

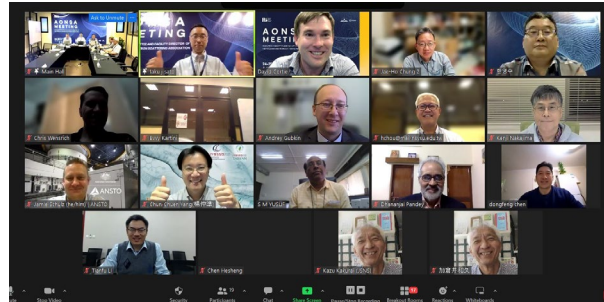


Minutes for the 29th AONSA Executive Committee Meeting

Date: 25 November 2022

Time: Sydney 13:00 -; Japan & Korea 11:00 -; China 10:00 -; Indonesia/Bangkok 9:00 -; India 7:30 -

Place: Hybrid, online via ZOOM, and National Battery Research Institute Technopark L2/29 BSD City, South Tangerang, Indonesia, 15314



Participants:

[Board Members]

Taku J Sato (President; JSNS, Tohoku U)

S. M. Yusuf (Vice-president; NSSI; BARC)

Dongfeng Chen (Past President; CNSS; CIAE)

Jae-Ho Chung (Communications; KNBUA; Korea U)

Hsiung Chou (Treasurer; TWNSS National Sun Yat-Sen U)

David Cortie (Secretary; ANBUG, U. Wollongong)

[Members]

Chris Wensrich (ANBUG, Newcastle U)

Hesheng Chen (CNSS; IHEP)

Kazuhisa Kakurai (JSNS, CROSS)

Soo-Hyung Choi (KNBUA; Hongik U)

Dhananjai Pandey (NSSI; ITT BHU)

Chun-Chuen Yang (TWNSS; Chung Yuan Christian University)

Agustinus Agung Nugroho (INSS)

[Observers]

Jamie Schulz (ANSTO)

Fangwei Wang (CSNS)

Tianfu Li (CARR)

Hideki Seto (JPARC)

Andrey Gubkin (Rosneutro)

[Apologies]

Toshiya Otomo (J-PARC/KEK)

Minutes

1. Process matters

- The meeting was formally opened by the AONSA president, Prof Taku Sato. He provided a brief report from the most recent AONSA Online Board Meeting held earlier in November 2022, highlighting several points of discussion including the emphasis on planning for the 4th Asia-Oceania Conference on Neutron Scattering (Dongguan China 2023) and possibility of hosting the 32 AONSA EC meeting in India. Updates on the AONSA prize and Young Research Fellow selection were also discussed.

2. Formal matters

- The EC approved the agenda.

3. Report from the AONSA Office (H. Seto) – [Appendix A](#)

- Hideki Seto provided the report of the activities from the AONSA office. The office carried out the following actions.

- Issued receipts of Annual Fees to the national member societies in the secretary's name
- Paid for AONSA Prize expenses and the YRFs' airfare reimbursement
- Made payment to NBRI for AONSA EC & FDM Meeting fees
- Confirmed and update the deposit/withdrawal of the bank account as required
- Shifted from managing budgets in each bank account to sorting by Excel table
- Placed orders for the AONSA prize ceremony; a medal, certificate with folder, and money envelope to carry out the prize ceremony at ICNS in 2022 in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Shipped the above goods to ICNS conference chair, Prof. Rolando Granada
- Made remittance to the awardee (Prof. Robert A. Robinson)
- Organized transportation reimbursement for the awardee to attend the ceremony
- Organized airfare reimbursement for AONSA Young Research Fellows (Dr. Indri Badria Adilina and Dr. Naeem Muhammad)
- Closed AONSA Prize Fund Account (MUFG Bank) as decided at the previous EC meeting

- The full report slides can be found in the linked [Appendix A](#).

