

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.