

Minutes of the Business Meeting
6th Asian Crop Science Conference
Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand
16.00-17.30 hrs., 7 November 2007

Attendants

Country	Name	Affiliation	email
Australia	Dr. Andrew K. Borrell	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries	Andrew.Borrell@dpi.qld.gov.au
Cambodia	Mr. Hun Yadana	Cambodia Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)	hunyadana@cardi.org.kh
India	Dr. Dinesh C. Joshi	Barwale Foundation	dineshjoshi@barwalefoundation.org; dineshjoshi2000@yahoo.com
Indonesia	Prof. Antonius Suwanto	Bogor Agricultural University	asuwanto@indo.net.id
	Ms. Grace Yasmein Wijaya	Faculty of Biotechnology, Atma Jaya Catholic University	grace.wijaya@atmajaya.ac.id
	Ms. Masdiar Bustamam	Indonesian Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources Research and Development (ICABIOGRAD)	masdiarb@indo.net.id; maedy46@yahoo.com
Japan	Prof. Makie Kokubun	President, Crop Science Society of Japan	kokubun@bios.tohoku.ac.jp
	Dr. Satoshi Tobita	Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)	Bitamon@jircas.affrc.go.jp
	Dr. Yutaka Hirata	Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology / Crop Science Society of Japan	yhirata@cc.tuat.jp
Korea	Assist. Prof. Do-soon Kim	Seoul National University	dosoonlykim@snu.ac.kr
	Prof. Suk-ha Lee	Seoul National University	sukhalee@snu.ac.kr
	Prof. Sun Hee Woo	Chungbuk National University	shwoo@chungbuk.ac.kr
Laos	Mrs. Kongpanh Kanyavong	Agricultural Research Center (ARC)	kk_kongpanh@yahoo.com
	Mr. Souvanh Thadavong	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI)	souvanhthadavong@yahoo.com
Myanmar	Dr. Khin Than Nwe	Department of Agricultural Research	kt-nwe@mail4u.com.mm; director-dar@myanmar.com.mm
Thailand	Dr. Theerayut Toojinda	BIOTEC	theerayut@dna.kps.ku.ac.th
	Ms. Siriporn Wattanasrirungkul	BIOTEC	siriporn@biotec.or.th
	Ms. Duangkaew Chongkachornphong	BIOTEC	gal@biotec.or.th

Absence

Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Agenda 1. Welcome by Chairman

Dr. Theerayut Toojinda informed the meeting that Prof. Morakot Tantichaoren is unable to attend this meeting due to her engagement to give presentation in a different conference session. Dr. Toojinda would chair this meeting on her behalf.

Dr. Toojinda welcomed attendants, consisting of old and new members, to the meeting and thanked them for their participation.

Agenda 2. Self introduction of attendants

Participants introduced themselves and their affiliation to the Meeting. The Meeting took note of Myanmar as a new member and represented by Dr. Khin Than Nwe from the Department of Agricultural Research. Mr. Dinesh Joshi from Barwale Foundation in India informed the meeting that he could only represent the interest of Barwale Foundation, which is a non-profit organization, not the country of India.

To clarify membership inquiry raised by Dr. Joshi, the ACSA Charter was distributed, which stipulates that membership is by the crop science society of the nation or can be by institute or individual.

Prof. Kokubun informed the meeting that the Chinese Society of Agronomy had already renamed its society to Agronomy Society of Taiwan, to make way for the Crop Science Society of China (CSSC) to join the ACSA membership. Ms. Duangkaew updated the meeting that Thailand had sent invitation to Dr. Lu Ming, Chairman of the Crop Science Society of China to join the ACSA membership in October 2007. The reply is awaited. Prof. Suk-ha Lee, the organizer of the 5th International Crop Science Congress, April 13-18, 2008 in Jeju, suggested that since the upcoming Congress expected over 100 Chinese scientists, we could take the opportunity to open a dialogue and discussion with the CSSC on the subject of ACSA membership. The Meeting welcomed the idea of holding ACSA business meeting at ICSC 2008.

Action:

Korea to organize ACSA business meeting to ICSC 2008, inviting prospective Chinese attendants.

Agenda 3. Report of the 6th Asian Crop Science Conference

The organizer of the 6th Asian Crop Science Conference gave a report as following:

Sessions and Attendants

The 6th Asian Crop Science Conference was held in conjunction with the 2nd International Conference on Rice for the Future, under the framework of BioAsia 2007 Thailand, an international scientific symposium and trade show, during 5-9 November 2005.

Four international organizations have organized events within our conference namely:

- Generation Challenge Programme organized Workshop on products management and delivery in GCP rice research in Asia
- HarvestPlus Program co-organized the Conference on 6 November 2007 with the theme biofortification
- Crop Science Society of Japan and the Japanese Society of Breeding organized a half-day session on “Improving Rice Yield Potentials Using Genome Information” on Friday, Nov 9th.

These events have brought in more experts, speakers and participants to the 6ACSA conference.

The 5-day conferences have a total of 49 invited lectures (including keynote and plenary) 8 oral presentations and 253 posters.

There are 390 registrants to scientific conferences (as of 29 October 2007), categorized by countries as following:

Australia	10	Korea	29
Bangladesh	1	Laos	3
Belgium	2	Sri Lanka	1
Cambodia	3	Myanmar	4
China	1	Mexico (all from CIMMYT)	3
Colombia (all from CIAT)	2	Malaysia	2
Germany	4	Philippines	10
France	3	Singapore	2
Indonesia	8	Thailand	188
Israel	1	UK	2
India	9	USA	14
Iran	15	Vietnam	3
Japan	70		

Production of Abstract and Proceedings

An abstract book contains 244 abstracts, whereas Proceedings for rice biotechnology contains 135 full papers. Both documents were produced and distributed at the Conference.

Action:

- The financial statements for the 6ACSC to be completed within 3 months and reported to the business meeting to be held in ICSC 2008.
- The organisers of the 6ACSC will contact the new (7ACSC) organising committee on the transfer of the surplus (seed money) for the 7ACSC.

Agenda 4. Discussion on host for the 7th Asian Crop Science Congress, 2010

A proposal was presented by Prof. Antonuis Suwanto of Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia proposing to host the 7th Asian Crop Science Conference in 2010. Bogor Agricultural University, the proposed core organizer of 7ACSA, is the oldest and the leader of agricultural-based university in Indonesia with many of the staffs involved in crop breeding and biotech; such as research and evaluation on Monsanto transgenic cotton in Indonesia. Its network includes government research agencies related in agriculture (Balitbiogen; Indonesian Institute of Science - Biotechnology; Indo plant germplasm center; Balitvet), making the University one of top Government reference centers in term of agriculture.

Prof. Suwanto proposed locations to convene 7ACSA:

- Bogor: Home of the oldest and most preserved botanical garden in Indonesia; Has new convention center; approx 1.5 hr drive from Jakarta
- Bali: World famous tourist destination; approx 1.5 hr by flight from Jakarta
- Combination of Bogor and Bali

Prof. Suwanto inquired the Meeting about the role and responsibility of the organizer as well as the financial aspect of organizing the event. Dr. Borrell explained that the host country had full rights and responsibility to formulate the scientific program, the organization of the meeting and fund raising from public, private and international organizations. Integrating ACSA conference to the national, regional, or international event could also help financing the project. Ms. Duangkaew informed that it has been a tradition of former host passing on seed money to the next host and after the financial statement of 6ACSA is completed, Thailand would be able to inform the amount of seed money and to process the transfer of fund to Indonesia.

Prof. Kokubun suggested that the host of 7ACSA should consider incorporating field visit into the program.

Action:

Members accepted the proposal by Indonesia.

Agenda 5. Amendment of ACSA Charter

As the 5th ICSC will be held in 2008 and the 7ACSA will be in 2010, it was suggested that changing the schedule of ACSA meeting to every 4 years, off-set with the ICSC which is held every 4 years, would be more appropriate. Therefore an amendment to ACSA Charter on this matter was proposed and this 4-yr schedule would start after the 7ACSA.

Action:

Meeting approved the amendment. Amended Charter is attached and will come into effect after 2010.