

Meeting Minutes

**AOC Executive Board Bimonthly Teleconference
1:00 – 2:00 pm (Central Time), December 19, 2003**

Attendees: Ying Chen, Zhongli Pan, Juming Tang, Shaojin Wang, Hongwei Xin, Jiannong Xin, Chenghai Yang, Guoqiang Zhang, Qiang Zhang, Ruihong Zhang

Absentees: Yanbin Li, Xiwen Luo, Rongsheng Ruan, K.C. Ting, Naiqian Zhang, Senwen Zhang, Yuanhui Zhang

AOC President Qiang Zhang brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 pm. The following issues were discussed:

1. 2004 China Exchange session

A third China Exchange Session will be held at the 2004 ASAE/CSAE Annual Meeting in Ottawa, Canada. The theme of the session is “Opportunities and Successful Stories.” So far, six potential speakers have been invited with two confirmed and the rest to be followed up. The session will be extended from two hours to three hours. Session format will be determined later. The session will be arranged with the Asia Forum back-to-back on the same day if the Asia Forum is to be held.

Potential speakers:

- 1) Zhu Ming – China (to be followed up by Ruihong Zhang)
Opportunities in China
- 2) Xiusheng Yang (confirmed)
Opportunities in China
- 3) David Spring – CIDA - Canadian International Development Agency (to be followed up by Q. Zhang) Opportunities - government support (Canada)
- 4) Joseph Chen – USDA (to be followed up by Zhonglin Pan)
Opportunities - government support (US)
- 5) Vijaya Raghavan – McGill University (confirmed)
A successful story
- 6) Hongming Dong and Hongwei Xin (to be followed up by Q. Zhang)
A successful story

2. Report on discussion with AOC members in China

Five AOC board members, including K. T. Ting, Qiang Zhang, Ruihong Zhang, Naiqian Zhang, Yuanhui Zhang, and Guoqiang Zhang, attended a bio-environment conference in November in Beijing, China. They met some AOC members in China and discussed several issues, including the AOC involvement in the CIGR Conference to be held in

October in Beijing and a possible forum with AOC participation prior to the CIGR conference. The conference organizers would like AOC to promote the CIGR conference in North America and Europe. Naiqian will ask ASAE to help publicize the conference among ASAE members via the Resource magazine. AOC will publish the latest CIGR conference announcement on the next issue of IMPACT. Baoji Wang, the AOC contact person in China, will send abstracts related to agricultural engineering to the AOC members in China periodically. Student paper competitions will also be held among student members in China and the winners will receive certificates and cash awards. The winning papers may be published in the Transactions of Chinese Society of Agricultural Engineering.

3. AOC activities in China and funding sources

AOC plans to organize regular forums and workshops in China and seek financial sources to support these activities. The Chinese Ministry of Education and several universities have shown interest in such ideas. These universities include China Agricultural University, Northwestern Sci-Tech University of Agriculture and Forestry, and South China Agricultural University. Qiang Zhang along with Juming Tang, Zhongli Pan and Jiannong Xin will draft a proposal. The proposal will be eventually submitted to the universities that have the interest in hosting and sponsoring such forums and workshops. The forums can be held in conjunction with other professional conferences. Each forum will have a different theme. A representative may be designated in China to coordinate the activities.

4. Standing committees of AOC (Qiang)

Qiang Zhang is still reviewing all the AOC committees. The responsibilities of the committee and terms of the committees will be clarified. European regional committee may be replaced by a representative because of the limited number of members.

5. Student activity

Ying Chen will discuss with the student committee about the student activities. The Board suggested that the Student committee Chair attend the board meeting.

6. Newsletter

The second issue of IMPACT will be published before the end of January. A feature story on Naiqian will be included in the issue. Zhongli Pan will send an outline.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Chenghai Yang