3. Financial matters - [Appendix B](#)

- The AONSA Treasurer Prof H Chou presented the financial update for AONSA up until November 25. Annual fees have been paid from every society: NSSI, ANBUG, CNSS< TWNSS< NSSI, JSNS, KNBUA, Thailand and Malaysia. Donations were also received from ANBUG, CNSS< TWNSS, JSNS, KNBUA. Expenses included funding the 2 YRF, and domain charge.
- HC highlighted the current situation with regards to the AONSA Prize Fund. Even though the prize fund is now combined in the same account, AONSA keeps separate records which is a for the prizes (\$27 221 balance, previously \$37 567 in June). The large drop is due to rate and high expense of previous winner). The prize fund has therefore dropped of about \$10,000 (USD)
- He projected expenses for the next 6 months ~\$7000 US and income \$18000. The full report of income and expenses can be viewed in the link above in Appendix B.
- DC pointed out that there should be no charge for web domain as ANSTO now sponsors and pays for the website. HC agreed, points out this was an error on the budget, and this was actually the handling fee.
- TK, HC, HS: discussed the options with regards to the exchange rate for the Japanese Yen and agreed that the best option would be to open a new bank account in USD, as the rate for JPY has been unfavorable. The present income and balance would be kept in the original account and future income/transactions will be H Seto confirmed that in principle it is possible to open a second bank account. TK and HS agreed that they would discuss the practical steps within the Japanese community. The EC committee agreed to this proposal to open a US bank account.

4. (Formal m matters continued) –

- DC presented the minutes from the 28th Executive Meeting and highlighted some outstanding actions including inviting an Indonesian member to the AONSA board. He highlighted also the change in the AONSA office from JPARC to KEK, and the ongoing discussion surrounding diversity on committees.
- KK queried why some of the links in the minutes were not accessible, and DC clarified that only members of the EC were permitted access, and this had to be granted on a case-by-case basis in the Google drive. KK and the EC committee agreed this was preferable to making the links open to the public.

5. AONSA prize

- SM Yusuf presented the outcome of the selection of the AONSA Prize that has been awarded once every two years, since 2010 to recognize an outstanding research career.
- The prize selection was made in 2022, and the award will be presented at AOCNS2023
- SMY noted that several members requested an extension of the prize submission deadline,

which was reasonable given the disruption caused by the pandemic.

- SMY: Even after the first extension, the response rate was not highly satisfactory, and the deadline was extended for another 15 days
- Selection committee was assembled from nominees from the 7 member societies within AONSA.
- The final decision of the committee was to award the prize to Prof Yasuhiko Fujii. He has made an impressive scientific contribution to neutron science, with an average citation index of 58, and has been a recipient of several other awards. His achievements include being an AONSA founding member and board member, and chair of the IUCR neutron scattering committee. He was the founding president of JSNS and the president the Physical Society of Japan, and the Quantum Beam Science Directorate. SMY will prepare a summary and citation for the website and newsletter.
- TS requested details which SMY clarified: 4 nominations were received one from NSSI, JSNS, TWNSS, TWNSS.
- SMY mentioned strong feed back on the issue of gender equity from some of the award committee members. No nominations were received from female candidates, and diversity is still low. How do we correct this? SMY questioned how the fundamental demographics of neutron scattering science is reflected in the award process. SMY suggested supporting mid-level female researchers into the selection committee process and awards.
- The EC committee approved the final award decision.

6. AONSA Young Research Fellows 2022 (49:30)

- Only two applications were received.
- SMY discussed the selection committee and announcement. Both are good candidates: Jianyan Wu and Ferensa Oemery.
- SMY: Will follow up on whether eligibility is valid (within 8 years of PhD) for the second candidate
- TS: The eight years eligibility window is defined from the deadline period, so technically not met in this case. SMY pointed out that due to the pandemic it was not practical for candidates to apply in those rounds. TS: YRF does allow for exemption for career disruption which could cover the effect of pandemic. DC agreed and showed that the rules do allow for career interruption and argued that COVID19 constituted a career interruption. In light of this, the EC agreed to extend the eligibility period to account for career disruptions caused by the

pandemic.

