

**19th General Assembly of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies
23rd July 2017, Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Australia**



Minutes

Present

FACS Executive Committee members

SL.	Name	Position	Name of Society
1.	Prof. Dr. Jasim Uddin Ahmad	President,	Bangladesh
2.	Prof. Dr. Andy Hor Tzi Sum	Past President	Singapore
3.	Prof Dave Winkler	President elect	Australia
4.	Prof. Dr. Md. Wahab Khan	Secretary General	Bangladesh
5.	Prof. Datuk Dr. Ting-Kueh Soon	Treasurer	Malaysia
6.	Mr Roger Stapleford	Secretary General elect	Australia
7.	Prof. Dr. Supawan Tantayanon	Project Coordinator	Thailand
8.	Prof. Dr. Long Lu	Director of Scientific Affairs	China
9.	Prof. Ling-Kang Liu	Editor of Publications	Taiwan
10.	Prof. Sourav Pal	Representative from South Asia	India

FACS Member Representative (Voting Members):

SL.	Name	Position	Name of Society
1.	Prof. Md. Wahab Khan	Representative	Bangladesh Chemical Society
2.	Prof. Chain-Shu Hsu	President	Chemical Society Located in Taipei, China
3.	Prof. Subramaniam Sotheeswaran	Representative	Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon
4.	Mr. Mey Sovuthy	President	Cambodian Chemical Society
5.	Prof. Raymond W.Y. Wong	President	Hong Kong Chemical Society
6.	Prof. Dr. Mustafa Culha	Representative	Turkish Chemical Society
7.	Prof. Basil Shelton Marasinghe	President	The Institute of Chemistry Papua New Guinea
8.	Prof. Mitsuo Sawamoto	Representative	Chemical Society of Japan
9.	Prof. Fabian Millar Dayrit	Representative	Integrated Chemists of the Philippines
10.	Qinghua Fan	Representative	Chinese Chemical Society
11.	Chang Hee Lee	Representative	Korean Chemical Society
12.	Prof. Choon-Hong Tan	President	Singapore National Institute of Chemistry
13.	Prof Nguyen Viet Bac,	President	Chemical Society of Vietnam
14.	Prof. N. Sathyamurty	President	Chemical Research Society of India
15.	Prof Penny Brothers	President	New Zealand Institute of Chemistry
16.	Dato' Dr Ong Eng Long	President	Intitut Kimia Malaysia
17.	Prof Supa Hannongbua	President	Chem Soc Thail and
18.	Roger Stapleford	CEO	Royal Australian Chemical Institute

Observers

Ito Chao	Taiwan	Tamotsu Takahashi	Japan
Reuben Jih-Ru Hwu	Taiwan	Barry Noller	Australia
Tom Spurling	Australia	Alexandre P Sarmiento	East Timor
Badley Miller	A.C.S.	Ellene Tratras Conti	A.C.S.
Yuhlong Oliver Su	Taiwan	Xun Wang	China
Suping Zheng	China	Nazma Ahmed	Bangladesh
Supakorn Boonyuen	CST	Ming- Hua Hsu	Taiwan
Joon Won Park	Korea		

Apologies

Dr. Hilni bin Harun Sani	EXCO Area Rep	Mr: Haef Hajraf Haef	Kuwait
Prof Md.Abdul Karim	Bangladesh	Prof Abeer F. Al Bawab	Jordan

Absent

Prof. Jongseok Park	EXCO Area Rep	Prof. Amar Prasad Yadav	Nepal
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No contact

Israel Chemical Society	Mongolian Chemical Society	Mendelev Russian Chemical Society
Chemical Society of the South Pacific	Saudi Chemical Society	

Points Discussed

1.) The Agenda

Was acceptable to the representatives

2.) Opening address by the President. Prof. Dr. Jasim Uddin Ahmad

Thanks were given to the RACI for hosting the 17th ACC/ 19th GA and the preparation put in to the events.

The goals of the president over the last 2 years were to:-

- Expand the number of member societies of FACS
- Increase the number of Memorandum of understanding with like organisations
- Extend the MOU with the ACS for a further 3 years
- Ensure the organization was run according to the 2015 statutes

3.) Confirmation of the minutes of the 18th General Assembly held in Dhaka, Bangladesh March 16th 2016

It was noted that the EXCO had reviewed the minutes at the 69th EXCO meeting held in Xi'an, China 24th September 2016 and with a few minor changes found them to be accurate.

Prof. Subramaniam Sotheeswaran proposed the minutes be accepted, seconded by Prof. Basil Shelton Marasinghe

4.) Biannual report from Secretary General Prof. Dr. Md. Wahab Khan

- Membership review. Contact has been lost with the Mongolian Chemical society and the Iraq Chemists Union. It was noted that it was vitally important to keep contact details up-to-date.

Actions :-

- o **Reuben Jih-Ru Hwu** has contacts in Mongolia and will try and reinvigorate the relationship
- o The ACS have a chapter in Iraq and may be able to re-establish contact - **Brad Millar**
- Three EXCO meetings have been held since the 18th GA.
 - o 68th – Dhaka, Bangladesh March 17th 2016
 - o 69th – Xi'an, China – September 24th 2016
 - o 70th – Mohali, India – March 29th 20175 EXCO members attended all 3 meetings, 5 attended 2 meetings, 1 attended 1 meeting and 1 EXCO member attended no meetings at all.
- 26 nominations from 11 countries were received for the FACS awards and citations
 - o 8 nominations for the FACS Foundation Lectureship Award 2017 in Analytical Chemistry
 - o 6 nominations for the FACS Distinguished Young Chemist Award 2017 in Organic Chemistry
 - o 3 nominations for the FACS Distinguished Contribution to Economic Advancement Award
 - o 5 nominations for the FACS Distinguished Contribution to Chemical Education Award
 - o 4 nominations were received for FACS citations
- No new international collaborations have occurred since 2015
- 3 societies have applied to join FACS
- 4 Societies have placed bids for 19ACC/21GA

5.) Report on 17ACC preparations President elect Prof Dave Winkler

The President Elect welcomed all the GA delegates and observers to Melbourne and hoped everyone would enjoy their stay in the city and find lots to interest them in the upcoming congress.

Preparations for the RACI Centenary congress have gone well with over 3300 delegates to the congress with almost 1500 registering for the 17ACC/RACI program. A total of 1480 oral abstracts will be given and almost 1500 posters on display. The Conference centre has 30 rooms and 2 plenary halls available and all will be used on each of the 5 days of the congress.

6.) Financial report Prof. Datuk Dr. Ting-Kueh Soon – Treasurer

Current Financial Position [end June]

C/O Ins Kimia Malaysia	-	Current Account	Ringgit	34,924.55	-	US\$	8,131.00
	-	Fixed Deposit	Ringgit	356,274.36	-	US\$	82,947.75
C/O RACI	-	Fixed Deposit	AUD\$	54,885.88	-	US\$	42,207.24

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		- US\$ 133,285.99
Interest received		
Malaysian Interest	Ringgit 48,263.35	- US\$ 11,237.70
Australian Interest	AUD\$ 1,165.53	- US\$ 897.30
Total		- US\$ 12,135.00

Membership payments

Fees not paid in 2016
 Hong Kong [\$300],
 Indian Chemical Society [\$120],
 Indonesia [not paid since 2013 - \$120 p.a.],
 Israel [\$300],
 Jordan [not paid since 2013 - \$120 p.a.],
 Pakistan [not paid since 2014 - \$120 p.a.],
 Russia [\$120],
 Saudi [not paid since 2013 - \$600 p.a.],
 Sri Lanka [\$120],
 Thailand [\$200],
 Turkey [\$600]
 Vietnam [not paid since 2013 - \$120 p.a.]

Future payments

It was noted that US\$3,000 would have to be paid out for travel support of the FACS award winners.

7.) Projects report - Prof. Dr. Supawan Tantayanon

An overview of the statues related to the projects was given. All of the project directors have exceeded their allotted statute time and need to be replaced.

Of the 11 listed projects only 4 have responded to queries and can be considered active and 3 of these have nominated replacement project leaders.

ACEN – Asian Chemical Education Network . Prof. Mei Hung Chiu(Taipei) nominates Prof. Masahiro Kamata (Japan)

ANRAP – Asian Network of research on Antidiabetic Plants. No nomination

ANMSC – Asian Network of Microscale Chemistry. Dr. Abdulaziz Anajjar nominates Dr. Alex Pokrovsky

AMNC – Asian Network of Metallic Chemistry (a sub-project). Prof. Yasushi Nishihara (Japan) nominates Assistant Prof. Warinthorn Chavasiri (Thailand)

It was noted that AMNC was a subproject and should be made into a full project.

Two projects have been inactive but each has had a project leader nominated to regenerate them

GC – Asian Network of Green Chemistry. Propose Associate Prof. JC Juan

ChIN – Asian Chemical Information Network. Propose Prof. Supa Hannongbua

Of the balance we know the history and archive project is alive however a new proposal and project leader is required to officially keep it going.

If there is no interest in the other projects then they should be scrapped.

The president elect said that one of the goals of his presidency was to review the project system and modernize it and align it to the current needs of the organization.

The project coordinator said she believed, to be effective, the projects needed more structure.

8.) Editor of publications Report - Prof. Ling-Kang Liu

Thanks was given to all the contributors to the FACS newsletter and to the Chemical Society Located in Taipei for the financial support to produce the magazine.

It was noted that the EXCO had decided to encourage more use of electronic media distribution in the future by making the magazine available for download from the website and sending it in electronic format to the various recipients.

9.) Director of Scientific affairs - Prof. Dr. Long Lu

Assistance was offered to the RACI in the area of the 17ACC scientific program but due to the late move of the event to Melbourne Australia the program set out for the RACI national congress was used as the basis for 17ACC and help was not required.

The directorate had organized the 69th EXCO meeting in Xi'an China and the technical program around this.

While in charge of the FACS website the directorate had modernized and upgraded the site and made it far more user friendly with better content.

10.) Confirm and endorse recipients of the 2017 FACS awards and citations

The EXCO sub-committee of the President, Past President and President elect had reviewed the various nominations and selected candidates for each award. This had been ratified by EXCO at the 70th EXCO meeting in Mohali, India in March.

FACS Awards & Citations	Awardees	Member Society
Foundation Lectureship Award 2017 in Analytical Chemistry	Prof. Philip John Marriott	RACI, Australia
Distinguished Young Chemist Award 2017 in Organic Chemistry	Dr. Junichiro Yamaguchi	Chemical Society of Japan
Distinguished Contribution to Economic Advancement Award	Prof. Dr. Mubarak Ahmad Khan	Bangladesh Chemical Society
Distinguished Contribution to Chemical Education Award	Prof. Dr. Supawan Tantayanon	Chemical Society of Thailand
Citations for contributions to Chemistry in the Asia-Pacific Region	Prof. Dr. Chunli Bai	Chinese Chemical Society, China

R Stapleford from Australia proposed the awards be accepted, S Pal from India seconded the motion

11.) Confirmation of voting national representatives

18 national representatives were present, as per attendance table, however the delegates from Cambodia and New Zealand arrived midway through the meeting.

12.) Admission of new member societies

Three applications had been received for admission to the FACS family. Two, Timor Leste and Myanmar, had put their applications in after the cut off date, the former had a delegate present but the latter were unrepresented.

Timor Leste were a very new society only being formed within the last 6 months and were happy to be present to learn how to organize a society. They withdrew their application and would resubmit in Taiwan in 2019.

With no representative from Myanmar no action could be taken and it was recommended that they resubmit in 2019.

The third application was from the Society of Pure and Applied Coordination Chemistry from Japan. This was a difficult decision as there was already a large national representative from Japan [CSJ] and the statutes were silent on the number of national societies from one nation. [There are currently 2 from India]. The statutes were also silent on what constitutes a national society however one would assume it would have representatives in all areas of the country, be open to all varieties of chemical scientists and have a reasonable % of professional chemists as members.

The issue was raised from the floor that no documentation had been received by the assembly prior to the meeting on which to base a decision and it was unfair to ask a vote be taken on insufficient information.

The resolution made was that the Secretary General would circulate the appropriate documents electronically and then call for an electronic vote by the representatives on whether to admit SPACC.

Action Sec General

Addendum 1 :- The vote for the admission of SPACC has taken place 23 representaives were asked for their vote [all representatives with an active e-mail] 5 did not respond. 12 voted no, 6 voted yes. The No.s carry the vote. SPACC will not become a member of FACS as yet.

13.) Hosting of 19ACC/GA21

Three bids had been received for hosting the 2021 event, problems surrounded all three.

SAPCC in Sapporo, Japan	-	Not a member
CCS in Xi'an, China	-	Bid arrived late
TCS in Istanbul, Turkey	-	Bid arrived late

The President suggested the issue be put off until Taiwan in 2019 so that the statues could be complied with in relation to timeous receipt of documents and membership of SAPCC. This would leave very little time for the hosts to organize a major event. It was noted from the floor that statute 4.4 states the hosts must be chosen 4 years prior to the event and so a decision must be made shortly.

The resolution was to hear all 3 proposals. After the vote on whether to admit SAPCC was complete then, if yes, the Assembly representatives to vote on one of the three and if no then between China and Turkey only. This to be complete within one month.

Summary of bids

Japan – Little other than a tourist view of Sapporo. The venue would be the Royton Sapporo capacity 2000

China – Venue Quijiang International Conference Centre capacity up to 4500. Early bird cost US\$360. Theme:- Chemistry, Responsibility and Mission to the future. Will cover all areas of chemistry.

Turkey - Istanbul University Culture and Convention Center capacity up to 1000. Early bird cost US\$350. Detailed budget prepared. Chemical program will focus on the “hot topics of chemistry”. No theme.

Action:-Sec general

Addendum 2 :- The vote for the hosting of ACC19 has taken place 23 representaives were asked for their vote [all representatives with an active e-mail] X did not respond. Y voted for Xi'an, China, z voted for Istanbul, Turkey. The Hosts for 19ACC/21GA in 2021 will be the VVVVVV Chemical Society

14.)Changes to Statues – President elect Prof. Dave Winkler

The current FACS statues have been in operation, with a few minor changes, for the past 10 years and, the President Elect believes, are in need of change. There are a number of issues with the statues one being that there are lots of grey areas and examples have appeared at the meeting where a national society is not defined, the number of member societies allowed from one country is not stated and contradictions where the document states bids for hosting an ACC must be received before a set time and a decision has to be made 4 years prior to the event. There are many others.

One of the biggest problems is that the document is a mixture of constitutional issues and operational issues. The former should be dealt with by the Assembly the latter by EXCO. The end result is stagnation with nothing happening between General Assemblies.

The president went through the minor changes proposed however the final decision was to vote on one modification only.

Resolution: - “To allow voting and communication by electronic means to enable action to occur between physical meetings”. Proposed Dave Winkler President elect [Australia].

Vote 17 for,
zero against

A team will be put together including Prof Tom Spurling, New President, New Sec General, Treasurer to review the statutes and make proposals to be circulated to the Assembly for input and agreement prior to 2019 General Assembly

15.) To elect new EXCO team to run until 18ACC in 2019

According to current statutes the new President will be the current President Elect, The new Past President will be the current president. The new Secretary General will be the current Secretary General Elect. The new President Elect will be the Chair of 18ACC and he/she will nominate the new Secretary General Elect. The current EXCO recommends the following:-

