

Africa—Asia University Dialogue for Educational Development (A-A- Dialogue)  
First General Assembly, Phase III: July 3, 2012  
Waseda University, Japan

Summary Record

### Introduction

After opening remarks by the Secretary of the Asia–Africa Dialogue Network, Norihiko Kuroda of Hiroshima University and a welcome by co-host Professor Kazuo Kuroda of Waseda University, representatives of MEXT, Goro Watanabe, and JICA, Kazuhiro Tanbara, addressed 58 participants from 27 universities (the representative from Tokyo Gakugei University was unable to attend). Speakers introduced purposes of this General Assembly, namely: to assess Phase II and capture lessons learned, while looking forward to Phase III, in particular the ways in which Phase III is conceptualized differently from Phases I and II. Participants introduced themselves, giving their impressions of phase 2 and hopes for the next session.

### Organizational Issues

Prof N. Kuroda confirmed that all applications for renewal had been approved. The agenda was adopted with three general purposes: reflection, planning of phase 3, and individual action plans for this year. Chairs and rapporteurs were assigned.

### Secretariat Report

The Secretariat report outlined activities over the past phase, primarily: successful day-to-day management of the Secretariat; organization of 3 General Assemblies; organization of Research Group Meetings; and liaison with UNESCO, UNU and IIEP. Challenges include heavy workload for the Secretariat; loss of staff at CICE; uncertain prospects for future funding from the Government of Japan; and the relationship between the Network and UNESCO/UNU.

### Member University Reports

Each member university summarized its self-evaluation of research activities over Phase II (2009-2011 period). Universities reported in terms of 1) achievements (research, student exchange, staff exchange, experience-sharing/capacity development), and 2) Impact on three principles (collaboration, ownership, self-reliance). A summary report was presented. The reports were adopted.

### Planning Phase III

1. Research themes and modalities. Key questions: How to proceed with research over the next three years? What themes? What modalities? After a wide-ranging discussion, the Assembly decided:
  - a. To continue with the same themes and thematic research groups from Phase II;
  - b. To identify emerging issues from current research groups;
  - c. To allow flexibility for universities to join new groups in addition to their current group;
  - d. To encourage members to prepare joint proposals for funding agencies over the coming year.

Next steps:

- e. To identify emerging themes and possible partners in following two days of Symposium;
  - f. By end of the week, it was agreed to finalize the emerging issues to be studied and the members of each research group;
  - g. Discussions will then continue online.
2. Financial Issues. Given uncertainty of funding from Japanese government, how should the Network's activities be financed? It was decided that :
- a. Individual member institutions and groups of institutions would seek funding from external sources through joint proposals and other means;
  - b. Member institutions would be encouraged to seek internal funds to support Network research;
  - c. Members would be encouraged to focus on other areas of collaboration that don't require high levels of funding.
3. Inviting Other Countries. Possibility of allowing new members: 1) those from other Asian and African universities and 2) those from outside Africa and Asia such as the U.S. It was decided that:
- a. Applications from African and Asian universities will be considered if:
    - i. they fall within the current Article 2 and 3;
    - ii. are recommended by two current members; and
    - iii. they agree with the objectives of the Network.
  - b. Discussion on whether to admit members outside Africa and Asia be postponed until the next Assembly, whether virtual or face-to-face. In the meanwhile, the Secretariat is directed to put together a general proposal (not regarding admission of a particular institution) that addresses:
    - i. Whether the AA Network open itself to members outside Africa and Asia and under what conditions;
    - ii. What the implications are for the current statute, with proposed language for revision.
  - c. Next steps
    - i. Secretariat will contact applicant universities to ask why they want to join
    - ii. Then membership will be contacted to ask members if they agree

#### Adoption of Action Plans for 2012-2013

Secretariat Proposal. The proposal from the Secretariat was adopted.

Member University Plans. Each member university reported on its action plans.

- 5 university action plans approved
- 9 university action plans to be approved once written report submitted
- 10 university action plans to be approved once amendments/deletions/finalization submitted
- 1 university action plans approved with queries & clarification
- 1 university action plans approved with resubmission
- 1 university action plan missing, representative absent