

Chairperson's Summary

The Ninth Conference of the Science Council of Asia (SCA) June 17 – 19, 2009 Singapore

I. Organizational Matters

1. The 9th Conference of the Science Council of Asia (SCA) was convened by Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Science Council of Japan (SCJ) at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore from June 17 to 19, 2009, on the theme of “Grooming Scientific Talent in Asia”. During the conference, two sessions of Management Board Meeting, two sessions of General Assembly Meeting and six SCA Joint Project Workshops, as well as two SCA Special Sessions were held at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore.
2. The conference was attended by all eleven member countries: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. As an observer, representatives of the Pacific Science Association (PSA) and French Embassy of Singapore participated in the conference.
3. Management Board meetings, General Assembly meetings and the First New Framework Examination committee (NFEC) were chaired by Prof. Hong Wanjin, Deputy Director of Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB) of A*STAR, President of SCA (2008/2009).

II. Proceedings of the Conference

A. Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speech [June 17]

4. Upon commencement of the conference, a keynote speech on the subject of “Grooming Scientific Talent in Asia” was presented by Mr. Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman of A*STAR.

B. Management Board Meeting I and General Assembly Meeting I [June 17]

5. The amendments on Statutes of the Science Council of Asia (SCA) and By-Laws of the Science Council of Asia (SCA) were approved.
6. The 9th SCA Annual Report was approved.

7. Two of the new SCA Special Sessions, “Pop Culture in Asia: Families in the Films of Asia” and “Grooming Science and Technology Talent”, were proposed and approved.

8. Progress Report of “Open Data and Knowledge Environment for Innovative Research on Poverty Free and Ecosystem Protection in Asia (ODKE)” was presented by Prof. Liu Chuang, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), China.

9. Progress Report of “Sustainability Science for Sustainability Governance: A Study on science – governance symbioses” was presented by Ms. Sarah Aziz Abdul Ghani Aziz, Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Malaysia.

B. New Framework Examination Committee (NFEC) [June 18]

10. The First Meeting of New Framework Examination Committee (NFEC) was convened and chaired by Prof. Hong Wanjin, Deputy Director of Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB) of A*STAR, Singapore.

11. Background for its establishment, prospectus and principle issues to be examined were introduced and discussed.

C. SCA Joint Project Workshops [June 18]

12. Of the SCA Joint Projects which are in progress; six projects, namely, “Water”, “Natural Disasters”, “Gender”, “Ocean Security in Asia”, “Honeybees” and “Space and Lithosphere Environment” held individual sessions during the morning and afternoon of June 18.

D. SCA Special Sessions [June 18]

13. SCA Special Sessions, namely “Pop Culture in Asia: Families in the Films of Asia” and “Grooming Science and Technology Talent”, were held June 18.

E. Management Board Meeting II and General Assembly Meeting II [June 19]

14. A summary of each SCA Joint Project Workshop held on 18 June was reported, including a presentation given by Prof. Shinichiro Ohgaki from SCJ on “Sustainable Water Resources Management in Asia”, Prof. Teruyuki Kato from SCJ on “Action Plans for Natural Disaster Mitigation”, Prof. Matori Yamamoto from SCJ on “A Comparative Study of the Research Conditions of Women’s/Gender Studies in Asian Countries Towards the Sustainable Development”, Prof. Naoya Okuwaki from SCJ on “International Cooperation for the Safety of Maritime Navigation in Asia”, Prof. Kiyoshi Kimura from SCJ on “Genomics-based comparative analyses of gene expression of wild Asian honeybees for improving European domestic honeybees” and Prof. Kiyofumi Yumoto from SCJ on “Space and Lithosphere Environment Changes in Indonesia”.

15. A summary of each SCA Special Session held on 18 June was reported. Mr. Andrew Fun from A*STAR delivered a presentation on “Grooming Science and Technology Talent” and so did Prof. Mamie Misawa from SCJ on “Pop Culture in Asia: Families in the Films of Asia”.

16. New SCA officers were elected among the members of the General Assembly meeting. Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, President of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), the Philippines, was elected as President, Prof. B. Chadraa, President of Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), Mongolia, was elected as Vice-President and Prof. Yoichi Muraoka, Member of the SCJ, was elected as Secretary-General / Treasurer.

17. Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, President of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), the Philippines, presented the draft plan of the 10th SCA Conference in the Philippines in 2010. The proposed theme is “Meeting the Health Challenges in the Asia Pacific Region”.

18. It was confirmed by Prof. B. Chadraa, President of Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS) that Mongolia would be the host country for the 11th SCA Conference in 2011.