

Chairperson's Summary

The Fourteenth Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference

June 17 – 19, 2014

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

I. Introduction

The Fourteenth Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from June 17 to 19, 2014 under the theme of “Future Earth: Research for global sustainability and a holistic understanding of sustainable development of Asia.” The host of Conference was Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) in cooperation with Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), International Council of Science Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICSU-ROAP), and Science Council of Japan (SCJ) as the secretariat of the SCA. During the conference, two meetings of Management Board I and II, two meetings of General Assembly I and II, SCA Joint Project Workshop and SCA International Symposium were held.

The conference was attended by thirteen member countries/regions, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, China: Taipei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand (absentees: Nepal, Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam). Also, five observers attended.

Management Board Meeting I on June 17 and II on June 18, General Assembly I on June 17 and II on June 19 were chaired by Professor Mohd Nordin Hasan, Fellow of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), President of the SCA (July 10, 2012-2014).

II. Meetings for administration

A. Management Board Meeting I (June 17)

1) The 14th SCA Annual Report

The 14th SCA Annual Report was explained by Interim Secretary General/Treasurer, Dr. Fumiko Kasuga and approved unanimously.

2) Finance issues for membership of ISSC and ICSU

As for the cost bearing of membership fees for International Social Science Council

(ISSC) and International Council for Science (ICSU), the Secretariat proposed that the host country/region of the annual conference bear the cost of membership fees. This cost may be recovered through support of an equivalent sum by the Science Council of Japan for conference expenditure at the next SCA conference as paid for the membership fees of these organizations.

3) Revision of the Statutes and By-laws

Dr. Fumiko Kasuga and SCA Secretariat explained the proposal of revisions, which was proposed to General Assembly I. The major points were as follows.

(a) Regarding the membership of SCA, a position called “the National Member” was proposed to be introduced. The definition of the National Member is a member organization of which a representative designated to the Management Board elected within a country/region. As in the proposed Article 4.2 in the revised Statutes, “A National Member shall be designated as the representing organization. An organization effectively representing the range of scientific activities in a definite region” is the National Member.

(b) The change in the number of Officers during a certain period was proposed as in the proposed Article 8.1 in the revised Statutes. Also the terms of President-Elect and Immediate Past-President are changed from two-years to one year.

(c) There were three other proposals of the revisions; to add a provision which prescribes observers’ rights and rules as in the proposed Article 3.5 and 5.3 in the revised By-laws; to make a provision to name annual events which consist of Management Board Meeting(s) and international symposium as “(SCA) Conference”; and to use abbreviation to avoid redundancy such as the Assembly instead of Biennial General Assembly as in the proposed Article 3e in the revised Statutes

4) The 14th SCA Conference

Prof. Nordin Hasan, SCA President and ASM Fellow provided a briefing of the 14th SCA Conference including details of the two-day SCA International Symposium.

5) The 14th SCA Joint Declaration

Prof. Nordin Hasan requested members to propose a list of items they would like to be included in the declaration.

B: General Assembly I (June 17)

1) The 14th Annual Report

Dr. Fumiko Kasuga informed the Assembly of the contents of the 14th Annual Report to members. The report was adopted and approved.

2) Finance

Dr. Fumiko Kasuga informed the meeting of the invoice received from the ISSC for membership fee following the submission of SCA application to be a member of the ISSC. It was noted that the fee for the year 2013 was paid by an anonymous donation. It was suggested that the SCA requested a waiver of the membership fee from the ISSC for 2014 following the receipt of the invoice from the ISSC. It was noted that the reply to the request for a waiver of the fees from the SCA has yet to be received. (This was received a few days after the close of the 14th SCA Conference) The meeting also made the decision to postpone the submission of the application to become an Associate Member of ICSU be deferred until the issue of a source of payment for the fee has been resolved.

3) Revision of Statutes and By-laws

The proposal of revisions of the Statutes tabled during Management Board Meeting I was approved.

C: Management Board Meeting II (June 18)

1) Approval of New SCA Members

Prof. Nordin Hasan explained that SCA has received the applications for the membership from Academia Sinica and Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science (MAAS). The former application is nominated by ASM and seconded by National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL). The latter application is nominated by National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP). Both applications were approved. It was also agreed unanimously that Academia Sinica be designated as belonging to "China: Taipei."

2) Announcements of the future SCA Conferences

15th SCA Conference: Dr. Om Romny of Director General, Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), which is the host institution of 15th SCA Conference made a presentation of the forthcoming Conference. The proposed dates for it will be May 15-16, 2015 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. It will be supported by Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Cambodia and the venue is planned to be Angkor Paradise Hotel. The theme of the conference is "Science and Technology for Culture."

16th SCA Conference: Dr. Vijaya Kumar, President of NASSL presented the announcement of the 16th Conference. The Conference theme will be “Science for the People: Mobilizing New Technologies for Sustainable Development in Asia.”

