

Report on the New Framework of Science Council of Asia (SCA)

June, 2010

The New Framework Examination Committee
Science Council of Asia (SCA)

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Preface

With the purposes of expanding collaborative academic researches and academic corporations in the Asian region, the Science Council of Asia (SCA) was established in the year of 2000 with the ten member countries consisting of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. After then, Mongolia joined in 2004. Therefore, currently SCA consists of 19 organizations from 11 member countries, with setting up its secretariat at the Science Council of Japan (SCJ).

In order for achieving its presumed goals, SCA has been actively developing its activities such as academic symposia, joint projects, workshops and others; and then by delivering the results of those activities not only to the Asian region but also other regions, it has been highly evaluated in many areas. (Reference 1 & Reference 2)

Under those circumstances, as almost ten years have passed since its establishment, more voices have been raised for requesting SCA to comprehensively examine its new frameworks for its future in order for SCA to keep fully satisfying expectations as an academic organization representing the Asian region. About what the future SCA should be, during the 7th SCA Conference held at the Okinawa Island (Japan) in the year 2007, the joint-statement “The Future of the SCA” (Attachment 1) was adopted; then, based on this statement, “The First Strategic Plan of SCA” (Attachment 2) was approved during the 8th SCA Conference held in China in 2008. In the following year or in 2009, per the plan, the New Framework Examination Committee” (Attachment 3) was launched during the 9th SCA conference held in Singapore, where constructive and vigorous discussions have been made.

The results of the deliberations were compiled as proposals and then distributed to the SCA member countries in November 2009, in order to invite their opinions and comments. Based on the responses received, a draft of “the Report on the New Framework of Science Council of Asia (SCA)” was drawn up. The draft of the report will be submitted to the Management Board meeting, and then to the General Assembly meeting at the 10th Science Council of Asia (to be held in the Philippines).

I. Improvement of Efficiency of Governances (Meetings and Terms of Officers)

○ Aspects to be Improved:

- As General Assembly and Management Board have every year been held almost sequentially (in the) same day at a SCA Conference, most of the items of the agendas have been duplicated between the two meetings. Moreover, as all of the Management Board members are also representing General Assembly, significant overlapping has been seen in the members of the two meetings.
- Many international academic organizations hold their general assembly meetings once in a few years with holding their management board meetings once or twice a year (as for the assembling frequency, for example, ICSU, IAP and FASAS hold their general assembly meetings once in three years, AASA once in two years, PSA once in four years).
- The terms of the SCA officers are currently one year between a General Assembly and the subsequent one. SCA President is to be elected from among the representatives of the hosting country of the General Assembly that is convened by the member countries by turns, and SCA President-Elect is to be elected from among those of the SCA member country to hold the General Assembly in the following year. As the term of SCA presidency is only one year, it is not always ensured that SCA presidents have enough time to acquire full understanding of the SCA activities, in many cases, resulting in simple following of the previous examples.

○ Proposals for Reform:

The burdens on each SCA country should be reduced by the ways mentioned below.

1. General Assembly

- SCA should hold its General Assembly once in two years, which each member country should be the host in turn.

2. Management Board

- SCA should hold its Management Board at least once a year.
- Besides the occasions when a General Assembly is to be held, in principle, Management Boards should be held in Japan where the Secretariat is located.

3. Terms of Officers

- The terms of the officers should be altered to two years in accordance with the shift of the frequency to hold General Assemblies to once in two years.

II. Establishment of Self-supportive Financial Basis

○ Aspects to be Improved:

- Currently SCA has not introduced any member fee system, leading that nothing has been clearly stipulated about its income and expenditures (Article 33, By-laws of the Science Council of Asia) (Attachment 4). Because of this reason, each SCA activity has been respectively run by financial contributions and/or voluntary services provided by the relevant member countries. However, the exceptions among the costs to hold General Assemblies, Management Boards and committees appointed by Management Boards are those of conference facilities and receptions, which SCJ shall bear (Article 30, By-laws of the Science Council of Asia) (Attachment 4), in addition to those for the maintenance and operations of the Secretariat, which also SCJ shall bear (Article 31, By-laws of the Science Council of Asia) (Attachment 4). Besides those, each member country bears other costs, especially when it needs to be the host country; still, based on the view-point of equal partnership among the member countries, it should be appropriate that each member country should share the costs.
- However, when considering the financial situations and others of each member country, it might be suitable to restrain the costs for General Assembly by improving the efficiency of the meeting. (Please refer to the item I. Improvement of Efficiency of Governances (Meetings and Terms of Officers))).

○ Proposals for Reform:

1. Share of the Expenditures for General Assembly and Management Board
 - On the basis of equal partnership among the member countries, the costs for holding General Assembly and those for receptions should be changed to be borne by the host country, after improving efficiency of the meeting.
 - The costs for holding Management Board should be borne by the host country.
2. Expansion of Activities by Member Initiatives
 - Besides General Assembly and Management Board, SCA should expand its activities (i.e. Symposiums, seminars, and others), which should be run by member initiatives, while considering any situations of member countries. (Please refer to the item III. Further Stimulation of Activities)).
3. Introduction of Support from Public and Private Institutions
 - As for the costs for stimulating its activities and others, SCA should examine what should be the relevant organization, which makes it easier for SCA to introduce/accept aids/funds from public and private institutions.
4. Introduction of Members Fee System
 - In order to stabilize its financial basis, SCA should keep examining the possibility to introduce a member fee system.

III. Further Stimulation of Activities

○ Aspects to be Improved:

- Currently, the most of the SCA activities are those to be held during the General Assemblies; therefore, (even at the other opportunities), further activities, especially those launched by the members' initiatives, are to be desired.
- Even if any appropriate proposals and others for major themes/problems

pertinent to the Asian region are announced through SCA activities, SCA has been not sufficiently taking care of the phases for reflecting those widely to the activities of the general public.

- Since its establishment in May 2000, Mongolia was the only country that newly joined SCA in addition to the founding members (it was admitted in 2004). Other SCA members are those joined SCA in succession to the membership of ACSC (the Asian Conference on Scientific Cooperation), which was the predecessor of SCA. Then, when considering that the situations of science and technology of the non-SCA member countries in the Asian region have been advanced since then, it should be necessary that SCA makes some approaches for expanding its membership.
- Up to the present, SCA has not always been sufficiently working together with other international academic organizations with Asian academic memberships (for example, AASA (Association of Academies of Sciences of Asia) and FASAS (Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies)), as well as those with global academic memberships (for example, ICSU (International Council for Sciences) and IAP (InterAcademy Panel on International Issues)).

○ Proposals for Reform:

1. Expansion of Activities by Member Initiatives

- The SCA member countries should, other than hosting General Assemblies in turn, make some efforts to further actively carry out SCA activities, for example, hosting international symposia, seminars, and others in collaboration with-SCA.

2. Stimulation of SCA Projects

- For further stimulating SCA activities, activation of the SCA projects which consist of the core of SCA activities is the matter of the most importance. For this, SCA should examine SCA projects as they ought to be from the aspects including selection of themes and collaboration with international organizations, in order to make SCA member countries drive

more positively SCA projects with their initiatives.

3. Expansion of Member Countries

- The SCA member countries should try to introduce SCA activities to the non-SCA member Asian countries and encourage them to join SCA.
- However, as for enlargement of the SCA membership, SCA should consider the regional composition of the enlargement. Based on the principle at its establishment, SCA should examine the appropriate regional composition of the membership enlargement in order for developing well-organized and closely-knit regional collaboration.

4. Collaboration with Other International Academic Organizations

- While adhering to the SCA principle at its establishment, SCA should thoroughly examine any collaboration with other international academic organizations with the Asian memberships (for example, AASA (Association of Academies of Sciences of Asia) and FASAS (Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies)) on not only the short-term basis, but also the middle- and long-term basis, and then promote them, if appropriate.
- When collaborating with other international academic organizations with the Asian memberships, SCA, by fully considering the differences in the principles, proposals, and activities of the others, should make/proceed collaboration in the way where every party will be able to enjoy the merits.

5. Collaboration with International Aid Organizations

- SCA is running its science-and-technology-related projects for major problems common in the Asian region, which are to be addressed urgently. In order for making the fruits of those projects directly contribute to developments of the Asian region, SCA should promote collaboration/cooperation with many international aid organizations (i.e. JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), ADB (Asian Development Bank)); and then examine the substantial possibilities (for its contributions) from the academic viewpoints.

- For example, while actively making recommendations and/or suggestions based on the products of the SCA activities toward international aid organizations, SCA should strengthen its collaboration/cooperation with them by making policy proposals, introducing relevant human resources who will be able to contribute to their activities and others, in response to information and requests of those organizations and others.

6. Plan Review of Official Announcement of Joint-Statement,

Recommendations and Others

- In order to fully reflect the SCA activities to the public in general, SCA should examine the ways to indicate its intention in the forms of, for example, joint-statements about many issues relating to sciences and technologies in the Asian region

List of SCA Joint Projects

June 19th, 2009

[New SCA Joint Projects (based on the SCA Joint Statement “Future of the SCA”)]

No.	Proposed	Authorized	Workshop	Presentation in GA	Country	Title	Proposers	Remarks
1	8 th SCA, 2008	8 th SCA, 2008		2008	China	Open Data and Knowledge Environment for Innovative Research on Poverty Free and Ecosystem Protection in Asia (ODKE)	Liu Chuang (CAS) Pakorn Apaphant (GISTDA, Thailand)	Progress Reported, 2009
2	8 th SCA, 2008	8 th SCA, 2008	2008 2009	2008	Japan	Sustainable Water Resources Management in Asia	Shinichiro Ohgaki (SCJ)	
3	8 th SCA, 2008	8 th SCA, 2008	2008 2009	2008	Japan	Action Plans for Natural Disaster Mitigation	Kenji Satake (SCJ)	

[SCA Joint Projects (proposed before 2007)]

No.	Proposed	Authorized	Workshop	Presentation in GA	Country	Title	Proposers	Remarks
1	3 rd SCA, 2003	5 th SCA, 2005	2006 2007 2008 2009		Japan	A Comparative Study of the Research Conditions of Women Scientists and the Present States of Women's/Gender Studies in Asian Countries Towards the Sustainable Development	Sjamsiah Achmad (LIPI) Hiroko Hara (SCJ)	Progress Reported, 2006 (Interim report in 2006) Reported, 2007 (Interim report in 2007)
2	3 rd SCA, 2003				Indonesia	Comparative Study on Gender Perspective in Science and Technology Policy	Sjamsiah Achmad (LIPI) Achie Sudiarti Luhulima (LIPI) Wati Hermawati (LIPI)	Progress Reported, 2004
3	3 rd SCA, 2003	5 th SCA, 2005	2006 2007 2008		Japan	Management of Sustainable Aquatic Environment	Tetsuya Kusuda (SCJ), Tadashi Yamada (SCJ), Kazuo Nadaoka (SCJ), Naoyuki Funamizu (SCJ)	Progress Reported, 2006
4	5 th SCA 2005				Japan	Coastal Ecosystems Response to Climate Change and Human Impact in the Asia-Pacific Region (CERCCHI Project)	Kazuo Nadaoka (SCJ)	

[SCA Joint Projects (proposed before 2007)]

No.	Proposed	Authorized	Workshop	Presentation in GA	Country	Title	Proposers	Remarks
5	3 rd SCA, 2003		2006 2007 2008 2009		Japan	International Cooperation for the Safety of Maritime Navigation in Asia	Tadao Kuribayashi (SCJ)	Progress Reported, 2004
6	5 th SCA 2005			2006 2007 2008	Malaysia	Sustainability Science for Sustainability Governance: A Study on science –governance symbioses	Ibrahim Komoo (LESTARI) Mohd. Nordin Hasan (ASM) Mazlin Bin Mokhtar (LESTARI)	Progress Reported 2009
7	7 th SCA 2007	7 th SCA 2007	2008 2009	2007	Japan	Genomics-based comparative analyses of gene expression of wild Asian honeybees for improving European domestic honeybees	Kiyoshi Kimura (SCJ)	
8	7 th SCA 2007	7 th SCA 2007	2009	2007 2008	Japan	Space and Lithosphere Environment Changes in Indonesia	Kiyofumi Yumoto (SCJ) Katsumi Hattori (SCJ)	
9	7 th SCA 2007	7 th SCA 2007		2007	Japan	Institutional Design of Global Information Commons for Asia	Shuichi Iwata (SCJ) Krishan Lal (INSA) Yan Baoping (CAS)	

[Final Report Submitted]

No.	Proposed	Authorized	Workshop	Presentation in GA	Country	Title	Proposers	Remarks
1	1 st SCA, 2001	1 st SCA, 2001			Malaysia	Sustainability Science	Omar Abdul Rahman (ASM)	

List of SCA Joint Statement

October 05th, 2009

No.	When proposed and adopted	City/Country	Date of conference	Title of Joint Statement	Links to the Joint Statement	Remarks
1	8 th SCA, 2008	Qingdao, China	28–30 May, 2008	Joint Statement by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), the Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS) and the Science Council of Asia (SCA) to the G8 on the role of science, technology and innovation in promoting global development	http://www.scj.go.jp/en/sca/pdf/js.pdf	
2	7 th SCA, 2008	Okinawa, Japan	14–16 June, 2008	The 7 th Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference Joint Statement on Energy and Environment	http://www.scj.go.jp/ja/int/sca/energy.pdf	
3	7 th SCA, 2008	Okinawa, Japan	14–16 June, 2008	The 7 th Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference Joint Statement on the Future of the SCA	http://www.scj.go.jp/ja/int/sca/future.pdf	

The 7th Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference Joint Statement on the Future of the SCA

Preamble

In cooperation with each member, we experienced six SCA conferences to date, starting the 1st Conference in Bangkok 2001. We, the members of the SCA convened in Okinawa, Japan on 14-15 June 2007 to hold the 7th SCA Conference, recognized that it is now time to take further steps to build up the SCA activities along the “Objectives of the SCA” for the benefit of our respective members. Recognizing that this significant step will eventually enable us more to bring scientific insight and knowledge into the policy making process and promote closer ties among member countries, we affirm the following as the shared view of all participants of the conference.

