

FINAL REPORT

**Asian Pacific Federation of UNESCO Clubs and
Associations (AFUCA)**

17th Session of the Executive Board Meeting

2-3 September, 2007

Yamaguchi, Japan

Hosted by

**National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan
(NFUAJ)**

Final Report

The 17th Session of the Executive Board Meeting of the Asian Pacific Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (AFUCA) hosted by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ) was held at Hotel Kamefuku in Yamaguchi, Japan, from 2 to 3 September 2007.

The Meeting was attended by the representatives of nine regular members of AFUCA Executive Board together with 21 observers. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

Item 1: Opening Ceremony

Mr. Tao Xiping, President of AFUCA, welcomed the participants and delivered the opening speech. He congratulated the NFUAJ on the 60th anniversary of the Non-Governmental UNESCO movement in Japan, a movement that has eventually spread throughout the world. He referred to the accomplishments of AFUCA in the fields of Education, International Understanding and Preservation of World Heritage Sites, among others. He highlighted the East Asia Children's Performing Art Festival which has so far been held in Beijing, Fukuoka, Macao, Suwon and Ulaanbator in the past years, this year it was held in China with the support of UNESCO. He further stated that as in the previous year Penglai Ode to Peace 2007 International Peace and Children's Art Festival was successfully held in Penglai, China and that the first Penglai Peace Award was given to Mr. Dharendra Bhatnagar of India.

Item 2: Nomination of Chairman and Rapporteur

Mr. Tao proposed the names of Mr. Noboru Noguchi as Chairman and Mr. Bhatnagar as Rapporteur of the 17th session of the Executive Board Meeting. His proposal was unanimously adopted.

Item 3: Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Noguchi chaired the Meeting. He thanked the members for participating in the NFUAJ's National Convention and introduced the draft agenda and time table prepared by the Secretariat, which were unanimously approved.

Item 4: Confirmation of AFUCA membership

Mr. Noguchi informed the members about the proposals of new AFUCA Regular Members made by the Federations of Nepal and Russia. He referred to the relevant provisions: “duly recognized as such by the National Commissions for UNESCO” stated in Article 3, Clause 1 of the AFUCA Constitution.

Ms. Ishigami, on behalf of the AFUCA secretariat, reported that the National Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations of Nepal was re-organized and the Federation presented the endorsement of the Nepalese National Commission for UNESCO as a coordinating body of all UNESCO Federations and Clubs in Nepal. As regards Russia, Ms. Ishigami informed that Mr. Balashov, representative of the UNESCO Clubs Federation of Russia participated in the AFUCA Executive Board in 1992, and he also attended the East Asia Regional Meeting on the Promotion of Non-Governmental UNESCO activities held in Marugame, Japan in 1992. There was also a plan to organize the Executive Board Meeting of AFUCA in Vladivostok but the idea did not materialize. She informed that there is a record of payment of AFUCA membership fees by the Russian Federation until the middle of 1990s but later AFUCA lost its contact with the Russian Federation. The National Urals-Siberian Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations which organized the WFUCA World Congress in Ekaterinburg in 1999, has been endorsed by the Russian National Commission and is also listed in the “International Directory of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations” published by UNESCO in 2007.

The Meeting unanimously approved the AFUCA regular membership of the above two Federations.

Item 5: AFUCA's Activities and Financial Report for 2005-2007

Mr. Noguchi reported AFUCA activities as published in the document AFUCA/EX17/03 and AFUCA newsletter. He expressed appreciation of AFUCA's expanding scale of activities owing to the able leadership of Mr. Tao. He stated that inclusion of Penglai Peace Festival as AFUCA's Regular Program and the Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa since 1990 are the land marks of AFUCA's activities. He informed that Grand Prix Award Ceremony of Mitsubishi Enikki Festa was organized this year in Bangkok, first time outside Japan.

Mr. Noguchi then explained the document on financial statement. As per the statement, receipts were of US\$2,900, while expenses were of US\$818, leaving a balance of US\$2,082 which would be carried forward to the current budget cycle. The Financial report was endorsed by Mr. Thang, the Auditor of AFUCA.

The AFUCA activities and financial report for 2005-2007 were approved by the members.

Mr. Bhatnagar pointed out about an email received from the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO regarding membership of Sri Lanka and suggested that correspondence be made regarding the Commission's message to all concerned groups in Sri Lanka. It was agreed that the Sri Lanka National Commission would be contacted to identify the representative of UNESCO Clubs Federation of the country.

Item 6: AFUCA's proposed programmes and activities,

Venue of the next Executive Board Meeting

(Election of new office-bearers)

Mr. Noguchi explained that the new President and Vice-Presidents are to be elected in the next year while there is no limitation for the term of the Secretary-General according to AFUCA's Constitution. Article 6 Clause 4 and 5 describes that "The President and Vice-Presidents shall not be eligible for re-election."

Mr. Noguchi invited proposals for the next Executive Board Meeting of AFUCA.

Mr. Bhatnagar suggested that the Meeting could be held in Penglai, China, as AFUCA members meet every year in Penglai.

