

Minutes of the 2023 ICSA Annual General Meeting

Date: August 17, 2023

Time started: 11 am

Location: Meeting room of ICSA at the University of Pennsylvania

Estimated Participants: About 40 members

(Note: The total registration number for this year's conference is about 65-75. Due to some confusion in the payment system, the exact number is yet to be confirmed. About half of the participants are based in Asia.)

Opening

Professor Jean Yeung (President of ICSA) welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation. She then outlined the meeting agenda and invited Prof Ming Wen (Vice President of ICSA) and Prof Tong Yuying (Treasurer of ICSA) to make the annual report and financial report respectively.

Annual Report

Prof. Ming Wen reported the current membership status and shared membership distribution by region. As of early 2023, there are 166 active members and 300+ with membership expired. Among the active members, 32% are Life Members, 28% are Regular Members and 39% are Student Members. She showed there is an increase in members based in Asia over the years with more than half of the members currently in Asia.

Discussion

Prof Ming Wen then led a discussion on a motion proposed by the previous Board to move the ICSA headquarters to Hong Kong. Prof. Wen asked Prof. Tong to share more background information. Prof Tong shared that a new ICSA association was registered in Hong Kong in 2022 by Prof Wu Xiaogan (former ICSA President), Prof Tong Yuying, and Prof Zhang Zhuoni. The motivation for moving ICSA to HK was that HK is an international city that can facilitate international conferences and that many members are based in the HK-China area who are willing to serve ICSA.

Prof Ming Wen asked ICSA members who were present for their opinions about this proposed move. Below is a summary of views from the discussions.

Member 1: Generally, Professor Zhou agreed to move to Asia, but hopes to keep the conjunction with North America, especially holding a conference on the day before the annual meeting before ASA.

Member 2: Encourage members to donate to the fund. Echo Professor Zhou about keeping the meeting in conjunction with the ASA.

Member 3: It does not matter where the headquarters is, but the convenience of traveling to the meeting and cost-saving for attending both meetings at once is an important consideration. Keep in conjunction with ASA.

Professor Jean Yeung: ICSA can have multiple meetings per year, in addition to the one held in conjunction with the ASA.

Member 4: He hopes ICSA can hold a one-day meeting before the ASA with no overlapping with the ASA.

Professor Jean Yeung replied that she understood the problem of overlapping programs with the ASA and would look into a potential solution. She also explained that there are members who wish to have a longer ICSA meeting because they only attend ICSA and not ASA.

Member 5: We should make sure we legally close the U.S. headquarters if we decide to move to Asia. We should avoid a conflict of interest with the association registered in the U.S.

Member 6: If we move the ICSA funds from the U.S. to HK, we should be cautious of the exchange rate change over time between U.S. dollars and Hong Kong dollars. It may change in the future.

Member 7: Attention should be paid to the tax issue for the ICSA funds when considering moving the fund. Also wants to maintain the ICSA-ASA link.

Member 8: Should consider the implication of political stability in Hong Kong. How might this impact the future of this organization? How this transition might affect the development of this organization.

Professor Ming Wen summarized the converging points as follows: 1) the preference expressed is to have an annual meeting linked to ASA; 2) additional meetings/conferences/activities outside of the ASA cycle are encouraged; and 3) no opposition to moving the headquarters or the location of the business to Hong Kong but we need to make sure the transition, if occurred, is fully following the rules and regulations so that we won't encounter any legal issues in the process.

Professor Yeung thanked everyone and promised to take these discussions back to the Board of Directors for further discussion on whether to move ICSA headquarters to HK before a final decision is made.

Financial Report

Professor Yuying Tong gave the 2023 annual financial report (by August 15, 2023), which was temporary and will be updated by the end of the year. She reported the amount of funds ICSA has, as well as the income and expenses in 2023. In total, ICSA had accumulated an asset of about \$ 85,000 USD at the end of 2022. This year's registration fees collected are about \$6,000 and the expenditure is about \$1,500 thanks to sponsorship from the University of Pennsylvania (exact numbers have yet to be calculated after the meeting). Overall, ICSA has a very healthy financial situation now thanks to the past donation and membership/registration increment.

Nan Lin Best Student Paper – Professor Cheng Cheng presented this award on behalf of the other two review committee members – Sun Xiulin and Qian Yue. She announced the winner and honorable mention as below.

Winner:

Guodong Ju (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK), "Exploring and Explaining an Imagined LGBTQ+ Community on Chinese Social Media"

Honorable Mention:

Lai Wei (Princeton University, USA), "Labor Market Transformation and Effectively Maintained Immobility in the United States"

As there were no other matters raised by the members, Professor Jean Yeung thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 12 pm

(Post-meeting note: After the meeting, some members talked to Professor Ming Wen that there might be legal issues if we want to move the USD 80k from the US to Hong Kong and that we need to be cautious.)

Taken by Tong Yuying, ICSA Treasurer
Approved by W. J Yeung, ICSA President



Submitted September 2, 2023