

**Minutes of the International Business Meeting**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Asian Crop Science Conference**  
*Brisbane Convention Centre, Brisbane, Australia*  
 30 September 2004

**The Asian Crop Science Association (ACSA)**

**Co-Presidents**

Dr John Angus, Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAIST)  
 Dr Ken Fischer, University of Queensland

**Vice-President**

Dr Leocardio Sebastian, Crop Science Society of the Philippines (CSSP)

**Secretary-General**

Dr Andrew Borrell, Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAIST)

**Organising Committee Member**

Professor Shu Fukai, University of Queensland

*Attendees (and therefore members) of the International Committee of ACSA*

Number	Country	Name	Email address
1	Australia	John Angus	john.angus@csiro.au
2	Australia	Ken Fischer	k.fischer@cgiar.org
3	Australia	Andrew Borrell	andrew.borrell@dpi.qld.gov.au
4	Bangladesh	Ilias Hassain	ilias@cimmytbd.org
5	Philippines	Leocardio Sebastian	lsebastian@philrice.gov.ph
6	Taiwan	Huu Sheng Lur	lurhs@ntu.edu.tw
7	Taiwan	Fu-Hsing Hsu	fhsu@mail.tri.gov.tw
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26	Lao PDR	Phoumi Inthapanya	inphoumi@laotel.com
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29	Australia	Jagadish Timsina	Jagadish.timsina@csiro.au
30	Bangladesh	Craig Meisner	c.meisner@cgiar.org

Apologies: Dr Mansur Ma'shum (Indonesia)  
 Professor Xuan Vo-Tong (Vietnam)

Meeting opened at 5.05 pm by the Chairman, Dr John Angus

## Agenda Items

### *Membership*

Dr Angus welcomed current members of ACSA (Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Taiwan), and recognised new members (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, Lao PDR), including a letter from Vietnam expressing their desire to also join ACSA (Vietnam Agronomy Association). Officially, 14 countries are now members of ACSA. It was agreed that all attendees would represent the interests of their countries at this meeting, either as "institutional members" or as "individual members".

To clarify membership issues, Dr Andrew Borrell read the membership classes from the ACSA Charter. Three types of membership currently exist:

- Institutional membership shall be given to any crop science and related science societies, international and national institutions, and non-profit organizations supporting the ACSA objectives;
- Individual membership shall be given to any scientist or individual supporting the ACSA objectives; and
- Sustaining membership shall be given to private institutions and any profit organization supporting the ACSA objective.

### *Guidelines for future membership*

Dr Angus asked the committee to recommend what geographical limits should apply to ACSA. For example, should membership extend west of Pakistan (into the Middle East) and east of Australia into the Pacific Islands? Dr Benjavan Rerkasem suggested that we apply the FAO definition of Asia. We were unable to find FAO's definition of Asia on the web. Instead, we've used ABD's definition.

Sub-regions defined by the ADB:

- Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)
- Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Unit (CARECU)
- South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)
- Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT)
- Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)
- East and Central Asia
- The Pacific
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia

**Action:** 6ACSA Organising Committee to invite further members using the ADB definition, with less emphasis on Central Asia at this stage.

### *ACSA Membership for Taiwan and China*

Dr Angus asked Professor Hsu-Sheng Lur from Taiwan if he would like to address the committee regarding Taiwan's position on China joining ACSA. Professor Hsu-Sheng Lur recommended that the current name of their agronomy society (Chinese Society of Agronomy) be changed to "Taiwan Society of Agronomy". This name should be more acceptable to China and may open the way for China to join ACSA. Drs Ken Fischer and Andrew Borrell thanked the Taiwan delegates for their willingness to resolve this issue. Note that this name change still has to be ratified by the Taiwanese agronomists, and China is yet to decide if it will join ACSA.

**Action:** Taiwan delegates are asked to advise ACSA if their society name is changed and the ACSA announces the change on the website and advises the executive of the Chinese Society of Crop Science.

### **Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Crop Science Conference**

*Integration with the International Crop Science Congress (Report by Dr Ken Fischer)*

- Advantages and disadvantages;
- Exposure to more international speakers has been an advantage;
- Possibility of losing our identity was a potential disadvantage, although we've attempted to highlight the role of ACSA wherever possible;
- Hopefully this balance has worked out well.

Dr Fischer thanked ACSA members for the effort they have made to attend the conference in Australia.

*Publication of Conference Papers*

Dr Borrell asked Professor Makie Kokubun to summarise the status of the special edition of Plant Production Science (PPS):

- PPS is the official journal published by the Crop Science Society of Japan;
- Approval to publish a special ACSC issue of PPS has been granted;
- 11 symposium and plenary papers will be published plus 8 of the oral papers from the ACSA session on Thursday afternoon will be included (some want to publish elsewhere).