3) Free Discussion

Prof. Takashi Onishi of SCJ raised the issue of the implementation of the new framework of SCA issued in 2010. Among the proposals in the report, the proposal to increase the membership of the SCA has been realized. The objective of enhancing dialogue with funding agencies and international organization in Asia has yet to be started. He suggested that SCA organize a committee to discuss future activities. There was no objection against this proposal.

Prof. Nordin Hasan explained that enhancement of SCA profile is important and for this purpose, bringing more participants to the international conference this year including those from Africa has increased the exposure of the SCA to the international scientific community. He suggested that even though the SCA does not have a funding function it can work closely with agencies that fund projects such as those involved in the Joint Projects Workshop. The SCA can make statements to impact Asian communities and issuance of statements such as the Joint Declaration is important.

D: General Assembly II (June 19)

1) Report of Joint Project Workshops and International Symposium

Dr. Fumiko Kasuga expressed that three presentations at Joint Project Workshop were highly meaningful and excellent. She also stated that SCA international symposium was attended by more than 200 participants from more than 20 countries.

2) Joint Declaration

The draft of Joint Declaration was circulated to members and Prof. Nordin Hasan requested each member to send comments and suggestions that will be considered for inclusion into the declaration in due course.

3) Cost Bearing of Membership

It was again proposed that membership fee of ISSC is to be covered by the host country/region of the SCA conference and SCJ will reimburse the equivalent amount of fund to host countries/region. Prof. Takashi Onishi, SCJ President stated that SCJ and host country/region will share the cost and SCJ will cover the conference cost substantially. Forthcoming application of ICSU will be treated in the same manner.

4) Future Host Countries

For the 18th SCA Conference, Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmad, President of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) announced its candidacy. And it was said to be confirmed in a few months. For 2017, Dr. Carina G. Lao of NRCP expressed that she will communicate with her committee for the possible hosting. Dr. Takashi Onishi suggested that it may be possible for Japan to consider hosting the SCA conference in 2017 or 2018.

5) New SCA Officers

Prof. Nordin Hasan introduced the new SCA President, Dr. Vijaya Kumar and the new SCA Vice President Dr. Om Romny. Then responding the Prof. Nordin Hasan's request, Dr. Takashi Onishi nominated Dr. Hiroshi Yoshino as Secretary General/Treasurer and the nomination was approved. Dr. Vijaya Kumar, Dr. Om Romny, Dr. Hiroshi Yoshino made short inauguration speeches.

6) Handover of the SCA flag to the next host country

On behalf of the host country Malaysia, Prof. Hasan, Fellow of ASM delivered SCA flag to the next host country's representative Dr. Om Romny, Director General of ITC.

III. SCA Joint Project Workshops

SATREPS was introduced by Mr. Osamu Kobayashi, Director of JST Singapore Office. Presentations of ongoing research projects between Malaysia and Japan were made as below:

1) "Project for Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for Asian Regions"

Presenter: Prof. Ho Chin Sion (Project Manager/Director of Office of International Affairs, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)

2) "Research and Development for Reducing Geo-Hazard Damage in Malaysia caused by Landslide and Flood"

Presenter: Dr. Habibah Hj. Lateh (Professor/ Universiti Sains Malaysia)

3) "Project on Promotion of Green Economy with Palm Oil Industry for Biodiversity Conservation"

Presenter: Prof. Dr. Yoshihito Shirai (Director, Malaysia Super Satellite Campus, Kyushu Institute of Technology in University Putra Malaysia), Prof. Mohd. Ali Hassan (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

IV. SCA International Conference

The International Symposium “Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability and a Holistic Understanding of Sustainable Development in Asia”

The International Symposium was organized by Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM). The Symposium was attended by more than 200 participants from 20 countries.

June 18th

A. Opening Ceremony

- 1) Appreciation for the Founder Members of SCA
- 2) Handing over of tributes to the Founder Members and their speeches.
- 3) Welcoming Remarks, Keynote Speeches, Poster Session and Concurrent Sessions

Welcoming remarks were made by Mohd Nordin Hasan, and Tan Sri Dr. Ahmad Tajuddin Ali FASc, President, Academy of Sciences Malaysia, followed by opening address by Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid FASc, Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

B. Keynote lectures

- 1) Keynote Speech1: “Uncertain Times, Changing Principles, Quo Vadis?”

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan)

Summary of the speech:

Prof. Kurokawa mentioned that despite the scientific progress, disparity and difference in the world are growing. Man-made protests and revolutions, and the frequency and intensity of natural disasters have torn the world apart. As major global issues he listed severe income disparity, rising GHGs emissions, water supply crises, growth of the ageing population and so on. He finally called upon the scientific community to address the increasing uncertainty and fragmentation occurring around the globe today.

- 2) Keynote Speech 2: “Sustainability of Urbanization and Natural Hazards: Earthquakes and Tsunamis”

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Harsh K. Gupta (National Disaster Management Authority, India)

Summary of the speech:

Prof. Gupta described that the future of urban development in Asia must be made free of disaster and this requires action at the preparatory, implementation and maintenance phases. The implementation phase is important, and construction will have to take into account geographical factors. Disaster events in urban centres are now easier to project and avoid if buildings are made earthquake resistant and are not built

in areas with high risk of impact by seismologic or extreme weather events.