Concrete Action for the Future of the SCA

1. We reaffirm the “Objectives of the SCA” and focus on improving the function of each member, making reports on issues of Asian countries’ common concerns and submitting them in the form of recommendations to policy makers.
2. We adopt a three-year strategic plan for the SCA activity, if possible, at the 8th Conference in China next year.
3. We set up new joint SCA projects in the future on problems of great urgency by putting more emphasis on members’ needs. The themes might be “energy,” “climate change,” “water,” “innovation,” “information,” “agriculture,” “food,” “natural disaster,” “biodiversity” and “improvement of the member function in Asia.” One or two themes are chosen every year on a resolution of the General Assembly, and the reports are published to the governments, persons related to academies, media etc. after the completion of the project(s). Every project should be reviewed every 2 years. Also existing projects should be reviewed as well.
4. We build collaboration with the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, proposed by our Malaysian colleague, Prof. Nordin Hasan, member of the Management Board of the SCA and Director of the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
5. We continue our effort to pursue ways of facilitating solid financial basis so that we can provide the financial support for the above mentioned projects, including the use of financial support available from both public and private sectors.



First Strategic Plan of the Science Council of Asia
(From the End of the 2008 Conference until the 2011 Conference)
30th MAY 2008

Based on the Seventh Science Council of Asia Conference's Joint Statement, The Future of the SCA (hereafter "Future of the SCA"), the SCA shall establish a strategic plan for the SCA activity, as described below, for the three years from the end of the 2008 Conference until the 2011 Conference (hereafter "Duration of the First Strategic Plan") to more effectively achieve the purposes in I below.

I Objectives of the SCA (according to 2. of the Statutes of the Science Council of Asia)

- 1 To provide scientists in all fields, including cultural and social as well as natural sciences and technology, a collaborative platform for promoting scientific exchange and cooperation in Asia for the improvement of human society.
- 2 To develop and promote a holistic vision by integrating the emerging advances in science and technology with Asian wisdom, values and heritage, focusing on sustainable development and improvement in quality of life.

II Initiatives to Date

Following the First Conference of the Science Council of Asia, held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2001 under the theme of "Urgent Agenda for Asian Sustainability through Science and Technology," there have been a total of eight conferences up to the conference in May 2008 in Qingdao, China on the theme of "Sustainable Development on Marine Resources and Environment." In line with the objectives in the aforementioned I, beneficial discussion and recommendations from a scientific standpoint have been offered on various important issues encompassing Asia. In addition, member organizations have collaborated to launch a large number of joint research projects.

Among them, "Sustainability Science in Asia" issued its final report in June 2005. The projects "A Comparative Study of the Research Conditions of Women Scientists and the Present States of Women's/Gender Studies' in Asian Countries Towards the Sustainable Development," as well as "Recommendation for International Collaboration on Natural Hazard Reduction" each issued interim reports in March 2006. These reports presented highly useful recommendations not only for member

organizations, but also for Asia and in turn, the world.

At the Seventh Conference held in Okinawa, Japan in June 2007, two joint statements were adopted on the themes of “Energy and Environment” and “The Future of the SCA.” As part of the “Concrete Action for the Future of the SCA,” the latter states, “We adopt a three-year strategic plan for the SCA activity and aim to resolve at the Eighth Conference in China next year.”

III Principles of Activity for the Duration of the First Strategic Plan

During the Duration of the First Strategic Plan and based on the initiatives undertaken to date in the aforementioned II, the SCA fully recognizes the increasing gravity of a variety of major issues that encompass our world today, including climate change, energy, poverty and infectious diseases. We shall actively develop our activities in order to fulfill our role as an international scientific society representing Asia, selecting for targeted examination pressing issues in Asia that are closely connected to these global issues and offering befitting intellectual integration as well as intellectual recommendations.

IV Main Activities for the Duration of the First Strategic Plan

Based on I to III above, the main activities of the SCA for the Duration of the First Strategic Plan shall be as follows.

1 Holding of conferences and other meetings, etc.

- (1) Conferences shall be held in Singapore in 2009, in the Philippines in 2010, and in Mongolia in 2011.
- (2) At each conference, the host country shall take the lead in striving for adoption of a joint statement of the SCA based on the theme of the conference.

