



SINGAPORE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE

Meeting : 45th Annual General Meeting
Date : 21 September 2021
Time : 6.30 pm
Venue : Zoom

Present:

Key Council members:

A/P Lim Tit Meng	President
Prof Ling San	Vice President
Prof Andrew Wee Thye Shen	Immediate Past President
Dr Leong Lai Peng	Honorary Secretary
Dr Lui Yan Long, Edmund	Honorary Treasurer

Members of Constituent Societies, academy fellows and student award winners:

Mahesh Choolani	Chapter of Clinician Scientists, Academy of Medicine
Barry Halliwell	Fellow
Andrew Wee T. S.	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Feng Yuan Ping	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
Koh Wee Shing	Institute of Physics Singapore (IPS)
B.V.R. Chowdari	Materials Research Society Singapore (MRSS)
Cedric Troadec	Materials Research Society Singapore (MRSS)
Irene Tan	Science Teachers Association of Singapore (STAS)

Ng Kok Wing	Science Teachers Association of Singapore (STAS)
Anne Dhanaraj	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Catherine Seah	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Hang Kim Hoo	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Lim Tit Meng	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Ong Yann Shiou	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
R. Subramaniam	Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science (SAAS)
Toh Tai Chong	Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol)
Chan Song Heng	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Hang Kim Hoo	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Ling San	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Tang Wee Kee	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Victor Tan	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Yap Von Bing	Singapore Mathematical Society (SMS)
Leong Lai Peng	Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC)
Loh Xian Jun	Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC)
Tan Choon Hong	Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC)
Albert Xue Bo	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Lui Yan Long, Edmund	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Sun Guang Wen	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Thilo Hagen	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Yap Lai Lai	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Yew Wen Shan	Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SSBMB)
Chris Sham Lok To	Singapore Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology (SSMB)
Stephen Pointing	Singapore Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology (SSMB)
Frederick Reinhart Tanoto	Student Award Winner

Hsu Chung Chuan	Student Award Winner
Kang Joon Kiat	Student Award Winner
Kung Kai Wen, Darren	Student Award Winner
Lin Min Htoo	Student Award Winner
Ng Kaiquan, Kenneth	Student Award Winner
Tan Hwee Ling Sharon	Student Award Winner
Xu Anyi	SNAS Executive
Meng Chee Boey	

The Meeting was called to order by the Academy's President, A/Professor Lim Tit Meng at 6.32 pm.

1 ADDRESS BY SNAS PRESIDENT

A/P Lim TM started his address first by wishing all a happy mid-autumn festival, followed by the highlights of events and challenges that occurred in the fiscal year 2020/2021.

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS

1.1.1 SG ACADEMIES SEA FELLOWSHIP (SASEAF) PROGRAMME

A/P Lim introduced the SG Academies South-East Asia Fellowship (SASEAF) Programme, which was a revision of the SNAS Fellowship Programme. After the revision, the programme will now involve two more academies - the Academy of Medicine Singapore and the Singapore Academy of Engineering. The region was also expanded to include researchers from the entire South-East Asia, instead of just ASEAN, for the new programme.

He highlighted that the purpose of the fellowship is to attract top scientists in South-East Asia to Singapore and to establish science collaboration with our neighbours. It is very important and will benefit both the region as well as Singapore in the long run.

1.1.2 INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

A/P Lim then reported on the collaborations with international organisations that SNAS has been involved in over the past year. This would include the International Science Council (ISC), and the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA), which is under the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). More recently, SNAS has been invited by the World Organisation of Science Literacy (WOSL) from Beijing, China, to participate in science promotion activities.

1.1.3 FIRST FULL-TIME STAFF

A/P Lim moved on to introduce the very first full-time staff of SNAS, Ms Xu Anyi (XA). He noted that this is a big step forward for SNAS as we expand our team. With the recruitment of the first staff, SNAS will be able to do more for science in Singapore, as well as be better represented at an international level. SNAS is in a better position to organise events and attend conferences more actively.

1.2 CHALLENGES

1.2.1 PUBLICISING THE SASEAF PROGRAMME

After concluding the highlights of the year, A/P Lim proceeded to update all on the challenges faced by SNAS. Even though the application call for the SASEAF programme has been sent to many South-East Asian organisations and academies, the application rate is very low. A/P Lim asked for all present to assist in promoting the fellowship programme by circulating the official web-link to their contacts. He hopes that the application rate can be improved by promoting this more actively.