	Name	Position at EXCO	Email Address
1.	Prof. Dave Winkler (DW)	President	drdavewinkler@gmail.com
2.	Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmad (JUA)	Past President	jasimahmad47@gmail.com
3.	Prof. Reuben Jih-Ru Hwu	President-Elect	jrhwu@mx.nthu.edu.tw
4.	Roger Stapleford (RS)	Secretary General	roger.stapleford@raci.org.au
5.	Prof. Liu Ling-Kang (LLK)	Secretary General-Elect	liuu@chem.sinica.edu.tw
6.	Datok Dr. Soon Ting Kueh (STK)	Treasurer	soontk@ikm.org.my
7.	Prof. Sourav Pal (SP)	Editor of Publications	spal@chem.iitb.ac.in
8.	Prof. Supawan Tantayanon (ST)	Project Co-coordinator	Supawan.T@chula.ac.th
9.	Prof. Long Lu (LL)	Director of Scientific Affairs	lulong@sioc.ac.cn
10.	To be Selected	Rep. from East & Pacific Asia	
11.	To be Selected	Rep. from SouthEast Asia & Papua New Guinea	
12.	To be Selected	Rep. from South and West Asia	

Due to time constraints the President decided to have the various regions elect their representatives off site and report back.

The president proposed the EXCO team be accepted with the representatives to be included later.

Seconded the Treasurer

Action General Secretary

Addendum 3 :- The vote for the area representatives

East and Pacific Asia. 8 societies were asked 7 responded after several reminders. Prof. Chulbom Lee, Korea, 4 Votes. Prof Penny Brothers, NZ, 3 votes. Prof. Chulbom Lee will be the area representative.

South East Asia and PNG. There was only one nomination so no voting was required.

Prof. Choon-Hong Tan from Singapore will be the area representative

South and West Asia. 8 societies were asked 6 responded after several reminders. Prof. Dr. Md. Wahab Khan, Bangladesh, 4 Votes. Prof Mustafa Culha, Turkey, 2 votes. Prof. Dr. Md. Wahab Khan will be the area representative.

16.) The financial system

EXCO had discussed the finances of the organization over the past two years and had come to the conclusion there was too little flowing into the Federation to make a meaningful impact on Chemistry in the lesser developed areas of Asia. \$500 per project is basically nothing and this is why little is happening.

The biggest potential revenue source is the Asian Chemical Congress and both proposals centre on this.

Prof Takahashi believes the ACC series should be run by FACS not member societies. He proposes a professional conference organizing company be created and this would organize all ACC's with all the funds flowing into the company who could then distribute them where the FACS EXCO believes they could make the most impact.

Prof Winkler believes the current method is better as you get buy in from the host country and willing organisers to create great programs besides which As FACS is not a legal entity it would be very difficult for us to control an outside company.

He believes that a portion of the revenue or surplus should be diverted to FACS to be used where needed but still leaving the hosts with a reasonable surplus.

Prof Winkler also believes the current levels of subscriptions from member countries also needs to be reviewed both on base amounts [that haven't changed for years] and how base accounts are allocated to countries as some countries are paying the minimum amount when the world bank review on world economies indicates they are on a higher level.

Prof. Datuk Dr. Ting-Kueh Soon believes a careful study needs to be made before any changes are made to the subscriptions. Losing members due to perceived high fees is not an option.

EXCO was tasked with reviewing the situation and to make recommendations to the Assembly on how to increase Federation funds flow.

17.) ACS Presentation

The memorandum of understanding between the ACS and FACS ends at the close of 2017 and we believe it's important to continue the relationship.

The ACS gave a short presentation starting off with an excerpt from their constitution Article II Section 3 *"The SOCIETY shall cooperate with scientists internationally and shall be concerned with the worldwide application of chemistry to the needs of humanity"*

Following on from this the ACS were entering into agreements with overseas organisations.

They state that the characteristics of sustainable agreements, collaboration and exchange in global context are:-

- Advance knowledge, awareness and public appreciation of chemistry, chemical engineering, chemistry education and allied sciences.
- Coordination of efforts to support chemistry's contribution to the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Promotion and provision of technical programming via place-based and virtual means.
- Involvement and provision of leadership skills training for students and early career researchers.

The ACS are willing to renew the MOU and are open for suggestions on the format.

18.) Endorsement of new FACS Fellow

As is traditional at the end of the 6 years on the FACS EXCO the outgoing Past President is awarded a FACS Fellowship.

Prof. Dr. Jasim Uddin Ahmad took great pleasure in awarding Prof. Dr. Andy Hor Tzi Sum a FACS Fellowship in recognition of his services to the organization

19.) Meeting closed at 17:10