

JSPS US Alumni Association
Meeting of September 30, 2006
at JSPS Washington Office
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Members: Alumni Association EC: Arup Neogi, Wael Zatar, Jan Zeserson
Members absent, but available by telephone: Blanca Chattin-Kacouris, Hedong Niu
JSPS Washington Office: Akira Masaike, Hideshi Kobayashi, Shigenori Taguchi, Junichi Hirata, Thet Win, Miki Yamaguchi, Hiroshi Oikawa

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Akira Masaike, Director, JSPS Washington Office welcomed alumni members and a brief introduction of new regional representatives and JSPS Washington Office staff followed.
- Prof. Masaike commented that JSPS Washington Office seeks mutual cooperation and will help any members. He continued by encouraging everyone to cooperate and collaborate actively.
- Thet Win will continue to act as liaison between Alumni Association and JSPS. However, Thet added that direct communication with JSPS Washington Office Director and Deputy Director will foster good relations with the EC.

II. Selection of EC Chair and Vice-Chair

By consensus of all EC members (Blanca and Hedong by phone), Arup Neogi will be Chair; and Wael Zatar, Vice-Chair.

Arup assumed chairmanship and open discussion began.

III. Transparency of activities

- Discussion about how to create a transparent record of EC business.
- Discussion of how to keep members informed of EC business and AA activities.
- Discussion of possibly including a “recording secretary” in the bylaws.
- EC will hold regular telephone conferences to solidify organization, in addition to ongoing email discussions.

IV. Bylaws

- Wael produced a document of modifications to the bylaws suggested by EC members, who have been working on bylaws via email discussion.
- Suggested modifications are a work in progress.
- A discussion arose concerning membership. Various possible member eligibility scenarios and various member rights were discussed. Akira Masaike commented that AA should be a friendly and inclusive organization.

V. Symposia

- Two meeting types regarding symposia were mainly discussed – 1) a symposium with joint support from JSPS, or 2) a symposium of speaker(s) combined with alumni general meeting, supported by JSPS.
- The next symposium/meeting planning was discussed at length. It must occur before mid-February 2007.

VI. Newsletter

- It was decided that the newsletter will be distributed by email in pdf format and also posted on the JSPS Washington Office website.
- Newsletter budget is a part of the total alumni budget, and the decision to distribute electronically was an economical one.

Meeting adjourned and participants enjoyed lunch together.

Minutes submitted by Jan Zeserson and Thet Win