

Minutes of AP-PPN General Meeting

February 11, 2017

Chiang Mai, Thailand

In Attendance:

Peter Dubus, Ravneet Kaur, Catherine Althaus, Anthony Perl, Michael Howlett, Narwit Hinshiranan, Xun Wu, Azad Bali, Hyung jun Park, Hideaki Shikoyama, Yee Kuang Heng, Wai Hang Yee, Leong Ching, Ciqi Mei, Zhilin Liu, Alfred Wu, Patamawadee Jongruck, Lee Kian Cheng, Darryl Jarvis, Scott Valentine, M. Ramesh, Kidgiw Saguin, Louis Lebel & Others

1. The Meeting was brought to order by Michael Howlett at 5:00 pm

2. The agenda was introduced and additional items were asked for. Hearing none the agenda was adopted.

3. Wu Xun discussed the origins of the AP-PPN at HKUST in June 2016 and congratulated the organization of mounting a highly successful meeting in Chiang Mai on relatively short notice.

He said HKUST would be very happy to host the organization for next year's meeting.

4. Review of this year's conference and activities

i. Ora Poocharoen reported on the 2017 University of Chiang Mai event. There were 59 registrants and 30 additional participants for a total of 89 attendees. The registration raised US\$3714 with Phd students and panelists exempted. The subsidy from CMU was US \$3300 and the event broke even with a budget just over UD\$7000.

ii. Members were happy with the existing fee structure (US\$90) and wished to keep it in that range.

iii. Members were also happy to retain the possibility of future conferences in secondary cities and did not wish to restrict meetings to larger hubs in order to encourage greater attendance.

iv. A lengthy discussion of conference format issues ensued.

a. Although the original idea behind the organization was to emulate the small group/single plenary model of the Australian PPN, it was acknowledged that the potential size of the community in the Asia-Pacific region rendered this impractical as happened with the 2016 meeting. There it proved impossible to have less than double & triple sessions within a two day format given the number of abstracts received.

b. Several members expressed support for a 3 day meeting with a show of hands indicating at least 50% of those present supported the addition of another day. The possibility of adding a 4th pre or post conference day for student and other kinds of training or workshops was also raised.

c. After some discussion it was decided to offer a wider range of options for future meeting sessions including
or ranging from (1) Poster sessions for Phd and possibly MA students (2) "Speed-dating" sessions for short presentations and mentoring (3) Regular conference Papers (4) Non-paper roundtables and panels
(5) Plenaries (6) single and multi-session workshops (7) thematic panels for network; pedagogical and professional development purposes.

d. It was also urged that plenaries be organized on different topics and include a range of formats, including panels and interactive discussions.

e. It was also asked that future conferences offer various kinds of field trips and excursions in the region and some possibilities for information and reporting on member institution plans and accomplishments.

f. It was also suggested that panels could be organized with more than one discussant (for example a separate discussant for each paper).

g. It was also suggested that each future conference be given a theme which could tie into the topic of keynote addresses and plenaries and workshops &etc.

h. And it was suggested that the 3rd day of future workshops could be reserved for non-traditional activities such as poster and grad student sessions, teaching workshops etc.

5. New Initiatives

i. Several possible new initiatives the organization might undertake were discussed.

a. The idea of a more regular newsletter was discussed. It was decided to establish a group e-mail list based on the conference list and to encourage posting of job opportunities, conferences and other events to it by members. This might be linked to the RC30 IPSA maillist.

b. It was noted that several institutions had agreed to provide support for the AP-PPN including the Crawford School at ANU and the LKY School in Singapore. It was agreed to establish a "sponsor" or institutional member category and solicit funds and in-kind contributions to the organization from all member organizations to help defray the costs of conference and website maintenance as well as to possibly provide funds for a 3 year rotating secretariat for the organization.

c. The idea of publishing conference proceedings was suggested but members felt possible conflicts with future publication plans of authors made this problematic and it was agreed to retain only abstracts and volunteered papers on the website.

6. Organizing Committee

a. It was noted that the AP-PPN is a voluntary organization with a very flat structure which relied on volunteers to staff its organization committee. **Everyone present was urged to volunteer to serve on the organization committee by e-mailing Michael Howlett at howlett@sfu.ca.** Work is not onerous and involves some adjudication of abstracts for conferences and possible roles as discussants or chairs at conferences as well as communication between conferences to establish network policy on various issues as they arose.

7. Next Year's Conference

a. It was agreed to continue to hold annual conferences, if possible around the same time of year (Feb-March) so as not to conflict with other conferences.

b. Several members offered to hold the next meeting, including HKUST and possibly in conjunction with the Korean PPA meetings (June). Other offers from Orissa and northern India had also been made earlier.

c. Given these possibilities it was agreed to advertize for bids to hold the 2018 and 2019 Conferences with a relatively short deadline (March-April) and to have the organizing committee adjudicate bids and make a decision shortly thereafter.

8. Other Business

a. The Chair asked for other business. Hearing none the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm