

The Second General Assembly, Phase III Africa Asia Universities Dialogue for Educational Development Network.

Summary of AA-Dialogue Network Second General Assembly Phase III

The AA-Dialogue Network Second General Assembly was held from July 22-24, 2013 at Bunka Koryu Kaiakn, Hiroshima City. Forty seven participants from member universities attended the Assembly. The agenda of the Assembly were (1) organization of the assembly, (2) report of activities of 2012-13, (3) adoption of action plan, and (4) issues of common interest.

Opening speeches

The opening speeches were made by representatives of the AA-Dialogue collaborators and the Secretary. The speakers welcomed the participants, underlined the role of AA-Dialogue Network in impacting on the quality of education. In the speeches it was indicated that the Network has grown from network of individuals to a complex institutional network. In the speeches the new secretary of the Network appreciated Prof. Norihiro Kuroda, a former secretary of the AA-Dialogue, for his invaluable contributions to the growth of the network. The importance of the Network in consolidating and advancing education was emphasized. After the opening speeches, the participants introduced themselves briefly.

1. Organization of the Assembly

1. The secretary of the Network, Prof. Yoshida acknowledged the joining of the Seoul National University to the Network. He invited Prof. Taekyoon Kim as the representative of Soul National University to introduce his university briefly. In his introduction, Prof. Kim said his university will do its best in advancing the goals of the Network.
2. The draft agenda of the Assembly was adopted with three general purposes: report of activities during June 2012-May 2013, adoption of Action Plan for June 2013-May 2014 (and June 201-May 2015), and issues of common interest.
3. The Assembly made a moment of silence for Prof. Demis from the University of Malawi who passed away last year.
4. The Assembly approved the chairpersons and rapporteurs for the three sessions of

the Assembly and that of the General Assembly.

2. Report of activities during June 2012-May 2013

Chair: Prof. Sumar Hendayana, Indonesia University of Education

Rapporteur: Mr. Musonda Luchembe, University of Zambia

1. The secretariat made the following announcements.
 - All member universities had renewed their membership when phase III was launched in 2012.
 - Introduced Seoul National University as the 29th member university of the AA-Dialogue Network
 - Following the resignation of Prof. Norihiro Kuroda, Prof. Kazuhiro Yoshida is now the secretary of the AA-Dialogue Network as well as the Director of the Center for the Study of International Cooperation in education (CICE), Hiroshima University.
 - The evaluation of Phase II report was ready.
 - Organization of the first General Assembly of phase III as per attached Document 1.
 - Observed that the publication of the three volumes of the Asia-Africa Universities Dialogue for Educational Development was important and evidence of collaborative work.
 - The former secretary participated in the Fifth International Policy Dialogue Forum of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All.
 - The UNU/UNESCO-UNITWIN progress report was submitted.
2. The secretariat reminded participants to update their mailing list (R-list and W-list) in order to improve communication.
3. The secretariat also promised to send extra ten copies of the CICE publications to each member university.
4. Various groups presented their reports. One of the common challenges was how to enhance collaboration through joint research.
5. Group B asked some of the member universities to join them as their group was smaller than the other groups. A proposal was made to Seoul National University to be a new member of Group B if they wished.
6. It was further observed that common research frameworks would be less likely due to financial constraints.

7. It was noted that CICE had shouldered most of the financial burden and had performed extremely well in the area of student and staff exchange.
8. There had been an attempt to obtain research grant by some member of the AA-Dialogue Network.
9. Member universities made reports of their respective activities. Only few universities managed student and staff exchange activity very well. However, most of the universities included this activity as one of their prime areas of focus in their reports.

3. Adoption of Action Plan for June 2013-May 2014 (and June 2014 –May 2015)

Chair: Prof. Daniel Desta, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Rapporteur: Prof. Nguyen Chi Thanh, Vietnam National University Hanoi

1. Activities of the member universities during Phase II extending from June 2012-May 2013 were briefed.
2. The most visible result from the Phase II activities was CICE series reports in 3 volumes.
3. It was stressed that the action plan for June 2013-May 2015 should pay attention to the cooperation between universities though it is still a challenge.
4. Each university briefly presented its action plan for Phase III extending from June 2013-May 2015 based on document 8.
5. The limitation of fund seems to pose problems for many universities.
6. Many universities included in their plan “staff and student exchanges” but the modality remain further clarified.

4. Issues of common Interest

Chairperson: Prof. Jandhyala B. G. Tilak, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, India

Rapporteur: Prof. Abdulrashid Garba, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

1. It was observed that coordinating joint research is of course difficult but obtaining fund to the research is more difficult.
2. It was also observed that member countries have started expanding from single nation based research to a bilateral and also multilateral research endeavors.
3. Joint research is translated within this context to mean research conducted by

- (and between) two or more countries.
4. It was agreed that thematic groups are still very useful.
 5. The Assembly noted that individual member countries can:
 - stay within their thematic group,
 - move to another group,
 - collaborate with universities in another group.
 6. Assembly was reminded the common key principles already agreed upon since the beginning of phase II: they are Comparability, Excellence/quality, Joint research, Output and Impact. These key principles constitute the minimum condition for individual research by a country or joint research by two or more countries.

Financial issues

Regarding financial issues the Assembly noted that:

1. countries planning for joint research should also plan how to source for funds;
2. as membership of network is expanding, the cost for organizing the annual general assembly meeting is also increasing, thus, it is challenging for CICE;
3. member countries have to begin to think how to shoulder some cost of the transportation to the 2014 general assembly.

AOB

1. University of Dhaka, Bangladesh has been nominated by the Institute of Educational Research at Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (India), and Osaka University (Japan) for membership of the Network. The Nomination approved by the Assembly. University of Dhaka would join the Network as the 30th member of the Network.
2. It was observed that the activities of the Network are very encouraging as it involves multilateral cooperation. On the other side, some challenges were cited in preparing the proposals for funding.

The plan of the activities of the groups for the period of June 2013- May 2015 on joint research and other activities were briefly reported by the representative of each group.