**Action:** A special edition of the 5ACSC papers will be edited by Drs Borrell and Fukai and will be published in the PPS.

Dr Angus asked Claire Braund from The Regional Institute (TRI) to comment on publication of the Proceedings of 4ICSC/5ACSA:

- All papers can be accessed from the conference website ([www.cropscience.org.au](http://www.cropscience.org.au));
- ACSA papers could be hot-linked to the ICSC website by TRI;
- Plan to retain the website until the next conference committee takes over;
- Free access of all information to the world (HTML);
- 1038 papers from about 1600 authors (4ICSC/5ACSC);
- TRI does not claim copyright for any papers;
- Capacity to load previous ACSA conferences onto the website;
- Common technical platform developed by TRI;
- Countries should get in touch with TRI regarding the website.

**Action:**

- The organisers of the 5ACSC will consider the most appropriate format for maintaining the ACSA website and access to the 5ACSC papers.
- The organisers of previous ACSC can contact Dr Angus to see how previous papers could be accessed on the web site (contact by 1 December 2004).
- The organisers of the 6ACSC to consider how best to take over and maintain the ACSA website. \*

*Finance Report (Dr Ken Fischer)*

- 4ICSC/5ACSA formed a limited liability company to run the conference;
- US\$5000 was carried forward from the last conference (4ACSC) in the Philippines;

- We hope the carry-over will be increased from this meeting, and passed on to the next host for 6ACSC (Thailand).

**Action:**

- The financial statements for the 4ICSC and 5ACSC to be completed within the next 3 months.
- The organisers of the 5ACSC will contact the new (6ACSC) organising committee on the transfer of the surplus (seed money) for the 6ACSC.
- The organisers of the 5ACSC to report to the next meeting of the ACSA in Thailand on the disbursement of the funds.

*Items remaining from 4ACSC, Manila, 2001 (Dr Leocardio Sebastian)*

- Dr Sebastian asked if Thailand is to be the next host
- Dr Sebastian reported funds generated by 4ACSC were dispersed as follows:
  - a) US\$5000 was given to the organising committee of 5ACSA;
  - b) US\$10,000 was given to the SABRAO Journal;
  - c) 200,000 pesos was given to the Crop Science Society of Philippines;
  - d) 1.7 M pesos was given to the Crop Science Journal of the Philippines.

**Action:** Approved by the members.

*Discussion of host for the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Crop Science Conference, 2007*

A proposal was presented by Dr Theerayut Toojinda of BIOTEC recommending that Thailand host 6ACSA in 2007:

- ACSC could join with the BioThailand Conference to host the next meeting;
- BIOTEC would consult with other agencies to jointly host the conference;
- The proposal presented by Thailand was unanimously accepted;
- President and Secretary-General will need to be appointed by the Thailand Organising Committee;
- Dr Toojinda requested some on-going assistance from the Australian Organising Committee. The ACSA Charter suggests a mechanism by which current organisers (5ACSC) can assist the next committee (6ACSC). This involves the current President(s) and Secretary-General serving on the next International Committee.

**Action:** Members accepted the proposal by Thailand.

*Discussion of host for 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Crop Science Conference, 2010*

- Professor Rerkasem suggested **Malaysia**. Dr Wahid said he could not give a commitment but agreed to consult his colleagues.
- Malaysian Society of Plant Physiology has been a member of ACSA since it was formed in Korea (1992).
- Professor Rerkasem also suggested that Yunnan Province in **China** should be considered.

**Action:** To be decided by 6ACSC. \*

*The future role of ACSA*

- Dr Fischer suggested that we assist countries in forming crop science societies, where appropriate;
- Dr Angus recommended that the 5ACSC website (Asiancropscience.com) be maintained;
- Claire Braund verified that this website will keep going for three years until the next country (Thailand) takes over.

**Action:**

- All "members" at the business meeting of the ACSA in Brisbane are encouraged to work with colleagues in their home countries to form appropriate national societies.
- Members to maintain current information about their societies (Present president, etc) on the ACSA web site.

*Is it possible for ACSA to publish a journal?*

Professor Kokubun suggested that ACSA consider publishing its own journal:

- Journals exist for other societies (PPS, European Journal of Agronomy etc);
- SABRAO Journal is published every three months;
- An ACSA Journal could highlight rice-based cropping systems;
- And many other crops too (suggested Professor Rerkasem);
- Dr Sebastian suggested that, in the short term, we could adopt another journal such as PPS to highlight ACSA themes.

**Action:** For further consideration at the next ACSA business meeting.

Dr Angus thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 6.30 pm. A group photograph of the 5ACSC International Committee was then taken.