2 Further Promotion of Joint Research Projects

- (1) Based on “The Future of the SCA,” we shall continue to actively launch new joint research projects on themes that are urgent issues in Asian countries, namely energy, climate change, innovation, information, agriculture, food, natural disasters, biodiversity, and the functional enhancement of member organizations in Asia. The Management Board shall lead selection of new joint research projects, with one or two themes adopted annually by a resolution of the General Assembly based on “The Future of the SCA.” Reports shall be

provided to persons affiliated with governments and academia, the media and other relevant parties of each country.

- (2) Based on “The Future of the SCA,” new joint research projects in (1) above shall make reports every two years to the General Assembly, and other ongoing projects shall in principle make reports annually to the General Assembly.
- (3) In principle, new joint research projects in (1) above as well as ongoing research projects in (2) above shall submit a final report and conclude the project within three years of the project launch.

3 Recommendations on Activity Results to Policy Decision Makers in Each Country

Member organizations shall endeavor to make appropriate reports and recommendations on SCA results during the Duration of the First Strategic Plan to the policy decision makers of each country.

4 Examination of New SCA Framework

The 2011 Conference will mark the 11th Conference since the inception of the SCA. Each member country will have hosted one Conference and the Duration of the First Strategic Plan will come to a close, representing a juncture for the current organization and its governance as per its financial foundation and other matters. Following the 2011 Conference, however, expectations of the SCA and its role will only grow. To satisfactorily meet these expectations as an international scientific organization representing Asia, reinforcement and reform of our organization and framework, including our financial foundation will be essential.

Therefore, we shall begin examination of the new framework necessary for the SCA to achieve further development. We shall reach an agreement at the 2011 Conference, if possible. In order to conduct this examination, the SCA shall establish the “New Framework Examination Committee” (tentative name) in 2008 under the Management Board, according to 9. (1) of the Statutes of the SCA. Furthermore, this committee shall also examine ways to use economic assistance from public and private institutions, based on “The Future of the SCA.”

5 Enhanced International Collaboration

The SCA shall strive to establish various cooperative frameworks with other international organizations, including the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

6 Review of the First Strategic Plan

Results of the First Strategic Plan shall be announced at the 2010 Conference and the status of progress and other issues shall be discussed.

V Division of Roles for the Duration of the First Strategic Plan

For the SCA to efficiently and effectively conduct the activities listed in IV above, each organization shall sufficiently fulfill the roles described below in coordination with the Secretariat.

1 Roles of the Chairing Country (Host country of the next conference)

Take responsibility in preparing appropriate theme proposals, program proposals and statement proposals for the conference.

2 Roles of the Committee under the Managing Board

The New Framework Examination Committee shall compile its examination results before the end of 2009. The committee shall submit a report to the Management Board. The committee shall also take responsibility in collecting the relevant information and ensuring its provision to member organizations.

3 Roles of the Management Board

The Management Board shall receive report from the committee on their examination results mentioned in 2 above and promptly create a Management Board proposal. The Management Board shall submit a resolution at the 2010 Conference for the new framework and aim to reach a determination on these resolutions at the 2011 Conference.

4 Roles of Member Organizations Other than 1-3 Above

Member organizations other than those included in 1-3 above shall reconfirm the objectives of the SCA and actively undertake activities positively based on the First Strategic Plan.

*The 9th SCA Conference in Singapore***Summary of the first New Framework Examination Committee**

1. Name of the meeting: The 1st New Framework Examination Committee
2. Date of the meeting: 18th June, 2009 14:00 – 15:00
3. Participants:

<u>China:</u>	Prof. Feng Changgen, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) (for Mr. Liang Yingnan, current NFEC member of China)
<u>India:</u>	Dr. Ranjit Sinha, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
<u>Indonesia:</u>	Prof. Rochadi Abdulhadi, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)
<u>Japan:</u>	Prof. Yoichi Muraoka, Science Council of Japan (SCJ)
<u>Republic of Korea:</u>	Prof. Hyun Uk Kim, National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
<u>Malaysia:</u>	Mr. Nasaruddin Rahman, Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) (for Prof. Mohd Nordin Hasan, current NFEC member of Malaysia)
<u>Mongolia:</u>	Prof. B. Chadraa, Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS)
<u>The Philippines:</u>	Dr. Napoleon P. Hernandez, National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP)
<u>Singapore:</u>	Prof. Hong Wanjin, Agency for Sciences, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and President (SCA) Mr. Andrew Fun, Agency for Sciences, Technology and Research (A*STAR)
<u>Thailand:</u>	Assoc. Prof. Tipaporn Limpaseni, Science Society of Thailand (SST)
<u>Vietnam <apology for absent>:</u>	Mrs. Tran Thi Oanh, Ministry of Health (MOH) : Observing only (for Mr. Hoang Van Sinh, current NFEC member of Vietnam)
<u>SCA/SCJ Secretariat:</u>	Mr. Masatoshi Tsunaki, Mr. Taiji Harashima, and Ms. Noriko Nakamura