1.2.2 HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

A/P Lim updated all that while there are still some housekeeping matters, such as submissions to the Charity Portal, SNAS is working to collate the past-year documents and will clear the submissions as soon as possible. In fact, most of the documents have already been retrieved, so the housekeeping matters should be resolved soon.

1.2.3 RECRUITMENT OF SECOND FULL-TIME STAFF

A/P Lim shared that SNAS is currently making plans to recruit a second staff. With more administrative support, SNAS hopes to be able to extend this support to the constituent societies. This includes and is not limited to:

- arranging and attending council meetings,
- writing of minutes,
- setting up a simple webpage for the society hosted under SNAS domain,
- administrative support for organising of small seminars,
- organising AGM, etc.

However, there have been very few applications, and A/P Lim asked for all to help circulate the recruitment web-link to their contacts as well.

1.3 SNAS FELLOWS

Lastly, A/P Lim reminded all that SNAS will be calling for Fellow nominations in the coming year. SNAS keeps a constant pool of Fellows who are entitled to special privileges offered by the Academy. With the passing of Emeritus Prof Huang, and two more Fellows choosing to let their Fellowship lapse, there are now more vacancies available. A/P Lim hopes that SNAS will be able to receive many good applications for the SNAS Fellowship when the time comes.

2 PRESENTATION OF THE SNAS AWARDS TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The SNAS Awards were instituted to recognize university students who excel in the sciences, including mathematical sciences. Each of the SNAS Awards carries a certificate of commendation and S\$100 cash. It is a highly competitive award as there is only one award for each discipline in each university/institute. In effect, it is a national recognition of excellence in the sciences by university students in the country.

Due to COVID-19, the AGM this year is held after the graduation of the 2021 cohort. The following were the winners of the SNAS Awards for 2021:

National University of Singapore

Chemistry	Poh Yong Rui
Biological Sciences	Ng Kaiquan, Kenneth
Mathematics	Pang Jia Hao
Physics	Joel Tan Wan Rong
Statistics	Kang Joon Kiat

Nanyang Technological University

Biological Sciences	Frederick Reinhart Tanoto
Chemistry & Biological Chemistry	Lin Min Htoo
Physics and Applied Physics	Hsu Chung Chuan
Mathematical Sciences	Fang Xiaowei

National Institute of Education, NTU

Biology	Kung Kai Wen, Darren
Chemistry	Tan Hwee Ling Sharon
Physics	N/A (No graduating cohort for 2021)

The names of the students were read out at the AGM. A/P Lim TM commended them for their academic achievements and expressed the hope that they will continue their pursuit of excellence in the sciences. A representative from each institution was invited to give a short speech after receiving the award. The NUS representative is Kang Joon Kiat, the NTU representative is Hsu Chung Chuan, and the NIE representative is Sharon Tan.

The student award winners were commended once again, and some of them stayed on for the AGM after the awards presentation.

3 MINUTES OF 44TH SNAS ANNUAL DELEGATES MEETING

This was confirmed with no amendment:

Proposer : Prof Andrew Wee

Seconder : Dr Koh Wee Shing

4 ANNUAL REPORT

4.1 ACTIVITIES OF CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

The Annual Report showed that the various constituent societies continued to have an active year despite COVID-19. Events organized include Olympiad, conferences, symposiums, seminars, webinar, public lectures, outreach activities and awards to deserving scientists.

4.2 SNAS ASEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

In 2020, 5 postdoctoral fellows were offered the SNAS ASEAN Postdoctoral Fellowship. Initially, 4 accepted the fellowship while 1 rejected it citing personal reasons. However, due to the travelling restrictions put in place in view of COVID-19, the fellowship candidature was delayed and 2 of the fellows had decided to withdraw from the fellowship as a result.

As of September 2021, there are 2 ASEAN Fellows. One of them arrived in Singapore in May and has since started her research work in NTU. The other fellow reported some issues with her travel document in July, and is currently still in her home country. She is going through the necessary procedures for her entry into Singapore.

