

APSA General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Date : November 10, 2016 (14:30 to 17:30)
Venue : Songdo Convensia Convention Centre, Premier Ballroom A&B, Incheon Korea
Chair : Mr. Zhiping Wang, APSA President
Co-Chairs : Ms. Heidi Gallant, Executive Director, APSA
: Ms. Brenda Dossey, Vice President
: Mr. Jack Metzelaar, Treasurer

At 14:30, Mr. Zhiping Wang declared the APSA General Assembly Meeting Open requesting the new APSA Executive Director, Ms. Heidi Gallant to assist him as Co-Chair for this meeting.

Quorum

Ms. Gallant asked for confirmation of Quorum

Referring to the constitution she stated that 493 APSA members have registered for congress from 605 members of APSA and we have registered 195 for the GAM meeting reaching a quorum of more than 25% percent of members in attendance.

She then gave direction on voting as follows: Regular members (seed enterprise, seed associations and government have a red and green card with a yes or no) Associate members have a blue card as you may only vote on your executive committee member and affiliates have not been given any card as they are not eligible to vote. She reminded members that there is no proxy voting allowed.

Agenda

Mr Wang called for approval of the agenda and there was no objection.

Past Meeting Minutes

Mr Wang called for approval of the meeting minutes from GAM Number 21 held in GOA India on November 19, 2015.

17 Objections were recorded from the members which was not sufficient to block the motion to approve the meeting minutes.

A member asked for permission from the Chair to speak and was granted permission. He asked which rule of the constitution says 50% of members are required to oppose.

Mr. Wang stated that there were constitutional items in the agenda and that this issue should be raised during that period.

The member then asked that his objection be recorded and it was confirmed that it would be.

President's Annual Report

Mr Wang presented the President's Annual Report.
Review and Implementation of the new Constitution-Constitution was implemented Nov 2014 and will regularly be under review for improvements.

Standing Committees and Special Interest Groups-Summary of activity for these groups included:

Study tour to the USA from SC-Seed Technology and SIG Veg
Study tour to India for Hybrid Rice from SC Hybrid Rice
Expert Consultations in Myanmar for the formation of a Seed Association SIG-Veg, second
Expert Consultation on Phytosanitary measures in the AP region-SC Trade and Marketing
Position paper on Child Labour- SIG Veg

Secretariat Update-New Chief Accountant Narima Setapanich began her role in March 2016, Executive Director, Ms. Heidi Gallant, started with the Association in June, 2016 and our new Communications Officer, Steven Layne came on board in September 2016.

Meetings and Networking- Some of the events attended for APSA representation.

- VSAT meeting in Myanmar on August 30
- The ISF World Seed Congress in Uruguay in May
- ISF's Bi-Annual Meeting in Bordeaux Oct 15-20
- APAARI EC and Strategy Meetings in Bangkok

APSA Membership - Current Membership 605 Members

Update on Registration Renewal of the Association with new Constitution-APSA is a completely legal entity in Thailand. The association is working with a Thai law firm, CSBC to make sure our registration is renewed and that a system is put in place to keep the registration up to date in the future.

Publications-Asian Seed magazine is now established again after it was redesigned and relaunched in 2014. The APSA calendar ran a huge print run this year and all advertising slots for the 2017 calendar were taken by June. APSA is now taking advantage of social media for communicating with members and within two weeks we hope to unveil a new website and membership database.

Preparation for 2017 Asian Seed Congress- Preparations for ASC 2017 in Manila, The Philippines, are well under way. ASC 2017 will follow a new format for Congress where the APSA Secretariat will be the main organizer, with the PSIA taking a supporting role which focuses on in-country duties like arranging invitation letters for visa applications, necessary

contacts with the local officials on coordination of custom & quarantine affairs, entertainment and local official attendance.

Concluding Comments-Mr Wang thanked everyone for strong support extended to him over the past years and asked for support new President Brenda Dossey as she embarks on her two-year term.

The Finance Report

The Finance Report was presented by Treasurer Mr Metzelaar.

1. Situation much clearer that when we last met due to new systematic processes to have regular monthly checks by the treasurer with the Director and Accountant (Heidi and Narima).
2. Process for membership payment is now Jan 1–Dec 31 with no allowance for pro rated membership.
3. Have determined our Financial Guidelines and Procedures document which clearly defines on paper our financial processes at APSA

Notes on 2015 year end recorded as slight loss in 2015 with main reasons being staff turnover and high legal expenses.

APSA is in very sound financial health with ample reserves for an association of this kind.

The Budget for 2017 and 2018 was presented with a minimal expected profit for both years.

~People Applaud~

Member asked for permission to speak and is granted.

Member asked why National Seed Association of India has not yet received an audited income and expense statement specific to the GOA congress in India.

Mr Metzelaar stated that there are specific reasons for this and that the APSA Treasurer, the APSA Director and NSAI officials should have a meeting to discuss this if needed.

The member stated that there have already been a lot of emails about this situation and that when handling a public fund it is best to be transparent.

Mr. Metzelaar stated that both organizations have agreed to the closure of these accounts already and again offered a meeting to discuss further.

The member asked if APSA was going to change their Auditor.

Mr. Metzelaar stated that they are on a multi-year contract and would be presented at the GAM next year for members to choose again.

Member asked for detailed minutes to be taken and Ms Gallant introduced the minute taker.

Another member then took the floor to motion the approval of the budget by the GAM.

Mr Wang motioned and noted that there were no objections to the 2017, 2018 Budget for APSA

~Applause~

Constitution Amendments

Ms Gallant gave instruction that constitution amendments would be passed only if 2/3 of members agreed to them. Counting would be done by counting the opposed votes.

1. To remove the special allowance for up to three EC members from the same country. In the future, only two members from the same country will be allowed, in order to allow for more countries to be represented, ensuring a diverse EC.

Mr Wang motioned the change.
44 objections in total

Mr. Wang announced the approval of the amendment.

Member asks if we can have a count of green cards (yes votes) as well.
Mr Wang calls for a vote again with APSA team counting both red and green cards this time.

100 voting yes

45 voting no

Mr Wang motions we still have 2/3s of the vote in favor so the amendment is still passed.

To clarify procedure Ms Gallant asked the membership to vote if they would like to vote first for yes votes being counted and second with no votes being counted, so each motion will require two rounds of vote counting. The membership raised more than 80% red no cards meaning they accepted a count of red no votes only for each motion.

2. The four office bearers shall each represent different countries. So the past President, the President, the Vice President and the Treasurer should all be from different organizations representing different countries.

Mr Wang motioned this amendment passed with minimal objection.

3. The addition of a position on the EC for a Thai national. Operational requirements for registering APSA's NGO status with the Thai authorities, the country of our head office, will require a Thai National to be a responsible person for the organization. We propose

that this representative be from a Thai Government agency and be recruited to the board for acceptance at the 2017 GAM.

Mr Wang motioned this amendment passed with minimal objection.

4. The removal of a now-irrelevant clause mentioning the transition period which has already passed.

Mr. Wang motioned this amendment passed with no objections.

Position Paper Ratification

Mr. Devarwaere presented the background and purpose of the APSA Position Paper on Abolishing Child Labour in the Seed Industry.

Mr. Wang motioned to ratify this position paper on behalf of APSA, he received no objection, the position paper was ratified.

Executive Committee Election

The Executive Committee Candidates introduce themselves to members before being voted on.

Mr. Jack Metzelaar, HM Clause (Seed Enterprise):

Mr. Mohammed Asim Butt, Rachna Pakistan (Seed Enterprise):

Isao Iuchi, Sakata Seeds Japan (Seed Enterprise):

Mr. Tsukasa Kawakami, National Centre for Seeds and Seedlings Japan (Government) Ms. Mihee Yang, Korean Seed Variety Service (Government):

Mr. Tso-Chi Yang, Taiwan Seed Improvement and Propagation Station (Government):

Member stated that only 6 vacancies were announced in July and asked if there would now be a secret ballot.

