

## **Chairperson's Summary**

### **The Fifth Conference of the Science Council of Asia (SCA)**

**May 11 – 13, 2005**

**Hanoi**

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 activities of SCA have focused and will stay on focus “Sustainable Development: A Prosperous, Harmonious and Greener Asia”.
2. Following the 1<sup>st</sup> SCA Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2001, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2002, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Denpasar, Indonesia in 2003, the 4<sup>th</sup> in Seoul, the Republic of Korea in 2004, the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference was held at the Hanoi Daewoo Hotel in Vietnam, from May 11 to 13, 2005. Ten member countries, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam participated. Thailand was absent. As observers, representatives from 17 international, regional or national organizations attended the Conference. (See Attachment 1 for the participants in the General Assembly.) The main theme of this Conference was “Bioscience and Biotechnology for Sustainable Development: Future of Asian Economy”.
3. In the Management Board Meetings and the General Assemblies conducted on May 11, 12 and 13, the following business matters of SCA items were discussed and determined.
  - 1) The Management Board approved the fifth annual report drafted by the SCA Secretariat and presented it to the General Assembly.
  - 2) India presented the draft plan of the 6th SCA Conference in New Delhi in April 2006 with the theme of “Institution and Capacity Building for Rural Development and Role of Sciences for Sustainable Development”. Members suggested some ideas and the details of the program will be finalized after further deliberation between the host country and the SCA Secretariat.
  - 3) It was confirmed that Japan will be the host country for the 7<sup>th</sup> SCA Conference in 2007, and the members approved that China will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference in 2008. Further, it was agreed in principle that Singapore would host the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference and the Philippines the 10<sup>th</sup> respectively.
  - 4) “Science and Technology for Sustainability in Asia: The Agenda of the Science Council of Asia”, the report of SCA Joint Project “Sustainability Science” was introduced and was highly valued as the first SCA output report. It was agreed that more SCA output should be delivered quickly in the future. The output should be approved by the General Assembly so that they are accepted as the views of the SCA for recommendation to SCA member countries.
  - 5) Management Board noted the need to make the format for joint project presentations of the progress reports or new proposals more conducive for discussion.

- 6) The Management Board decided to authorize as SCA Joint Projects, two previously presented projects: A) Gender Issues on S&T and B) Hydrology and Coastal Management, considering their maturity over the past years. A third project C) Natural Hazards (Earthquakes and Tsunamis) proposed at this SCA Conference, because of its emergent significance and relevance to Asia, was also authorized.  
These projects are recommended, according to their readiness, for conclusion as final draft reports for further actions by SCA Secretariat.
  - 7) The SCA Joint Projects should be slanted towards sustainable development. Instructions to authors should be generated including the emphasis that any paper must be focused on the SCA theme “Sustainable Development: A Prosperous, Harmonious and Greener Asia”.
  - 8) As to the matter of country membership, it was agreed that the SCA should enhance its own visibility through further consolidation of activities among the existing members and to consider the matter of expanding membership at a later stage.
  - 9) Management Board recommended to introduce membership fees in due course. The SCA Secretariat will prepare a draft of expected budget, management of fund, and implementation schedule, and will present it to members for further discussions and recommendations.
  - 10) New SCA officers were elected. Prof. André Béteille, Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), was elected as President; Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, President of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ), to Vice President/President-Elect who will host the 7<sup>th</sup> SCA Conference. Dr. Kurokawa concurrently serves as Secretary General/Treasurer. Mr. Thach Can, Director General, Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Vietnam, remains to be an officer as Immediate Past President. (See Attachment 2 for the MB members who will serve the next one year.)
4. In the General Assembly on May 11, two special lectures were given.
- 1) “ICSU and its vision” by Dr. Carthage Smith, Deputy Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU)
  - 2) “Lessons from the 2004 Sumatra earthquake and the Asian tsunami: to prepare for future natural hazards” by Dr. Kenji Satake, Deputy Director, Active Fault Research Center, Geological Survey of Japan, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology.
- In the General Assembly on May 13, two more special lectures were given.
- 3) “Education for Sustainable Development (Ubuntu Alliance)” by Dr. A. H. Zakri, Director, United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies
  - 4) “Millennium Development Goals: Its Process and Strategy” by Mr. Wataru Nishigahiro, Director-General of the Science Council of Japan
5. On May 11, several scientific sessions were held parallel which attracted a wide variety of audience.
- 1) Special Session of General Assembly on S&T Policy and Bio-technology in Asia  
The session was planned to be an opportunity for the SCA members to share the experiences and expertise of each country. Its theme is after the main theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> SCA Conference and the session intends to be a prelude or an umbrella of the Academic

Symposium. Dr. Teruo Kishi, Vice President of SCJ / President of National Institute for Materials Science, organized the session. (See Attachment 3 for the contents.)

- 2) SCA Joint Project Workshop: A Comparative Study of the Research Conditions of Women Scientists and the Present States of Women's/Gender Studies in Asian Countries Towards the Human Centered Sustainable Development

The workshop was jointly organized by Ms. Sjamsiah Achmad, Gender Advisor, GEST Group, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and Dr. Hiroko Hara, SCJ / Professor Josai International University, Japan. Both persons proposed their own ideas on gender at the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCA Conference in Bali, 2003, and presented its progress report at the 4<sup>th</sup> SCA Conference in Seoul, 2004. This workshop was their first trial of a series of symposiums or workshops where representatives of member countries, invited observers, and the public of the host country who are interested in the gender issue gather to exchange information and views, and develop the project. Initial study on gender, science and technology policy covering six countries has been completed and published by UNESCO Office Jakarta. A report on gender gaps in the science and engineering fields in Japan has been accomplished by EPMEWSE (*Renraku-kai*), Japan. (See Attachment 4 for the contents.)

- 3) SCA Joint Project Workshop: Security of Ocean in Asia

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCA Conference in Bali, Prof. Tadao Kuribayashi, SCJ, proposed the launching of a joint project, within SCA, on safety of marine navigation in the sea areas of Southeast Asia. Moreover, in the 4<sup>th</sup> SCA Conference held in Seoul, 2004, Prof. Kuribayashi once again brought forward this joint project with the theme of International Cooperation for the Safety and Security of the Ocean and the Sustainable Peace. In Hanoi, Prof. Kuribayashi organized a workshop on "Security of Ocean in Asia". The immediate goals of holding the workshop in Vietnam were to, firstly, appeal that SCA is not just a natural science organization; secondly, expand exchanges with ocean law and policy researchers and practitioners in Vietnam and possibly those of the surrounding countries; thirdly, share a common perception about Asian seas as a semi-enclosed sea area and to promote the building of political will on the need for academic exchange and policy collaboration to maintain the peace and security of the ocean; fourth, through these, a research cooperation organization can be established which could be declared as SCA's accomplishment. (See Attachment 5 for the contents.)

- 4) SCA Joint Project Workshop: Recent Development of Water Resources and Hydrology

In 2<sup>nd</sup> SCA conference in Kuala Lumpur, 2002, Dr. Tadashi Yamada SCJ / Professor, Chuo University, Japan, proposed a SCA joint project on "Collaborative Research in the Field of Hydrology". As an activity of the project Dr. Yamada organized the workshop "Recent Developments of Water Resources and Hydrology" focusing on computer software tools for solving hydrological problems. Eight papers were presented, covering different aspects of development and use of computer software related to water issues. Using computer models has become an important component of hydrological research, capacity building and promoting community participation in decision making. The participants agreed on the importance of fostering communication and peer-support in the area of water modeling in the region. There is a need to explore various means of networking, information sharing systems, possible collaborations, etc., to realize this objective. As another activity of the SCA joint project, annual exposition of computer

software related to water resources and hydrology is organized. The first of these was held in Chuo University, Japan in April 2004. (See Attachment 6 for the contents.)

- 5) **Poster Session: Environment and Tsunami**  
Dr. Tetsuya Kusuda, SCJ / Professor, Kyushu University, and his colleagues planned a poster session on environment and tsunami. The background of the theme is: environmental problems that affect humans in a broad sense include material supply security such as water supply, prevention of epidemics, prevention of pollution such as pollutions of air, water, and soil, prevention of disasters such as tsunami, earthquake, flood, and typhoon, global environmental protection such as global warming, desertification, and loss of biodiversity, and social problems such as urbanization. In this poster session, relevant and important topics including the disaster mitigation of tsunami are chosen for future collaboration among member countries.  
(See Attachment 7 for the details.)
  - 6) **A-IMBN SCA Joint Bio Symposium (a side event organized by the Asia-Pacific International Molecular Biology Network)**  
Since its inception in 1997, A-IMBN has initiated several innovative programs. Annual conferences were held in many major cities in the Asia-Pacific, various workshops and training courses have been organized under the sponsorship A-IMBN throughout the region. With the similar theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> SCA Conference, that is bioscience, the event was organized to update knowledge, share scientific expertise and renew friendships. It was a good opportunity to complement the activities of both A-IMBN and SCA. (See Attachment 8 for the details.)
6. On May 12, the Academic Symposium was held under the main theme “Bioscience and Biotechnology for Sustainable Development: Future of Asian Economy”. The program was as follows.
- 1) **Opening Ceremony**  
Mr. Thach Can, SCA President, delivered the opening remarks and Prof. Hoan Van Phong, Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology made a welcome speech. Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, Secretary General of the SCA, briefly explained the history and purposes of SCA.
  - 2) **Symposium I: Bioscience for Environment and Agriculture**  
Dr. Tan Tin Wee, Chairman, SubCommittee on Biotechnology (SCB), ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST), gave a keynote lecture at the beginning: “The Next Revolution in Bioscience for Environment and Agriculture?”. Then three invited lectures followed: “Biotechnology Contributes to Agriculture and Environment in Japan” by Dr. Ichiro Kajiuura, Member, Science Council of Japan (SCJ) / Vice President, National Agriculture and Bio-oriented Research Organization / Director General, National Institute of Fruit Tree Science; “Biotechnology in Agriculture in Asia: Social Scientist’s Concerns” by Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar, Director, Centre for Social Studies, Surat of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR); and “The Chinese Ecological Agriculture: Development Strategies, Typical Models & Technology” by Dr. Wu Wenliang, College of Resource and Environment, China Agricultural University.

The session was co-chaired by Dr. Le Tran Binh, Director of Biotechnology Institute, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, and Dr. Yohei Sato, Member, SCJ / President, National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences (NIAES).

3) Symposium II: Bioscience for Health

The keynote lecture of this session was given by Prof. Brandon Wainwright, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland, Australia / A-IMBN: “Genomics and ‘-omics’. Applications for health”. Two invited lectures were: “Role of Science and Technology in Vaccine Development for Infection Disease Prevention and Control in Vietnam” by Prof. Nguyen Thu Van, General Director, VABIOTECH-NIHE, Vietnam; and “Healthcare in the Era of Genomic Medicine” by Dr. Yoichi Matsubara, SCJ / Professor, Tohoku University School of Medicine, Japan.

Co-chairpersons of this session were: Prof. Hoang Thuy Long, Former Director, National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Ministry of Health / Vice Chairman of Council of Science and Technology – Ministry of Health, Vietnam; and Dr. Sang Dai Park, Member, National Academy of Sciences, Korea / Chairman, Korea Research Council of Science and Technology.

4) Symposium III: SCA Joint Projects

Dr. Tuvdendorj Galbaatar, Acting President, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Fortunato T. de la Peña, President, National Research Council of the Philippines, navigated the session as co-chairpersons.

Two progress reports of the projects proposed in the past SCA Conferences were presented: “Institution and Capacity Building for Sustainable Rural Development in India for the Coming Decade” by Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar, Director, Centre for Social Studies, Surat of the ICSSR, India; and “Joint Comparative Study on Gender, Science and Technology for Human Centered Sustainable Development” by Ms. Sjamsiah Achmad, Gender Advisor, GEST Group, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI).

Two more projects were newly proposed: “Coastal Ecosystems Response to Climate Change and Human Impact in the Asia-Pacific Region (CERCCHI Project) by Dr. Kazuo Nadaoka, SCJ / Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology; and “Sustainability Science for Sustainability Governance: A study on science-governance symbioses” by Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, Director, Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Malaysia. Dr. Komoo’s paper was read by Ms. Sarah Aziz Abdul Ghani, Research Fellow, LESTARI. It was recommended that this proposal be open for collaboration.

7. All the members of the Management Board and those who presented in the General Assembly expressed gratitude to the SCA President, Mr. Thach Can, for his leadership in the successful 5<sup>th</sup> SCA Conference. Participants showed high expectation for the next 6<sup>th</sup> SCA Conference to be held in New Delhi, and for future activities of SCA.

\* The attachments are not given here.