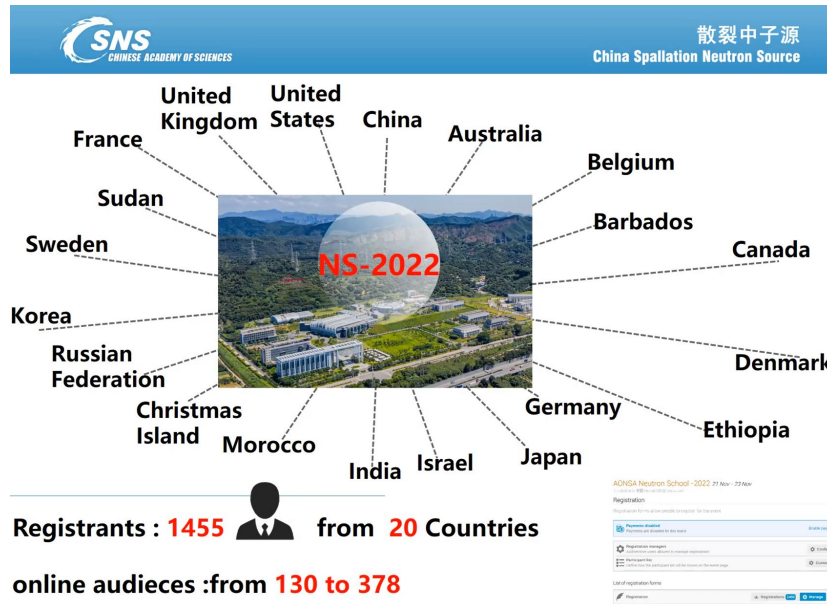
- HC: Pointed out the many YRF leave neutron scattering after their fellowships, may form links to industry and leave neutron science. There was some discussion (EK, HC) about this pointing out that YRFs should be involved in leading and supporting their own neutron societies.
- SMY: Both have selected their first choice to be based at ANSTO. Queried if this would be possible.
- TS queried the ranking and priority of each candidate. The first candidate focused on neutron diffraction of battery materials. The second candidate focused on inelastic neutron spectroscopy supported by DFT on metal-organic frameworks.
- JS: ANSTO only has capacity for 1 year FTE Fellowship. If both candidates select ANSTO, then only 6 months per candidate would be possible.
- DC: queried the amount of time was requested by each of the candidates. SMY will follow up and clarify this point.
- TS requested ranking from the committee.
- SMY provide more detail on projects and provided ranking: 1st ranked (Wu), 2nd (Oemery)
- EC committee approved ranking of candidates: 1st ranked (Wu), 2nd (Oemery)
- TS and EC committee agreed to follow-up by email, contact first candidate to request preferred time span and make a decision from that point,
- KK: thanked the selection committee on behalf of the JSNS for the AONSA prize recipient.
- KK queried: How will the AONSA award be announced? TS: SMY will prepare a public release statement and this will also be part of the newsletter. Last time this was announced on the website by the public relations officer. SMY: who will contact Prof Fujii? JH: this will be announced on the website, however we need a high quality photo. JH suggested that SMY will prepare the text/citation and contact Prof Fujii for a high quality photo. This was agreed upon.

7. AONSA Neutron School [Appendix C](#).

- FW presented the report on the 12th AONSA Neutron School in CNSS which was held Nov 21-23 November 2022, online.
- The school had 5 days of lectures and two days of on-site training. Multiple neutron scattering techniques were covered including powder diffraction, PDF, magnetic neutron scattering, SNAS and neutron reflectometry across diverse research areas in physics, chemistry and biology, life, and food.
- Due to the pandemic disruption in China, unfortunately the onsite component had to be

cancelled.

- Over 1000 registrants registered and at any one time there were 130-370 participants online many parts of the world, see below:



- FW thanked all of the speakers and participants.
- FW mentioned the plan to post video recordings of past and future lectures on the AONSA webpage
- TS: congratulated the CNS and Fangwei for running the successful school
- DC queried if any lectures were recorded and will be uploaded/made public. FW said he will follow up with each speaker individually to see if each speaker is willing to put their videos on youtube or the AONSA website. AAN suggested AONSA create its own Youtube channel.
- TS: asked if there is any plan to report to Neutron News and in the AONSA newsletter. FW agreed it would be good to write a short article for neutron news as a follow-up action.

7. AONSA Newsletters and Homepage [Appendix D](#)

- Jae-ho Chung provided an update of the website. He is striving to make it more useful and easier to manage. He will create a separate news page from the main page. Several other cosmetic improvements have been made.
- JHC requested a list of past board members as he would like to add this to the website but does not have all of the information yet. He identified that the EC minutes and other information is not easily available prior to the 11th EC meeting (held in 2013), and requested that, if anyone has this information from earlier meetings, could they please send this to him. He is also looking for any photos and other information to add to the website.

- Some logos for the facilities/societies may be out of date on the website. JHC requests that the EC check and send new logos if needed.
- Some past EC minutes are also missing and difficult to find. JHC has created a separate page to store the minutes. As agreed earlier, the minutes will be made public, but the detailed reports/slides in the Appendices will only be available to EC members.
- The latest newsletter has just been uploaded (Volume 13, No , December 2021)
- JHC issued a call for the next issue. Deadline December 2nd 2022. He suggested there will only be one newsletter in 2022 given the number of submitted articles.
- DC suggested that perhaps one way to manage this would be at society could submit an update once per month which will go to the website and at the end of the year this could be collated.
- KK queried whether the current newsletter will contain content from June 2022. JHC clarified that the next newsletter will cover the entire 2022 period. JHC clarified it may also be good to combine the last two FDM meetings into a 1 page article, but also fine just to report on the latest FDM.
- EK thanked JHC for his excellent work on updating the website.
- AG suggested the clicking the map should link to the national society.
- DC shared the email from Neutron News that we could write one article to highlight all updates. We could also aim for a special edition with numerous articles. DC requests feedback from interested EC members via email after the meeting.

