

Asian Network for Public Opinion Research (ANPOR)

Council Meeting 2014 (1)

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held in Niigata, on November 28 and 29, 2014. Part One of the meeting was held on November 28 from 15:45 to 17:45, while Part Two of the meeting was held on November 29 from 20:50 to 22:00.

Part One

Present: Sung Kyum CHO (President, also representing Korea)
Jantima KHEOKAO (Vice-President)
Robert CHUNG (Secretary-Treasurer, also representing Hong Kong)
Yashwant DESHMUKH (representing India)
Ijaz Shafi GILANI (representing Pakistan, joined at 16:20)
M Saidul HAQ (representing Bangladesh)
Syed Arabi IDID (representing Malaysia)
Takashi INOBUCHI (representing Japan)

In attendance: Seiji FUJI
Shalinder MAHAJAN

Apology: Angus CHEONG (representing Macau)
Chairun NASIRIN (representing Indonesia)
Pradeep PEIRIS (representing Sri Lanka)
Jay SANDOVAL (representing Philippines)
Sanat Kumar SHARMA (representing Nepal)
Kanyika SHAW (representing Thailand)
Ching Hsin YU (representing Taiwan)
Baohua ZHOU (representing China)

Secretary: Winnie LEE (General Secretary)

Reference: ANPOR Constitution Article 4.2 - "The Council, by majority vote of all its members, shall conduct the business and care for the general interests of ANPOR. It shall meet at least once a year in connection with the annual conference. The President shall invite the Council with a preliminary agenda at least six weeks before the meeting. In between the Council meetings the Executive Committee will conduct the business and care for the general interests of ANPOR."

1. The Council ADOPTED the agenda of meeting.
2. The Council
 - CONFIRMED the Minutes of the ANPOR Council Meeting 2013 (2) held on November 23, 2013 (Annex 1 of agenda paper) as true and accurate records.

3. The Council

- RECEIVED the ANPOR Second Annual Report (Interim) from the Secretary-Treasurer (Annex 2 of agenda paper);
- HEARD Robert CHUNG explained the “ANPOR Second Annual Report (Interim)” was modeled on the “ANPOR First Annual Report (Interim)” in wrapping up the year’s activities up to November shortly before holding the Annual Conference. No activity or financial report was received for the Annual Conference held in Seoul because the conference organizers did not report to ANPOR and did not contribute any revenue to ANPOR;
- HEARD Yashwant DESHMUKH suggested that what happened in November and December could be appended to the annual reports via submissions to the Secretariat who would circulate it the Council for adoption;
- DECIDED that the ANPOR First Annual Report (Interim) from the Secretary-Treasurer presented in Seoul on November 23, 2013 would be recorded as the ANPOR First Annual Report, because no further activity needed to be recorded after the cut-off date of that interim report, while for the ANPOR Second Annual Report, December 31, 2014 would be the cut-off date for all activities and financial transactions, and January 7, 2015 would be the cut-off date for all activity and financial submissions to be included in the 2014 Annual Report;
- On “meetings” of the Second Annual Report (Interim), NOTED that there was neither any Executive Committee nor Council Meeting held after last year’s Seoul Conference, AGREED that there should be more Council Meetings even if they were conducted online;
- On “activities” of the Report, HEARD Jantima KHEOKAO reported the International Conference “Transforming Communication Landscape” held in Bangkok, Thailand from April 9-11, 2014, SUGGESTED more local activities to be held by ANPOR and local organizations involving ANPOR’s country representatives preferably one activity per country per year, under proper guidelines issued by the Council for running such local activities;
- On “Annual Conferences”, HEARD Takashi INOBUCHI reported that there were more than 210 participants from 11 countries joining the Niigata Conference, among whom more than 150 were non-locals, HEARD Jantima KHEOKAO reported that there were more than 300 participants in the Seoul Conference one year ago, among whom about 120 were non-locals, but NOTED that the current membership of ANPOR was less than 60 because conference organizers did not include ANPOR membership fee in their conference registration fee, HEARD Yashwant DESHMUKH suggested ANPOR adopt the WAPOR model to include one-year membership fee in ANPOR Annual Conference and local event registration fees, but HEARD Sung Kyum CHO raised concern that this would discourage country hosting conferences for ANPOR because ANPOR is not well-

known, AGREED to discuss these matters under Agendum 6 of the Council Meeting, while NOTING the suggestion for ANPOR Annual Conferences to be held in “visa-friendly” and “travel-easy” countries;

- On “AJPOR”, HEARD Jantima KHEOKAO reported that the Korean government is providing financial support to the journal, that Sung Kyum CHO has submitted the journal to SSCI, and HEARD Takashi INOBUCHI reported that the journal was running well, that it has published the 12-country joint survey in a special issue, HEARD Sung Kyum CHO raised concerns over how to get good authors to submit good papers, HEARD Saidul HAQ suggested the editorial committee to proactively invite authors to submit paper, and HEARD Yashwant DESHMUKH suggested each country representative to submit at least one paper to the journal each year;
- On “financial report”, HEARD Robert CHUNG reported that ANPOR only has USD5,368.63 in the account which is a small sum due to small number of members, and the lack of revenue-generation activities since all ANPOR Annual Conference so far has not built in any mechanism for recruiting members and did not allow ANPOR handle any conference finance;
- On “constitutional review”, HEARD Robert CHUNG reported that no progress was made after the Council Meeting held in Seoul one year ago, in spite of very specific questions raised at that meeting.