Ms. Gallant stated that it was realized quite late in the nomination process that the EC is moving from 13 to 14 members and that there was one current EC member who didn't realize his term was up for renewal. This realization came just before the time was up on August 12, but there were already more than enough candidates to fill all the positions, so we moved forward as we needed to.

Member stated his opinion that this error seemed like an act of convenience.

Mr. Wang asked for constitutional committee to comment on the error and the action that was taken by APSA.

Constitutional Committee Member advised that this act was not unconstitutional but a mistake by the secretariat. He stated that as an association we need to view the necessity and that the necessity is that we have fulfilled the required vacancy. His advice was to proceed as planned with the election

Member stated that he accepted the explanation.

Constitutional Committee Member thanked him for his comments and reiterated that the new constitution was adopted in 2014 and APSA has followed the procedure correctly for the nomination and election of the Executive Committee.

Member now stated that he wrote an email a year ago with no reply.

Mr. Wang referred him to the pages of the constitution which detail how a member brings forward a change to the constitution.

Meeting returns to introduction of candidates.

Mr. Wichai Laocharoenpornkul, Thai Seed Trade Association (Seed Association):

Ms. Michelle Klieger, ASTA (Associate Member):

Mr. Wang calls forward each candidate and calls for the motion to pass each one.

Minimal objections raised for each candidate, all 8 candidates approved to join the APSA Executive Committee

Next GAM Meeting Announcement

The next General Assembly Meeting will take place in Manila, on Thursday, November 16, 2017.

Other Items with Permission of the Chair

Member asks for permission to speak and is granted. He states that the new Constitution is implemented in 2014 has an unclear election procedure and asks that this be reviewed.

Mr. Wang stated that now that the constitution is in force there are procedures in place to make amendments.

Member stated that there was no separate vegetarian counter this year for Indian delegates at this congress.

Ms. Gallant apologized and promised that next year there would be hot vegetarian food available.

Member asked that all member concerns be considered and replied to in future

Mr. Wang agreed to take all suggestions into consideration

Service Awards

Ms Gallant called to the stage: Ms. Anke van den Hurk, Plantum NL, Netherlands, Mr. Noboru Nagai, Kaneko Seeds Co, Japan, and Ms. Vanida Angsuphan, Thailand Seed Trade Association (THASTA), Thailand (Absent) to thank them for their service to APSA on the Executive Committee.

Presentation of New Executive Committee

Ms. Gallant calls the new Executive Committee to the stage for picture taking.”

1. Ms. Brenda Dossey, (President), Gold Coast Agribusiness, Australia – Seed Enterprise
2. Mr. Zhiping Wang (Immediate Past President), Celestial Seeds, China --Seed Enterprise
3. Mr. Jack Metzelaar, H.M. Clause, Thailand – Seed Enterprise
4. Dr. Tso-Chi Yang, Taiwan Seed Improvement and Propagation Station, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan, Chinese Taipei– Government Agencies
5. Mr. Tsukasa Kawakami, National Center for Seeds and Seedlings (NCSS), Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan– Government Agencies
6. Dr. Mi-Hee Yang, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Korea – Government Agencies
7. Dr. Dehua Ma, China National Seed Association, China – National Seed Associations
8. Casper van Kempen, Anti-Infringement Bureau for IPR on Plant Material, Belgium— Associate Member
9. Tahir Saleemi, Haji Sons, Pakistan—Seed Enterprise
10. Vaibhav Kashikar, Ankur Seed PVT Ltd, India—Seed Enterprise
11. Isao Iuchi, Sakata Seeds, Japan—Seed Enterprise
12. Muhammad Asim Butt, Rachna, Pakistan—Seed Enterprise
13. Michelle Klieger, ASTA, America—Associate Member
14. Wichai Laocharoenpornkul, Thai Seed Trade Association, Thailand— National Seed Association

~pictures are taken~

Meeting Close

Mr. Wang declares meeting closed.