

SUMMARY NOTES OF 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASIAN SOCIETY OF ARACHNOLOGY

Time/Date: 11th of October, 2017, the 3rd day of the 4th Conference, from 1800 hours to 1820 hours.

Venue: Room 10, Level 3, Guiyuan Hotel, Southwest University, Beibei, Chongqing Municipality, People's Republic of China.

In attendance: About 80 - 100 participants.

At the Chair: Mr Joseph K H Koh (ASA President).

Next ASA Conference

Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok in November 2018. While the precise dates had not be finalised, it would involve a 3-day symposium with a 1-day excursion to a place 160 km north of Bangkok. He offered his thanks to colleagues in Thailand and Dr P. Jäger for making it possible.

President took the opportunity to inform members that the ASA Council had started preliminarily exploring the possible venues of the 6th ASA Conference in 2020, a year after the ISA Conference in 2019 to be held in New Zealand. He mentioned three countries as possible hosts: India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. He added that Council was keen to explore other possibilities and urged members who had suggestions to write to him or other Council Members.

ASA Constitution

President explained that the Constitution of the Society remained a work in progress. Working group member Dr H. Ono was currently drafting it. Council had had preliminary discussions on the key provisions of the draft at an informal meeting a few days earlier and had realised that several new considerations were needed in the framing the Constitution. President said that the target was to get a Constitution ready in time for formal adoption in Bangkok in 2018.

ASA website

President announced that the ASA website <https://www.asianarachnology.com> was now in operation. He encouraged members to provide their feedback, by offering their encouragement or by offering their suggestions on how ASA could serve members better.

Registration of members:

President said that the webmaster was currently ironing out the bugs within the membership registration system in the website. Once this was done, members and aspirant members should register themselves online and avail themselves of the following benefits:

- Access to "members-only" services, e.g., discussion forums and an on-line database of non-taxonomic arachnology literature that would be established in due course.

- A platform for learning arachnology from one another, enabling the raising of the standards of arachnology across Asia.
- A venue for members to exercise their rights and privileges, such as approving the Constitution and electing the ASA Council.
- A notice board of upcoming ASA and other international arachnological events.

President said that registration of members was free and that the Council intended to keep membership free for as long as practicable.

Treasurer and funding

President explained that the society might incur some expenses in building a database and therefore might need to solicit voluntary donations. This meant that the Society would need a Treasurer with responsibilities and financial controls clearly stipulated in the Constitution. Pending the promulgation of the ASA Constitution at the next ASA meeting in Bangkok, President would like to seek the mandate of the General Assembly for him to appoint an interim Treasurer.

As there was no dissenting views, President thanked the General Assembly for the endorsement.

Asian checklists

Only one participant spoke up in response to President's invitation for views and suggestions on how the ASA could serve them better.

Dr Marjan Komnonov (Macedonia) said it would be useful if national spider checklists of Chinese or other Asian spiders could be set up on the ASA website so as to provide visitors with a reference resource. Dr Li Shuqiang explained that a checklist of PRC spiders was already on-line.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/308031369> Species Catalogue of China Volume 2 Animals Invertebrates I Arachnida Araneae

President felt that it would be a good idea for the website to establish an "Asian Checklists" page which would be linked to other Asian checklist sites, or to pdfs of published checklists which already existed for India and places in Thailand. [After-note: Checklists of spiders in Singapore and places in Malaysia and Indonesia have also been published.]

As there were no other comments, President adjourned the General Assembly at 18:20 hours.

Reported by David John Court, 11th October 2017

In consultation with Dr Li Shuqiang (Secretary) & Joseph K. H. Koh (President)