proposals concerning such constitutional changes before the next meeting.

10.**Location ofAsCA'04:** It was proposed that the next AsCA meeting, AsCA'04, be held in Hong Kong, China. Representatives from Hong Kong indicated that they were still anxious to hold the meeting but that there would be logistical problems if the meeting were to be held at the traditional times of October-November. In discussion it was agreed that the Association needed to be flexible over the meeting time as it was clearly impossible to pick an ideal time that suited all participants. It was proposed that representatives from Hong Kong provide Councillors with a detailed proposal with dates and a venue for the conference before the next Council meeting. A final decision will then be taken in Geneva.

11.     New**AsCA Council Member:** The application from crystallographers in Mongolia for their country to join the Association was **approved** unanimously.

12.**Other** Business: the President reported that Japan was to make another bid to host the lUCr Congress in 2008. It was suggested that member countries strongly support this venue, as this would be the first Congress to be held in the AsCA region.

Meeting closed at 2:00.