

Chairperson's Summary

The Second Conference of the Science Council of Asia May 13 – 15, 2002 Kuala Lumpur

1. The Science Council of Asia (SCA) was established in May 2000, with the following purposes: to exchange information on the current status of science among Asian countries; to promote collaboration and cooperation in a wide range of field of science in the Asian region, and to advance mutual understanding and trust among scientists in Asia. The need for establishment of the SCA was acknowledged in the Asian Conference on Scientific Cooperation (ACSC), which had met annually in Tokyo since 1993.
2. Following the 1st SCA Conference held last May in Bangkok, Thailand, the 2nd SCA Conference was held at the Legend Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 13 to 15, 2002. Nine of ten member countries, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam participated. The Philippines could not attend. As observers, representatives from over 10 international, regional or national organizations attended the Conference. The main theme of this Conference was “Urgent Agenda for Asian Sustainability: Operationalising the Vision.”
3. On May 14, the Academic Conference was held under the main theme. The program was as follows.
 - (1) Opening Ceremony
Following a welcoming address by Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman, President of SCA, the Honorable Dato' Seri Law Hieng Ding, Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment, Malaysia, delivered an opening speech and presented a plaque of the Vision Statement to each SCA member organization present.
 - (2) Session 1
Under the chairpersonship by Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman, President of SCA, the following three keynote addresses were delivered: “Emergence of Bio-age and its Implication for Sustainable Development” by Prof. A. H. Zakri, Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University; “Sustainability Science: A New Paradigm” by Prof. Dr. Mohd Nordin Hassan, Senior Fellow of the Institute for Environment and Development, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; and “World Summit for Sustainable Development and the International Scientific and Technological Community” by Dato' Ir. Lee Yee Cheong, President-Elect, World Federation of Engineering Organizations.
 - (3) Session 2
Under the chairpersonship by Prof. Dr. Montri Chulavatnatol, the Immediate Past President of SCA, the progress reports on two SCA Joint Projects were presented as follows: “Progress Report on Sustainability Science” by Malaysia and “Progress Report on Sustainable Indicators in Thailand” by Thailand.
 - (4) Session 3
Six of eight presentations for consideration for SCA Joint Project were presented, two by Japan, and one each by the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Viet Nam and Indonesia under the chairpersonship by Prof. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, Secretary General/Treasurer of SCA. (See Attachment 1.)

(5) Conference Summary

Dr. Ir. S. Suparka, Vice President/President-Elect of SCA, concluded the Conference under the title “The Next Step Forward.”

4. At the SCA Management Board Meetings and the General Assemblies conducted during May 13 to 15, the following items were discussed.
 - (1) The following items of business, which were approved by correspondences after the 1st SCA Conference, were confirmed: Dr. Ir. S. Suparka of Indonesia to become the Vice President/President-Elect; the Philippine Association of Marine Science to join as a new member organization of SCA from the Philippines; the National Research Council of Thailand to leave from membership; and a change of the name of the National Science and Technology Board, Singapore, to the Agency for Science, Technology and Research.
 - (2) Amendments to the Statutes and the By-laws of SCA were approved, as shown in the attachments 2 and 3, respectively. Amendments include to invite the Immediate Past President as an officer of the Management Board, and to allow the attendants in the General Assembly to a maximum of three persons per country.
 - (3) Indonesia presented the draft plan of the 3rd SCA Conference in Denpasar in May, 2003, and the details of the program will be discussed further.
 - (4) It was confirmed that the Republic of Korea will be the host country for the 4th SCA Conference in 2004, and further, Viet Nam would be the host country for the 5th SCA Conference in 2005 pending approval by the Government of Viet Nam.
 - (5) New SCA officers were elected from among the members of the Management Board. Dr. Ir. S. Suparka, Vice Chairman of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) to the President; Prof. Ho Wang Lee, President of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the Republic of Korea, which will host the 4th SCA Conference, to the Vice President/President-Elect, and Prof. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, Vice President of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) to continue to serve as the Secretary General/Treasurer. In addition, according to the newly modified By-laws, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman, Past President of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) to remain as an officer of the Management Board as the Immediate Past President of SCA.
 - (6) The Management Board approved the second annual report.
 - (7) Some policy issues regarding the future activities of SCA were discussed.
 - (a) “The SCA Resolution on Sustainable Development in Asia” was approved as shown in attachment 4.
 - (b) Two presentations for consideration for SCA Joint Project were presented in the first General Assembly, May 13, and six were presented in Academic Conference as where #3. (4). (See Attachment 1.)
 - (c) Of the eight presentations made at the General Assembly and Academic Conference on 13 and 14 May, several were considered to have the potential to be SCA Joint Project. The Presentation by SCJ on “Collaborative Research in the Field of Hydrology” received strong interest from several MB members as a possible SCA Joint Project. Since SCA is in its early stage of development, it was agreed that SCA should stay focused on the existing two joint projects. However all the presenters should be requested to produce a one-paged prospectus or write up for the information of all member countries, so that if the proposed country projects cannot become joint projects, they can be SCA “shared projects,” a new entity which will be elaborated further.

5. The new SCA President and all the members of the Management Board and those present in the General Assembly expressed gratitude to SCA President, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman, for leading the successful 2nd SCA Conference. Participants expressed high expectation for the 3rd SCA Conference to be held in Indonesia, and for future activities of SCA.

* The attachments are not given here.