Mr. Borisikhin, of Russian Federation offered to host the meeting in Ekaterinburg in February or March 2008. Questions were raised about the weather conditions in Russia during the time of the proposed meeting and also about the expenses on travel costs to Ekaterinburg. Mr. Borisikhin alternatively suggested to organize the Meeting in August during the city's celebrations and indicated to cover all local expenses besides exploring the possibility of financial support to some participants for traveling to Ekaterinburg.

Mr. Tao welcomed the offer made by the Russian Federation and endorsed the offer made by Mr. Borisikhin to have the next Meeting in Russia and stated that the Penglai Peace Festival will take place in August 2008 as usual. Mr. Noguchi appreciated the proposal that the local expenses in Ekaterinburg would be generously covered by the Russian Federation and the feasibility of international travel cost to be explored by the Russian Federation. He said that AFUCA secretariat would send invitation letters of the next Executive Board Meeting as well as the Penglai Peace Festival as and when decided. The Meeting adopted the decision to hold the next Executive Board Meeting in Ekaterinburg in August 2008 and also to meet in Penglai in August 2008.

**Item 7: Report of the WFUCA World Congress
and possible follow up activities**

Mr. Noguchi stated that Mr. Hattori played an important role at the WFUCA World Congress held in Athens, Greece in July 2007, and to hold the election of WFUCA's new office bearers. He reported that Mr. Christophedes is the new President of WFUCA and Vice-President from Asia is Mr. Tao Xiping, the Executive Board Member from Asia is Mr. Bhatnagar and Treasurer is Mr. Borisikhin while NFUAJ is an ex-officio member.

Mr. Hattori, who was present as a Guest of Honor in the meeting commented that WFUCA congress has been organized successfully after some brief turmoil in the past few years with the continuous effort of the Transitional Executive Board. He pointed out that as per the new WFUCA constitution, Federations which have more than 100 UNESCO clubs and are in existence for more than 20 years will become ex-officio members. The WFUCA secretary General will be appointed by the President and only the Secretary-General will get an allowance. He recalled the important role of AFUCA in establishing WFUCA and hoped that AFUCA, being the first and the oldest regional federation of UNESCO clubs, will promote the UNESCO club activities not only within Asia and Pacific but in the larger framework of WFUCA.

Mr. Noguchi then introduced Mr. Masatake Matsuda, President of the NFUAJ stating briefly his profile. Mr. Matsuda made a short remark as follows:

“I welcome you all to Yamaguchi. I am very happy to reiterate that the UNESCO movement has firm roots all over the World. Concurrent sessions are taking place and discussions are being held on Interregional issues and issues which are unique and specific to each region. I firmly believe that the UNESCO movement, which has firm roots, will expand further around the world and this movement is the surest way of attainment of world peace. We are conducting programs such as children’s drawings in Asia and we need to further increase these activities and exchange of ideas uniting Asian countries. As President of an amateur baseball team I have another mission: to bring the baseball game back to the Olympics. Amateur baseball is played in 130 countries; the number is equivalent to the number of countries where UNESCO club activities are being conducted. I believe that the foundation for UNESCO activities is to increase exchanges with different countries to learn more about those countries. I hope that you would serve as an engine to increase the involvement of Asian people in the UNESCO activities. We will make our sincere efforts, so that together we can further our goals to ensure that peace should prevail in Asia and in the World”

Mr. Noguchi informed the members that Mr. Jiya Lal Jain, President of the Confederation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations of India (CUCAI) passed away on 24 May 2007. Mr. Bhatnagar informed that Mr. Jain had started UNESCO club movement in schools in India in early 1960s and it was owing to his efforts and initiatives that the National Federation of UNESCO Clubs in India was established which subsequently became a member of AFUCA and WFUCA. Mr. Jain had been the AFUCA President and Honorary President for one term and WFUCA Executive Board Member. The Meeting observed silence for a minute as a mark of respect to late Mr. Jain.

Mr. Bhatnagar made a proposal to organize a workshop / training program under UNESCO's participation program to be routed through WFUCA. He suggested that such an activity would rejuvenate the UNESCO Club movement in the region. After some discussions, it was agreed to submit the proposal to UNESCO through WFUCA.

Item 8: Presentation of Activity Report

The members of AFUCA were requested to present their activity reports. Following members presented their country's activity report:

1. Mr. Mahbubuddin Chowdhury
National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh
2. Mr. Lan Hong Sheng
Chinese National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations
3. Mr. Dharendra Bhatnagar
Confederation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations of India
4. Mr. Noboru Noguchi
National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan
5. Mr. Jeong Soo-young

Korean National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations

6. Mr. Damodar Sharma

National Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations of
Nepal

7. Ms. Diana Semenycheva

National Urals-Siberian Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and
Associations, Russia

8. Ms. Prayad Sriboonchoo

Centre for International Understanding, Thailand

9. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thang

Vietnam Federation of UNESCO Clubs

(Reports are as annexures enclosed with this final report.)

Item 9: Closing Session

Mr. Tao delivered the closing remarks and declared the 17th Executive Board Meeting closed. Mr. Kim, Honorary President of AFUCA also made brief remarks before closing of the meeting.