4. Venue: Room Bluebird (the 4th Floor), Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore
5. Summary of the meeting:

The Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting is only to collect opinions, views and suggestions from the SCA member academies on the proposals made by the Science Council of Japan. Those summaries of the proposals are as followed:

1. After 2011 when all of the SCA member countries will have contributed to SCA in terms of hosting at least one SCA conference, SCJ would like to shift its contribution, from bearing the expenses for the venues of the GA, MB and workshops, to bearing those for expediting the SCA activities.
2. Instead, as a condition of decreasing the frequency of holding SCA general assembly meeting from once a year to once in a couple of years, SCJ would like to ask the SCA member countries to bear the expenditures to hold a SCA general assembly meeting in their individual countries.

Major opinions, views and suggestions:**1. Vitalization of SCA Activities**

- We hope that SCA would be continued in the years ahead.
- We agree on transforming SCA toward its new framework (after 2011).
- SCA should get a new perspective of collaborative activities with other international

academic organizations.

- (SCA should vitalize its activities.)
- (SCA should publicize its activities more through public relations.)
- We should need to review SCA through the key aspects like visions, purposes, new plans for activities, long-term strategic plans and others.
- Through better use of the public relation tools such as SCA web-site, communications among the SCA members will be facilitated while sharing updated information about SCA activities, WS policies and others, and some new financial resources will be discovered.
- SCA members should actively participate in SCA projects and take their full responsibilities until they submit the final reports.
- It might be an idea to add some new SCA memberships. But for this purpose, SCA should be altered to be beneficial for its members.
- Introducing associate membership, as some other international academic organizations do can be an option.

2. Efficient Operation of SCA Conferences

- As SCA was originally launched by SCJ, we hope that SCJ continues to be the SCA Secretariat.
- SCA members would take turns at taking part of the SCA Secretariat.
- It might be an alternative that a SCA member who will be happy to play a role of the SCA Secretariat would voluntarily undertake the tasks.
- If a SCA member country takes turn at holding a SCA general assembly meeting, the prerequisites and the relevant expenditures should be specified. This helps the SCA members find if the organization affords the costs or not and also helps clarify the responsibilities of the host organization.
- We agree that by holding a SCA general assembly once in two or three years, like those done by other international academic organizations, as we believe this will result in cutting down of the costs.
- It might be a possibility to reduce the costs for SCA projects by launching them with plural SCA members.

3. Building a Self-Independent Financial Platform

- We hope that SCJ would kindly continue to provide its financial support for holding the SCA conferences.
- We agree that member academies will bear and afford the costs to hold a SCA general assembly meeting in their individual countries, and the money from SCJ will be used to cover those for other SCA events.
- We shall provide relevant support for some SCA members when they will not afford the expenditures to hold a SCA general assembly meeting.
- We shall find some funds for SCA besides those from the governments of the SCA member countries.
- We hope that SCJ will make even greater effort to appeal to the Japanese government to secure the funds for SCA.
- Currently, financial circumstances of each SCA member are not in a good shape. Still the three oriental nations will recover faster than others.

- We should find new financial resources and review the SCA plans, for example, by launching a committee to find new financial resources as a special project.
- We should identify thoroughly again items to finance and their costs.
- It might be an idea to introduce a membership-fee system to SCA like other international academic organizations do, and while considering the financial situations of each SCA member country.

Statutes of the Science Council of Asia (SCA)

Approved on May 14, 2000
Revised on May 9, 2001
Revised on May 13, 2002
Revised on May 13, 2003
Revised on June 16, 2009

Name and Status

1. The Science Council of Asia, hereinafter called the SCA or the Council, is an international and non-profit organization constituted by the voluntary cooperation, initially, of the following Asian countries: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Objectives

2. The objectives of the SCA are:
 - (1) to provide scientists in all fields, including cultural and social as well as natural sciences and technology, a collaborative platform for promoting scientific exchange and cooperation in Asia for the improvement of human society, and,
 - (2) to develop and promote a holistic vision by integrating the emerging advances in science and technology with Asian wisdom, values and heritage, focusing on sustainable development and improvement in quality of life.

Activities

3. To be beneficial to organizations concerned in each country according to these objectives, the SCA may:
 - (1) identify and examine issues of mutual interest in Asia for evolving proposals for action by related agencies and international bodies;
 - (2) obtain information needed for all activities of the SCA and disseminate it widely;
 - (3) cooperate with academic communities in Asian countries and international scientific and technological organizations and others devoted to the promotion of excellence and cooperation;
 - (4) provide expert opinion/informed advice on scientific issues;
 - (5) convene the annual General Assembly (the Assembly), meetings of the Management Board (the Board), conferences, symposia and others.

