

Chairperson's Summary

The First Conference of the Science Council of Asia May 9 – 11, 2001 Bangkok

1. The Science Council of Asia (SCA) was established during the Conference of the World's Scientific Academies held in May 2000, with the following purposes: exchanging information on the present situation of science among Asian countries; discussing collaboration and cooperation in the field of scientific study in the Asian region, and deepening mutual understanding and trust among scientific researchers in Asia. Need for establishment of the SCA was acknowledged in the Asian Conference on Scientific Cooperation (ACSC), which had met annually since 1993 in Tokyo.
2. The memorable 1st SCA Conference was held at the Sofitel Central Plaza Bangkok in Thailand, from May 9 to 11. Ten member countries, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam participated. As observers, representatives from some international organizations such as the International Council for Science (ICSU), InterAcademy Council (IAC), Pacific Science Association (PSA), and Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies (FASAS) attended the Conference. The main theme of this Conference was "Urgent Agenda for Asian Sustainability through Science and Technology."
3. On May 10, the Academic Symposium was held on the theme "Urgent Agenda for Asian Sustainability through Science and Technology." At the opening ceremony, His Excellency Mr. Sontaya Kunplome, Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, delivered the opening address, and Prof. Dr. Montri Chulavatnatol, President of the SCA, addressed the conference. Following this, representatives of ICSU and IAC introduced the respective organizations' activities, and put forward their expectations concerning future SCA activities. In the special lectures in the morning, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman, Vice-President of the SCA, gave a presentation entitled "Sustainable Development: A Vision for Asia – a Prosperous, Harmonious and Greener Asia"; Prof. Dr. Gerard Ward, President of PSA, spoke on "Pacific Sustainability", and Prof. Dr. Tetsuzo Yasunari, GEWEX-GAME Chairperson, spoke on "A Prospect of Sustainable Agriculture in Monsoon Asia". In the afternoon panel discussions, member countries presented their approaches for sustainability.
4. At the SCA Management Board meeting and General Assembly conducted on May 9 and 11, the following items were discussed.
 - (1) Modifications in the articles of the Statute and the By-laws of the SCA were approved, as shown in attachments 1 and 2 respectively.
 - (2) Science Society of Thailand was proposed as the third member from Thailand and accepted as a member organization of the SCA.
 - (3) New SCA officers were selected from among the members of the Management Board. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman, President of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), was elected President and Prof. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, Vice-President of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ), continued serving as Secretary General/Treasurer. It was also agreed that Indonesia would nominate a new Vice-President within 1 month and present his/her biodata to the President and members for approval.

- (4) The SCA accepted a common Vision for Asia on Sustainable Development based on a prosperous, harmonious and greener Asia, and a draft resolution accepted in principle subject to modifications as suggested by the General Assembly.
 - (5) Malaysia presented the draft plan of the 2nd SCA conference in Kuala Lumpur in 2002, as shown in attachment 3, which was discussed and several suggestions were made.
 - (a) It was suggested that participants should have enough time for discussions at the Management Board and General Assembly meetings.
 - (b) It was suggested that the next three SCA conferences shall continue to focus on the theme of “Sustainable Development”.
 - (c) Malaysia will anchor the joint SCA project on “Sustainability Science”. Progress of work will be presented at the 2002 conference in Kuala Lumpur.
 - (d) Thailand will anchor the project “Development of Sustainable Development Indicators” and present the progress at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 - (e) It was agreed that member countries would, within three months, submit to the Secretariat country projects for review and adoption by the SCA.
 - (6) It was confirmed that Indonesia would be the host country for the 3rd SCA Conference in 2003. The Republic of Korea was approved as the host of the 4th SCA Conference in 2004.
 - (7) Several policy issues around sustainable development were discussed. There has been much discussion over sustainable development in Europe and North America, but the unique role that SCA can play is in putting the sustainability issue in the Asian context. The importance of collaboration between scholars in natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities was also stressed.
5. The new SCA President and all the members expressed gratitude to Prof. Dr. Montri Chulavatnatol for having successfully accomplished an important mission as the first President. Participants expressed high expectation for the 2nd SCA Conference to be held in Malaysia, and for future SCA activities.

* The attachments are not given here.