3) Keynote Speech 3: "Sustainable Development Strategies for Asia and Possible Cooperation Plans"

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Sung Hyun Park (President, Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST), South Korea)

Summary of the speech:

Prof. Park emphasized that there were many common issues that would need to be addressed in collaboration with one another. These include poverty, biodiversity conservation, human security and the food-water-energy nexus. He suggested that cooperation can be initiated through the formation of ASIASTAT, following the same principles as with the establishment of EUROSTAT that provides high quality statistics for the whole of Europe.

C. Symposium A, B, Individual Presentations I and II

1) Symposium A: Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowships Programme (API), The Nippon Foundation

Title: Policy Brokering of Community Knowledge for Sustainability Transition in Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand

Moderator: Dr. Henry Chan, Head of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Sarawak Fellow, Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowships (API)

2) Symposium B: Center for Sustainability Science, Hokkaido University

Title: Towards Establishing a Common Nucleus among Eight Stakeholder Groups: Education/Capacity Building For Future Earth

Moderator: 1. Dr. Gakushi Ishimura, Center for Sustainability Science Hokkaido University

2. Dr. Shunsuke Managi, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University

3) Individual Presentations I

Sub-theme: Global Development

Moderator: Dr. Low Kwai Sim FASc.

Fellow, Academy of Sciences Malaysia

Director, Asia Pacific Environmental Consultants Sdn Bhd (ASPEC)

4) Individual Presentations II

Sub-theme: Dynamic Planet

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Mohd Raihan Taha

The Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

D. Poster Session

E. Symposium C, D and Individual Presentation III

1) Symposium C: The Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

Title: Transition Toward Urban Region Sustainability

Moderator: Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Samad Hadi

The Institute for Environment and Development (LESTAR), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia(UKM)

2) Symposium D: Malaysia Society of Environmental Epidemiology (MySEE)

Title: Research and Practice in Integrating Environment and Health Towards Sustainable Future

Moderator: Dr. Mazrura Sahani

Faculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

4) Individual Presentations III

Sub-theme: Transformation Toward Sustainability

Moderator: Dr. Vijaya Kumar

President, National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka (NASSL)

June 19

F. Keynote Speech 4 and 5

1) Keynote Speech 4: "Global Sustainability: From Knowledge to Social Innovation"

Speaker: Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo FASc (Vice Chancellor, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu(UMT), Malaysia)

Summary of the speech:

Prof Ibrahim argued that academics have contributed to the discourse on sustainability by advancing ideas, providing leadership and raising public awareness. Essentially there was a strong need to innovate for sustainability, make inroads for greater social empowerment, and foster social innovation. With the multi levels and stakeholder engagement, new ways were found to inculcate understanding for

geological conservation and practices including economic and community development.

2) Keynote Speech 5: “From Myth to Science-Lessons of Great East Japan Earthquake and Contribution of Science and Technology for Sustainable Society”

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Takashi Onishi (President, Science Council of Japan (SCJ), Japan)

Summary of the speech:

Prof. Onishi pointed that the importance of disaster reduction, as we can't prevent disasters completely, is what we learnt from natural disasters in Tohoku, Japan. We have to change the way of life to make safer societies making full use of ideas based on science and technology. As a goal, “Gentle Community” with technological smartness, people’s network and symbiosis between nature and man-made facilities is proposed.

G. Poster Session

H. Symposium E, Individual Presentations IV,V and VI

1) Symposium E

University of Malaysia Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UM SDSN)

Title: Sustainability, Inclusivity and Community Empowerment

Moderator: Prof. Dr. nik Meriam Nik Sulaiman, Director, University of Malaya Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UM SDSN)

2) Individual Presentations IV

Sub-theme: Global Development

Moderator: Prof. Batbold Enkhtuvshin (President, Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), Mongolia)

3) Individual Presentations V

Sub-theme: Transformation Towards Sustainability

Moderator: Dr. Ibrahim bin Abu Ahmad (Senior Deputy Under-Secretary International Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI))

4) Individual Presentations VI: Sub-theme: Dynamic Planet

Moderator: Prof. Feng Changgen, Vice President, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST)

I. Poster Session

J. Panel Discussion

Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability and a Holistic Understanding of Sustainable Development in Asia

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Tetsuzo Yasunari, Director General, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)

Panels: Prof. Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa

Prof. Dr. Harsh K. Gupta

Prof. Dr. Takashi Onishi

Academician Tan Sri Dr. Omar Abdul Rahman FASc.

K. Closing Ceremony

1) Conference Summary: Prof. Nordin Hasan

2) Remarks: YB Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar bin Mohamad Diah, Deputy Minister, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)

3) Closing Remarks: YAB Tan Sri Dato'Hj. Muhyiddin Hj. MOhd. Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia