



## Minutes 31<sup>th</sup> AONSA Executive Committee Meeting

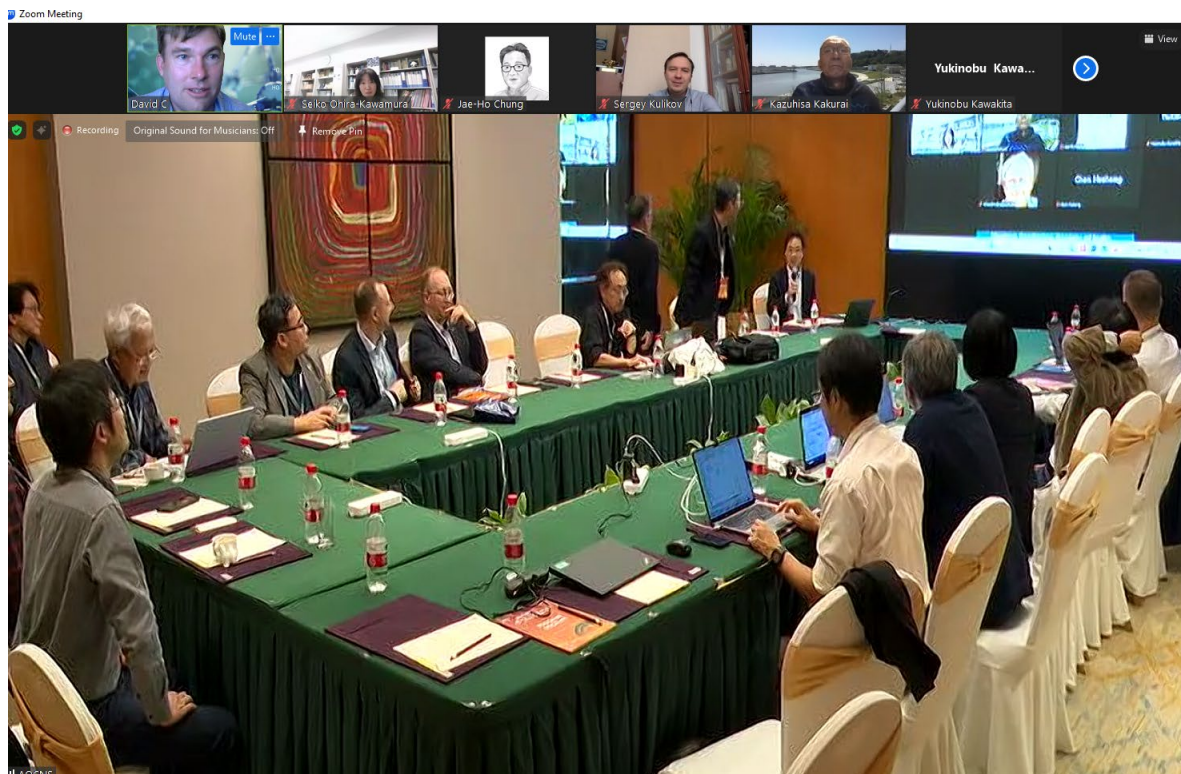
**Date:** 3 December 2023

**Time:** 14:00-17:00 (local time, Dongguan, China GMT+8). 11:30-14:30 (India time, GMT+5:30), 13:00-16:00 (Jakarta time, GMT+7), 15:00-18:00 (Korean time, GMT+9), 15:00-18:00 (Tokyo time, GMT+9), 17:00-20:00 (Sydney time, GMT+11).

**Mode:** In-person and on Zoom (hybrid)

**Physical venue:** Room 2, Ground Floor, Royal Garden Hotel (AOCNS 2023 Conference Venue), No.769 Meijing Road, Dalang Town, Dongguan City, Guangdong Province, China





## Attendees

### [Board Members]

Taku J Sato (President; JSNS, Tohoku U)  
 Jae-Ho Chung (Communications; KNBUA; Korea U)  
 Hsiung Chou (Treasurer; TWNSS National Sun Yat-Sen U)  
 David Cortie (Secretary; ANBUG, ANSTO/U. Wollongong)  
 S M Yusuf (Vice President; NSSI, BARC, INDIA)

### [Members]

Sungkyun Park (PNU, KNBUA)  
 Soo-Hyung Choi (KNBUA; Hongik U)  
 Chun-Chuen Yang (TWNSS; Chung Yuan Christian University)  
 Yukinobu Kawakita (JAEA/J-PARC)  
 Fangwei Wang (CSNS)  
 R. Mittal (NSSI; ITT BHU)  
 D. Pandey (IIT, NSSI president)  
 Fangwei Wang (CNSS)

Hesheng Chen (CNSS; IHEP)  
Yoshi Otake (JSNS)  
Evvy Kartini (INSS)  
Dr. Amit Kumar (NSSI)

**[Observers]**

Andre Gubkin (RosNeutro)  
Song-ye Choi (Korea, previous AONSA president, observer)  
Sergey Kulikov JINR (Joint Institute for Nuclear Research).  
Egor Lychagin JINR (Joint Institute for Nuclear Research).  
Young So (Hanaro)  
Jamie Schulz (ANSTO)  
Kengji Nakajima  
Andrey Gubkin (Rosneutro)  
Yukinobu Kawakita (JSNS)  
Kazuhisa Kukurai (Observer, (JSNS, Tohoku University))  
Seiko Ohira-Kawamura (JSNS)  
Toshiyo Otomo (JPARC)

**[Special Observers]**

Hideki Seto (AONSA Office Liaison; KEK)

**[Apologies]**

Chris Weinrich (ANBUG)

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and Process Matters**

Taku Sato (TS), the current president of AONSA opened the meeting and welcomed the committee. He discussed the lost opportunity caused by COVID which caused three years of interruption. He identified that the challenge for AONSA is to restart the activities for the younger generations. He thanked the facilities for supporting AONSA initiatives/

David Cortie (DC) presented an overview the meeting agenda. The EC approved the agenda with one item added: to discuss the new incoming board.

- The members and observers then introduced themselves.

## **2. Formal matters**

TS discussed how the Indonesian Neutron Scattering Society has not been able to pay its AONSA membership fee since 2022. At the 29 EC meeting in Jakarta 2022, the EC decision was to wait for a year. As the fee is still outstanding, TS proposes that INSS be converted to an observer. TS has contacted the INSS to discuss this but received no response. SW and the rest of EC members agree that the rules need to be obeyed, and temporarily moving INSS to observer status is the way forward. D Panndey mention that the INSS is always welcome can rejoin. The rest of the EC raised no objections towards the change in the INSS status to observer and the measure was adopted with one caveat. TS noted, that in relation to this issue, the AONSA rules need to be slightly modified and he will draft the necessary revisions, circulate to the EC, for approval via email.

TS identified a second formal matter: the proposal for new executive committee members. Every member country needs two names. TS nominated from the JSNS, Otake and Kimuro to be next EC members. FW will be the next board member and EC meeting from the CNSS. DC: From ANBUG, Chris Wenrich will be the EC/ board member, with remaining EC members/observer to be clarified after the meeting. For the NSSI, S.M Yussuf will be the board member and EC member, with remaining EC members/observer to be clarified after the meeting. For KNBUA, Jae-ho and Sungkyun Park will be EC members. For TWNSS, the new president will become the next EC member, with the details to be provided via email.

## **3. Report from the AONSA Office (H. Seto) (Appendix 1, [Link](#))**

Hideki presented a report from AONSA office prepared by Ms Amma.

## **4. Presentation of the minutes from the 30th EC (Appendix 2, [Link](#))**

DC presented a summary of the minutes from the 30th EC meeting and requested that some of the missing files/reports be sent via email.

## **5. Financial matters (H. Chou) (Appendix 3 [Link](#))**

Hsiung Chou (HC) presented budget. Three societies have not yet paid membership fees, ANBUG, CNSS, NSSI. 20 days left in the year to pay! Full balance \$87,647. He presented the budget for next 6 months. Expected income ~ 12,000 income + 6000 donations, expected expense AYRF 5000. Annual office ~6500

## **6. Bid, Voting and selection of host for AOCNS 2027 – (NSSI Bid , [Appendix 4](#))**

Amit Kumar (AK) presented the NSSI bid, available at the link.

The bid was well received by the EC members and several follow-up questions were raised. Hesheng Cheng highlighted VISA issue for accessing India which may mean that not all AONSA members will be able to attend in person. JS queried the distance from the hotel to the conference. TS queried transportation costs for local. Mittal clarified that local transportation will be provided free of charge. HC we normally need 5 parallel session but NSSI plan only has capacity for 4 parallel session. The suggestion is that two session will be merged.

Voting occurred, the application of the NSSI was unanimously accepted by the AONSA Executive committee. TS congratulated the NSSI, and the EC committee looks forward to the AOCNS2027 to be held in Mumbai.

## **7. Discussion on board and committee membership**

The new AONSA board will begin in January 2024, and needs to be formally approved by the EC. TS, the current president (2021-2022), formally proposed S.M Yusuf as president (2023-2024) and H. Chou as vice president (2023-2024). This was accepted by the EC. SMY introduced himself. He has a long association with AONSA having served as an EC member, observer and board member. He has served as president NSSI, and secretary. He currently acts as group leader for a scientific group of ~ 550 scientists/technicians at BARC, also currently president of Indian Physics Association. He is vice chair of Materials Society of Indonesia. SMY used a phrase: “Neutrons for science, neutron for life, neutrons for mankind” and mentioned his priority as AONSA president will be connections, with some new activities such as more direct interactions with NSSA and ENSA to raise our visibility and benefit to members. He stated another goal for his term would be to try hold ICNS in a AONSA member country. The bid will happen within 2 years. Thirdly, he wants to foster partnerships, such as with the IEAE. He identified that, during the early days of AONSA, we have regional co-operative agreements. Can AONSA can take leadership to take contact with IAEA to apply for similar agreements/programs in the future? He identified another possibility as World Academy of Science, where AONSA could propose support for Neutron Scattering. His ideas were well received by the EC meeting.

H. Chou introduced himself, and thanked the EC for accepting as AONSA vice president position.

The new AONSA board term begins at the end of December (2023)

## **8. AONSA Prize**

A short discussion occurred at regarding the AONSA prize. TS noted that the main advertisement will be

next EC meeting (32<sup>nd</sup>) in June 2024.

## **9.AONSA Young Research Fellows commencing in 2024**

SMY showed the ranking and results for the AONSA Young Research Fellowship application. He noted that three of the four applicants are female, which is pleasing given AONSA's efforts to promote diversity in neutron science. He presented the priority list which will be presented to the facility directors. Both the first two candidates selected ANSTO as first choice and JPARC second. The third candidate selected JPARC. The facility directors will need to clarify whether two fellowships at ANSTO/JPARC can be feasibly supported. The final announcement and decision for the successful candidates will be made in 2024 after this facility directors have confirmed this.

## **10.AONSA Newsletters and Homepage**

JH presented an update on the AONSA webpage. He called for new content for the next AONSA newsletter to be released early in 2024.

DC and JH will have a separate Zoom meeting to discuss the SSL certificate issue which is affecting some of the AONSA web page content.

## **11. Activities Related to SE Asia and Other Non-member Countries (D Chen/T Sato)**

TS identified that some South Eastern Asian countries, who benefit to be part of AONSA, are still not contactable. The EC also discussed the possible membership applications for Russian members. TS referred to a recent board meeting which also discussed possibility of Russian community during AONSA. TS: the board meeting decision was that this could be allowable if it doesn't affect existing members. TS: for this to occur, the Board will have to officially ask all members to accept this. DC clarified that another outcome of the board meeting was that only neutron societies, not facilities, may join AONSA, as AONSA is officially a society of user groups, not facilities. Andrey Gubkin expressed interest for Rossneutro to join AONSA. AG mentioned that Rossneutro had vote about joining AONSA in January 2022, however After February 2022, the situation changed and Rossneutro postponed any formal application. AG mentioned that Rossneutro decided to wait until normalcy returned to the international situation before formally applying. SYP queried whether Russia can it be a member of both European and Asian societies? AG, in the past Rossneutro has been part of ENSA, however joining AONSA would promote neutron science in the eastern part of the country. JS: is the proposal to remain in both associations ENSLA and AONSA? AG: Co-operation with ENSLA is frozen. HC mentioned that the rules could follow the lead of other societies, such as the Asia Pacific Physics Society. DP, in principle it possible to join both societies, but this should be subject to ENSA approval TS noted that, once there is an formal application, this can be discussed further.



## **12. Update interactions with IUCR / magnetic structure school (T. Sato)**

TS mentioned that the Congress of the International Union of Crystallography was held in Melbourne 2023. At the meeting, possible venues for magnetic structure school was discussed. TS: it is likely to be held in South Korea, Hanaro, however this need to be confirmed by TS in 2024.

## **12. Calendar of AONSA Activities (D Cortie) (*Appendix 6*)**

DC presented the preliminary calendar for events in 2024 (*Appendix 1*). The EC discussed the possibility of two in-person events for 2024. Then neutron school will be held in person, last week November 2024, Mumbai. SP agreed that in-person events promote much better communications. JS reiterated that we need to reach other countries in the region, Malaysia, Vietnam and AONSA should aim to host future in-person events in these countries.

## **13. Discussion of AONSA Neutron School**

JS noted that there have been no recent reports at AONSA EC or FDM meetingsy from Thailand and Malaysia. He proposed we can we reestablish connections by holding a future school of AONSA event in one of those countries. YSH: The mailing list contact for Malaysia should still be checking emails/contactable.

## **14. Venue for the 32<sup>nd</sup> EC Meeting,**

CCY and HC: The TWNSS has kindly offer to host the in-person June 2024. JH expressed preferred option to have in person event. Some discussion with the committee about the feasibility of this. TS: The precise venues and details are still to be determined.

## **15. Reports from neutron societies**

DC: Due to the reduced time of this meeting, neutron societies are encouraged to submit their reports to the newsletter directly and there was insufficient time for individual reports from each society at this occasion. However, we request reports from each of the societies below to be send to [aonsa.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:aonsa.secretary@gmail.com) to be included in the next newsletter.

- ANBUG (C. Wensrich)
- CNSS (D. Chen)
- INSS (Evvy Kartini)
- JSNS (Y Otake)
- KNUBA (Sungyun Park)

- NSSI (R. Mittal)
- TWNSS (Che-yi Chu)
- Thailand (No representative nominated)
- Malaysia (No representative nominated)
- RosNeutro (A. Gubkin)

## 16. Close of meeting

TS: Thanked all attendees and wished them a successful conference at the AOCNS2023.

## Appendix 6: Calendar of AONSA Activities

### Year 2023

Date	Events
June 16/17	Facility Directors' Meeting + Executive Committee (Zoom only)
3rd December 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> AONSA EC Meeting (TBD), (Hybrid in China), (during AOCNS2023 conference)
3 December	Brief FDM meeting at AOCNS23
2-8 December 2023	4 <sup>th</sup> Asia Oceania Neutron Scattering Conference 2023, Royal Garden Hotel, Dongguan, China

### Year 2024

Date	Events
June TBD	FDM + EC, Taiwan (TBD)
November/December	In person, AONSA Neutron School, 32 <sup>nd</sup> AONSA FDM, EC Meeting (TBD), (India), BARC, Mumbai – <i>Dates will be refined by the NSSI</i>