Membership

4. Membership of the SCA shall consist of eligible organizations from the SCA countries.
 - (1) A maximum of three organizations in each country may be admitted as members, but at least one organization shall be preferably a government/public sector organization.
 - (2) An eligible organization is defined as one involved in cultural, social, and/or natural sciences and technology, as well as other disciplines relevant to the objectives of the SCA.
 - (3) The SCA welcomes the participation of international, regional or national organizations of cultural, social and/or natural sciences and technology who are interested in its activities as observers.

Organization

5.
 - (1) The total membership shall constitute the Council (SCA).
 - (2) The Council (SCA) shall be governed by a Management Board consisting of one designated representative from each of the SCA countries. (The designated representative must come from a member organization of the SCA in the country.) and of a Secretary General/Treasurer stated under Article 7.
 - (3) Membership of the Board shall not exceed 15.

Meetings

6. (1) The Council shall meet as a body in a General Assembly consisting of designated representatives from each of the SCA countries once a year. (The designated representative must come from a member organization of the SCA in the country.)
- (2) The Board shall meet at least once a year, at the time of the General Assembly or as necessary.

Secretariat

7. A Secretariat shall be established at the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) which shall assist the work of the Council and the Board. The Secretariat shall be led by the Secretary General/Treasurer.

Functions of the General Assembly

8. The Council at its annual General Assembly shall:
 - (1) elect from among the members of the General Assembly, a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary General/Treasurer;
 - (2) approve the amendments of the Statutes and By-laws;
 - (3) receive the annual report and statement of accounts from the Board;
 - (4) determine the host country for the Assembly and the meeting of the Board;
 - (5) decide on each application for membership;
 - (6) make decision by consensus of the members present.

Functions of the Board

9. The Board shall:
 - (1) constitute such committees as necessary to assist it in carrying out its functions;
 - (2) formulate rules and regulations;
 - (3) prepare the action plan and the budget of the SCA;
 - (4) review past activities;
 - (5) approve any proposals/statements prior to dissemination;
 - (6) make decision by consensus of the members present.

Finance

10. The necessary expenditures of the SCA shall be shared among SCJ, the host country and delegates as stated in the By-laws.

By-laws of the Science Council of Asia (SCA)

Approved on May 14, 2000
Revised on May 9, 2001
Revised on May 13, 2002
Revised on May 13, 2003
Revised on May 13, 2004
Revised on June 17, 2009

Memberships, General Assembly, Management Board, Finance and Amendment

Founding membership

1. The SCA shall have 10 founding member countries, namely China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.
2. Each founding member country shall nominate no more than two eligible organizations as founding member organizations of the SCA. At least one of the organizations shall be a government/public sector organization.
3. Each founding member country shall nominate two representatives from the founding member organization(s) to serve as members of the pro tem General Assembly.
4. Each founding member country shall nominate one of their representatives in the pro tem General Assembly to serve as a member of the pro tem Management Board.
5. The chairperson of the Asian Conference on Scientific Cooperation (ACSC) shall preside over the first meeting of the pro tem General Assembly to elect from the pro tem Management Board the following officers: a pro tem President, a pro tem Vice President/President-Elect and a pro tem Secretary General/Treasurer. The pro tem President shall be from the host country of the first General Assembly and the pro tem Vice President/President-Elect shall be from the host country of the second General Assembly. The pro tem Secretary General/Treasurer shall be from Japan. The officers shall conduct the subsequent meetings of the pro tem Board and the pro tem General Assembly.
6. The pro tem General Assembly shall ratify by consensus of the members present the Statutes of the SCA and the By-laws proposed by the pro tem Management Board. After the approval, the pro tem General Assembly shall become the founding General Assembly, the pro tem Management Board shall become the founding Management Board and the officers shall become founding President, founding Vice President/President-Elect and founding Secretary General/Treasurer.
7. The founding General Assembly may approve by consensus of the members present additional eligible organization(s) which may be proposed by a founding member country. There shall be no more than 3 member organizations from each member country.
8. The founding Management Board and the founding President shall serve up to the end of the first General Assembly. The founding Vice President/President-Elect will become President at the end of the first General Assembly. The founding Secretary General/Treasurer will serve until membership fee is introduced into the finances of the SCA.

Country membership

9. A founding member country may nominate only one Asian country per year to an annual General Assembly for consideration to be admitted into the SCA. Prior to the consideration, each nomination must be seconded by another founding member country.
10. A nominated country shall become a member country of the SCA after gaining consensus approval of the members present in the General Assembly. A new member country shall nominate its organizations and representatives to participate as members in the General Assembly and as a member of the Managing Board according to the conditions stated in "Organization membership and General Assembly" and "Management Board".
11. The membership of a member country of the SCA shall cease after it is absent from three consecutive meetings of the General Assembly. If the SCA has 5 member countries or less, it shall be disbanded.
12. Renewal of country membership shall require the nomination and approval stated in Articles 9 and 10 above.