4.3 YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD 2020

XA reported that the winners of the Young Scientist Award for last year were Dr John Ho for PIES, and Dr Tan Si Hui and Dr Chew Wei Leong for BBS. Dr Ho is from NUS, while Dr Tan and Dr Chew are both from A*STAR. They were given the award at PSTA ceremony 2020. While the YSA award winners have been chosen this year, the results will only be announced at the PSTA ceremony at the end of this year.

4.4 PSNAS

Dr Subramaniam reported that 4 issues of the Proceedings of the Singapore National Academy of Science (PSNAS) have been published.

- *Cell Signalling and Diseases. Ed. Low Boon Chuan*
- *Henstock integration: Theory and applications. Ed. Toh Tin Lam and Chew Tuan Seng*
- *Non-coding RNAs in Health and Disease. Ed. Tay Mei Sian and Yvonne Gao*
- *STEM education. Ed. Leo Tan Wee Hin and R. Subramaniam*

Work on two more issues of PSNAS are in progress.

XA thanked Dr Subramaniam for his dedication and help with the PSNAS this year.

4.5 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was adopted without any amendments.

Proposer : Prof Loh Xian Jun
Seconder : Prof Mahesh Choolani

5 AMENDMENTS TO SNAS CONSTITUTION

The President sought approval from the council to effect the following changes to the constitution:

- Sub-Heading before Item 15, Items 15-18, 29, 31, 48-49, 57: To change the term 'Delegates' to 'General'
- Item 10(a): To change phrasing and spelling correction
- Item 2: To update address
- Item 22: To change the duration for terms of service of President and Treasurer, and to add Immediate Past President in the office bearers
- Item 5(b): To expand definition of affiliated membership
- Item 6: To change membership fee amount and spelling correction
- Item 13: To change the quota allowed for Fellows and to add fees for Fellowship
- Item 21: To add discretion to requirement for membership of the Council
- Item 24: To change frequency of council meetings and to add alternative options for the meeting
- Item 25: To add mitigation for quorum constraint in meetings

- Item 41: To remove external auditor (public accountant) requirement clause and replace it with internal auditor
- Item 47: To change the number of clear days' notice allowed for meetings

The rationale for the changes was briefly explained. The term 'Delegates' is to be rephrased to 'General' throughout the constitution as it is more appropriate and also easier to understand, and several spelling errors are to be corrected. The address was also updated to reflect the current location of the Academy. Other administrative changes are to be made to allow for more flexibility and efficiency in the execution of various duties.

For Item 6, A/P Lim highlighted that the membership fees stated in the original constitution was set decades ago, and the updated amounts have taken into account the inflation rate and other factors over the years.

For Item 22, the terms of service of the President and Treasurer were revised to be in line with what other professional societies are practicing.

In the case of Item 41, the Academy incurs a hefty annual fee for its accounts to be audited by a public accountant – for a non-profit body that relies on membership fees from its constituent societies as its only regular source of annual income, it makes sense for its accounts to be audited by a suitable internal auditor on a goodwill basis as it saves costs.

With these changes, SNAS hopes to be able to serve its constituent societies better.

As there were no objections to the changes to the constitution, the changes were considered approved by the council.

On top of the amendments proposed by the SNAS office bearers, the Academy has also sought advice from the Charity Commission. Further amendments proposed by the Commissioner of Charities and Registrar of Societies will also be included in this round of proposed amendments submitted to ROS.

6 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The statement of accounts is presented by Dr Edmund Lui. He summarized what is reported in the statement of accounts which had been circulated several weeks earlier. He also highlighted that several societies have yet to pay the membership fees and requested for them to resolve this at their earliest convenience.

CCS reported that they are processing the payment currently. STAS acknowledged the issue and promised to get back to us as soon as possible.

6.1 ADOPTION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Statement of Accounts was duly adopted.

Proposer	:	Dr Cedric Troadec
Seconder	:	Prof Tan Choon Hong

6.2 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Council has agreed to empower the SNAS main council to appoint the external auditor based on the quotes received.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The council was informed that the SNAS official email address has been set up and will be put into use soon.

There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned at 7.07 pm.

Prepared by,

Vetted by,

Dr Leong Lai Peng
Honorary Secretary

A/P Lim Tit Meng
President