4. The Council

- HEARD Robert CHUNG highlighted the salient points in the document tabled on “ANPOR Constitutional Change and Election Matters” (Annex 3 of agenda paper), NOTED that the Electoral Committee comprised Jantima KHEOKAO (Chairman), Yashwant DESHMUKH and Robert CHUNG, and DISCUSSED the proposals put forward;
- HEARD Robert CHUNG explained that if our incumbent President would withdraw himself from the election like two other nominees and proceed to become the Past President, there will not be any need for casting vote this year, because the remaining candidate would be automatically be elected, and the current ANPOR Constitution would not be breached due to the delay in the formation of the Electoral Committee and the lack of candidate information and electoral rules up to this date;
- HEARD Sung Kyum CHO said he would not accept this suggestion because the Constitution has to be changed first before introducing new elections, HEARD Robert CHUNG said the current set up is already unconstitutional because the procedures and timelines stipulated in the Constitution was not followed, and any election to take place could be disputed unless there is only one candidate left, HEARD Yashwant DESHMUKH explained that everyone is very appreciative of Sung Kyum CHO’s work as the Founding President, but it would be even better if he could become the first Past President to head a mentor committee and be the one

to kick off the 2+2+2 system, HEARD Jantima KHEOKAO suggested the Council to find a simple way to conduct the election first before ANPOR has more members, HEARD Saidul HAQ suggested the two nominated candidates be put to vote as soon as possible, but that the elected candidate would follow the Council's decision to revise the Constitution and then steps down when new elections are held according to the new Constitution;

- DECIDED to adjourn the meeting due to lack of time, and SUGGESTED the President to re-convene the meeting some time during the Niigata Annual Conference period to resolve the matter.
- 5. The Council was ADJOURNED at 17:45 so that Council Members could attend the conference reception at 18:00, Agenda Item 4 was not finished, and Items 5 to 9 were not discussed.

Part Two

Present: Sung Kyum CHO (President, also representing Korea)
Jantima KHEOKAO (Vice-President)
Robert CHUNG (Secretary-Treasurer, also representing Hong Kong)
Angus CHEONG (representing Macau)
Yashwant DESHMUKH (representing India)
Ijaz Shafi GILANI (representing Pakistan)
M Saidul HAQ (representing Bangladesh)
Syed Arabi IDID (representing Malaysia)
Takashi INOBUCHI (representing Japan)
Ching Hsin YU (representing Taiwan)
Baohua ZHOU (representing China)

Apology: Chairun NASIRIN (representing Indonesia)
Pradeep PEIRIS (representing Sri Lanka)
Jay SANDOVAL (representing Philippines)
Sanat Kumar SHARMA (representing Nepal)
Kanyika SHAW (representing Thailand)

Secretary: Winnie LEE (General Secretary)

6. The Council

- RECONFIRMED the next Annual Conference in 2015 would be held in Bangkok, Thailand, and REQUESTED the local organizer to submit a plan to the Council by the end of January 2015;
- HEARD Robert CHUNG suggested that there should be a clear-cut policy on the annual conference registration fees whereby if $\$X$ =members' conference registration fee, and $\$Y$ =ANPOR membership fee, then non-members' conference registration fee should be $\$(X+Y)$, HEARD M Saidul HAQ and Yashwant

DESHMUKH said all conference revenues and losses should go to or come from ANPOR, HEARD Sung Kyum CHO explained his reason for not collecting membership fee from conference participants was because ANPOR had nothing to offer to participants who became a member, DECIDED with a vote that it would be ANPOR's standard policy to charge conference registration fees at \$(X+Y), but future conference proposers could mention their financial difficulties in their proposal, and the Council could consider granting special waivers if needed;

- DECIDED that the deadline for 2016 Annual Conference submission to the Council would be March 31, 2015, and the deadline for 2017 Annual Conference submission would be August 30, 2015 unless there are less than two submissions for holding the 2017 Annual Conference;
- HEARD Yashwant DESHMUKH volunteered to help organize training workshops at annual conferences, and DECIDED to appoint him as Chairman of the Training Committee.

7. The Council

- RESUMED its discussion on "ANPOR Constitutional Change and Election Matters", HEARD Robert CHUNG explained the historical background of the drafting the Constitution, and how it was simplified at ANPOR's founding stage in order to give maximum flexibility to the formation of the leadership but with a view of reviewing and revising the Constitution soon after ANPOR operated smoothly, NOTED that this year's election could not take place because constitutional requirements were not met, DECIDED that new elections would be conducted after the Constitution is reviewed and revised;
- DECIDED to form a Committee on the Review of the Constitution and Electoral Procedures to handle the constitution amendment, and APPOINTED six Council Members into the Committee, namely, Jantima KHEOKAO (Chairman), Angus CHEONG, Robert CHUNG, Yashwant DESHMUKH, M Saidul HAQ, and Ching Hsin YU;
- PRESCRIBED the timelines for the Committee's work to be: 30 days for the Committee to propose constitutional amendments and electoral procedures, followed by 7 days of deliberation by Council Members to approve, then 15 days for ANPOR members to comments, then another 30 days for the election(s) to take place, keeping the entire process to less than 90 days.

Winnie LEE
General Secretary, ANPOR

December 9, 2014