Organization membership and General Assembly

13. A member country shall propose no more than three eligible organizations, at least one of which shall be preferably a government/public sector organization, to the General Assembly for approval as member organizations which shall represent the member country in the General Assembly.
14. A member country shall nominate no more than three representatives, one of which must be a member of the Management Board, from its member organizations to serve as members of the General Assembly. More than one representative may be nominated from one organization.
15. If a member country terminates its membership of the SCA, all organizations of the country shall cease to be present in the General Assembly.
16. A member country may propose international, regional or national organizations of cultural, social and/or natural sciences and technology, who are interested in the SCA's activities, to the Management Board for approval as observers in the General Assembly.
17. The General Assembly shall make decision by consensus of members present. In election of members of the Management Board, each member country shall have one vote in the General Assembly.
18. The General Assembly shall meet once a year. Between meetings, the General Assembly shall carry out its functions by correspondence.

Management Board

19. A member country shall nominate one representative from its member organizations to serve as a member of the Management Board. The Management Board shall have no more than 15 members.
20. The General Assembly shall elect the members of the Management Board when the SCA has more than 15 member countries.

Officers

21. The officers consist of a President, a Vice President/President-Elect, a Secretary General/Treasurer, and an Immediate-Past President stated in the following clause. The President shall be the Management Board member of the host country of the SCA annual General Assembly, and the Vice President/President-Elect shall be the Management Board member of the host country of the following SCA annual General Assembly.
22. The president upon completing his/her term shall continue to serve on the Management Board as an officer (the Immediate Past President) until the end of the next annual General Assembly.

Term

23. The members of the Management Board, except the officers, shall normally serve a term of two years. Each term starts at the end of an annual General Assembly and spans two consecutive annual General Assemblies. The officers shall serve from the end of an annual General Assembly in which they are elected up to the end of next annual General Assembly.
24. In the event that a representative of a member country does not complete his/her term as a member of the Management Board, the member country shall provide a replacement. The replacement shall serve the remainder of the existing term. If the representative is serving as an officer, the replacement provided must be approved by the General Assembly within 60 days
25. In the event that an officer does not complete his/her term as officer but remains as a member of the Management Board, the General Assembly shall elect another member of the Management Board to take his/her position within 60 days. The replacement shall serve the remainder of the existing term.

26. Until the replacement of an officer has been approved by the General Assembly, the President may ask a member of the Management Board to serve as an acting officer. If the position of President remains unfilled, the Vice President/President-Elect, the Immediate Past President or the Secretary General/Treasurer, in that order, shall serve as Acting President. If the position of the President and other officer(s) remains unfilled, the Acting President may invite member(s) of the Management Board to serve as acting officer(s). If all four positions are vacant, the oldest member of the Management Board shall become Acting President and may invite other members of the Management Board to be other acting officers. The acting officers shall serve up to the time new officers are approved by the General Assembly.

Meeting guidelines

27. A meeting of the General Assembly or the Management Board shall require the presence of at least half of the members. If less than half of the members attend a meeting, the chairperson's summary of the meeting shall be sent within 30 days to the absent members before any decision taken in the meeting shall be implemented.
28. Except in case of the annual General Assembly and annual Management Board meeting specified in the Statutes, all other business can be conducted by correspondence. In all meetings, decision will be made by consensus of the members present. Voting will be allowed as stated in Articles 17 and 20 above.

Finance

29. The member countries of the SCA shall begin paying membership fees in the year that it is decided to introduce membership fees into the finances of the SCA by the General Assembly. The Management Board shall propose the membership fee and the necessary amendment of the Statutes and the By-laws to an annual General Assembly one year in advance of the time the membership fee shall be introduced into the SCA.
30. The SCJ shall bear the costs of conference facilities and costs of receptions for holding the Assembly, meeting of the Board, and other committees nominated by the Board. Other costs (communication costs, printing costs, and personnel costs, etc.) shall be borne by Member(s) in the host country. Airfares, accommodation costs and meal costs for the participants shall be borne by the respective organizations to which the participants belong.
31. The expenses for the maintenance and operations of the Secretariat shall be borne by the SCJ.
32. The host country of the General Assembly shall accept donations from international, governmental, public or private donors.
33. The Secretary General/Treasurer shall submit an annual financial report on the income and expenditures from the membership fees to the annual General Assembly after the membership fee is approved by the General Assembly.

Amendment of the Statutes and By-laws

34. A member country or the Management Board, but not a member organization, may submit changes to the Statutes and the By-laws to the President 3 months prior to the next General Assembly. No changes may be made without the consensus approval of the annual General Assembly.