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

- TS said he will contact non-member countries.
- A.G suggest providing an introduction to the Kazakhstan neutron scattering community which has a research reactor and is in the process of building a high-resolution powder diffractometer. AG will provide contact details to TS to establish contact.

10. Report on the 24th Neutron Facility Directors Meeting (Tianfu Lo) [Appendix E](#)

- Tianfu Li (CARR) acted as chair in place of Kai Sun.
- Tianfu provided the summary of the 24th FDM meeting which was held November 24. The full summary is provided in the attached slides.
- He highlighted the international shortage of neutrons
- One major point of discussion was the shortage of high quality graphite crystals for moderators, as Panasonic who previously produced this is planning to cease production. TL proposed a joint letter to the company from all of the facility directors.

- The next meeting will be held in parallel with the next EC meeting. The chair will be Tianfu Li.

11. Cooperation with IUCr and IAEA (T Sato)

- TS has tried to find a point of contact and will invite a delegate to a future AONSA EC meeting.
- The next IUCR will be in Melbourne 2023
- A Joint Magnetic Structure School will be held in 2023 or possibly 2024 would be preferred. This will be discussed with Maxim Avdeev to host either in Japan or Australia. TS: Suggested to call the school: "The AONSA Magnetic Structure School"
- DP mentioned that is sometimes possible for the IUCR to provide sponsorship for joint activities. In the past the IUCR provided support for travel.
- DF Chen suggested inviting members from IUCR and other non-member countries to the AONSA hybrid meetings
- DF Chen also mentioned he received an email from the Gordon Godfrey Conference, which will be held next workshop in the United States. He queried how many AONSA members will be able to attend in the USA, given that the past meetings occurred in Hong Kong. TS said we need a new point of contact as many emails to non-member countries are not been delivered successfully.

12. Cooperation with NSSA and ENSA (T Sato)

- DC and TS highlighted the joint award ceremony ICNS.
- TS met ENSA chair at the ICNS and committed to have a virtual three-person meeting between the presidents of the three international neutron societies.

13. Cooperation with AOFSSRR (T Sato)

- DC has made contact with current members on the AOFSSRR executive, including Richard Garret to discuss joint activities. DC proposed inviting an observer from the AOFSSRR to the next AONSA meeting. DC proposed the possibility of joint schools in areas of shared interest (e.g. diffraction).

14. Promotion of diversity in AONSA (T Sato)

- DC and SMY highlighted challenges for finding a gender-balanced award selection committee and set of award nominees.
- DC and TS proposed implementing the rule discussed at the previous EC meeting that each society must provide 1 male and 1 female member for award committees. If a society is unable to provide a balanced set of candidates, they can provide a written letter explaining why this occurred which the AONSA board/EC may choose to accept. DP highlighted major challenges in the "1:1 rule", and suggested female involvement could be strongly encouraged but not mandated because there are not enough people available to serve on the EC in the short-term, even if in the long run we do want 1:1 as the ultimate target. Each country has its own unique challenges/situation. TS supports making the 1:1 rule, but understanding that we will accept a letter of exemption describing why this is not possible. DP mentioned that most societies would prefer not to have to provide this in writing. DC points out that this would be a private communication and not made public, but we need some action given that the Diversity statement has been in place for 3 years but progress has been slow. DC also pointed out that the awards/committee memberships is available as a matter of public record, and this is the key area where AONSA should seek to take on a leadership role in the region.
- CW asked whether this "1:1 rule" applied for the award committee or for the AONSA board. DC clarified this applied to the awards committee, but ultimately the board also needs to be balanced. CW recognises that the representation in the EC also represents their national society. DC points out that diversity covers not only gender but also age, regional background, ethnicity.
- DC suggests possibly we could improve diversity on some award committees to request participation from ENSA and NSSA.
- SMY emphasized we need to be clearer in our messaging to encourage association members to work actively to achieve gender diversity. He suggests this should be "in black and white" on the website and also in the newsletter. DC illustrated the D&E statement currently on the website, and requests any suggestions for improvement to the wording.
- TS pointed out that we have discussed this at length in past meetings but the in the end no formal action was taken. He strongly encouraged the EC to support the 1:1 proposal as trial to see if this formal action can improve the situation. CW agrees with this.
- CW suggested collect demographic data for each AONSA member society to better understand the makeup of AONSA, and identify where the challenges lie. This was agreed on, in principle, within the EC. JS mentioned that ANSTO has a 40:40:20 rule which is 40% male and 40% female, 20% discretionary which could serve as a model for the EC.

- HC suggested it would be valuable to invite additional observers to the AONSA EC members from younger generations to improve diversity as this can involve emerging early and mid-career scientists who will lead the society in the future. He also highlighted the high work load on female scientists who have to serve on multiple committees. DC points out there is no limit on EC membership for observer. HC points out that attending a hybrid meeting is a good option.
- KK : the JSNS and Japanese community support the proposal for the 1:1 rule in selection committee as a useful first step. There were no objections raised from within the EC committee on the "1:1" policy on AONSA selection prize committee.
- The executive therefore has agreed to trial this new 1:1 policy/rule for the award selection committee.
- SMY points out that the bigger / longer-term challenge is to make sure we also have equity in the nominees to get gender balance in the awards themselves. DC agrees, but we need to affect change both from the "top" (i.e. by changing rules) and "from the bottom" (by organically growing the number of excellent researchers from all backgrounds)
- EC committee agreed we will collect a demographic survey on its membership as suggested by CW.
- DP highlighted we need to also make changes to the EC and Board, and agreed as first step is to add Observers. TS agrees we can add more observers within the current rules and societies are encouraged to nominate suitable individuals.

16. Venue for the 30th and 31st EC Meetings

- DC and TS propose to aim for one hybrid meeting per year and one in person. Suggest the meeting in June 2023 for the 30th EC could be hybrid.
- TS later asked if the EC committee agreed with this proposal for the next EC meeting. HC suggested it would be good to have at least every second meeting in person as this often leads to better solutions and outcomes. He highlighted that in the past in-person meeting could be timed to coincide with AONSA schools. HC suggested it would better to aim to interact with new communities if possible, JS agrees. Possibly the philosophy should be always to have a hybrid meeting, every meeting.
- DC: should every meeting be hybrid? TS pointed out this depends on how many people are willing to travel. If there are not sufficient people to travel then fully online meeting may be better. TC suggested we do a survey via email and use this to make decision.

15. Calendar of AONSA Activities (D Cortie) (see *Appendix F at the bottom of this document*)

- DC presented the calendar. As a key point, CH said the dates for the AOCNS will be 2nd-8th December 2023 and it should be possible to run this in person.
- TS urged the CSNS to make the decision about in-person or hybrid format as early as possible to allow people to schedule travel. CH said that this should be possible to make this decision 6 months before the conference to give a clear answer on this point. DC queried if meeting could include a hybrid component. CS confirmed this should be possible.

16. Reports from Neutron Associations and communities>

The individual neutron societies gave their reports. The full details and slide packs are available below.

- ANBUG (C. Wensrich) – [Appendix F](#)
- CNSS (H. Chen) – [Appendix G](#)
- INSS (E Kartini) – Report presented, but file not yet received
- JS: proposes “promotion of science” donation category
- JSNS (K Kakurai) [Appendix H](#)
- KNUBA (J.-H. Chung) – [Appendix I](#)
- NSSI (D Pandey) – [Appendix K](#)
- TWNSS (Chue-Chuen Yang) - Report presented, but file not yet received
- Thailand (A. Maneewong) – No report presented at this time.
- Malaysia (A. A. Mohamed) – No report presented at this time.
- RosNeutro (A. Gubkin) – Report presented, but file not yet received

Appendix 1: Calendar of AONSA Activities

Year 2022

Date	Events
24 November	23rd Facility Directors' Meeting (Zoom)
25 November	29 th AONSA EC Meeting (Indonesia)
21-23 November	12 th AONSA Neutron School (CSNS, China)

Year 2023

Date	Events
June TBD	Facility Directors' Meeting (Zoom) + EC
TBD November	30 th AONSA EC Meeting (TBD), (Hybrid in China)
2-8 December	4 th Asia Oceania Neutron Scattering Conference, Royal Garden Hotel, Dongguan, China

Year 2024

Date	Events
June TBD	FDM + EC
TBD November	30 th AONSA EC Meeting (TBD), (India)
TBD	Neutron School

AONSA Dinner, Plataran Hutan Kota, Jakarta 24 Nov 2022



Deputy Director BRIN of HR : Dr. Eddy Giri &
Prof.Ratno Nuryadi, Director of Research Organization Nano Material