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3 Report on the 44th AAPPS Video Council Meeting Part I, December 1, 2020

The 44th Council Meeting of the Association of Asia Pacific Physical Societies (AAPPS) was held online from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. KST (Korea Standard Time) on December 1, 2020, using a Zoom session prepared by the Asia Pacific Center for Theoretical Physics (APCTP). The participants were Jun'ichi Yokoyama (President), Hyoung Joon Choi (Vice-president), Nobuko Naka (Secretary), and council members Xiu-dong Sun (the Chinese Physical Society (CPS)), Ruiqin Zhang (the Physical Society of Hong Kong), Mio Murao (the Physical Society of Japan (JPS)), Akira Yamada (the Japan Society of Applied Physics (JSAP)), Woo-Sung Jung (the Korean Physical Society (KPS)), APCTP, Kurunathan Ratnavelu (Malaysian Institute of Physics), Rajadeep Singh Rawat (Institute of Physics Singapore), Fu-Jen Kao (the Physical Society located in Taipei), and Meng-Fan Luo (the Physical Society located in Taipei). The meeting was observed by Baonian Wan (the Division of Plasma Physics (DPP)), Sang Pyo Kim (the Division of Astrophysics, Cosmology, and Gravitation (DACG)), Weiping Liu (the Division of Nuclear Physics (DNP)), Hiroyuki Nojiri (JPS), and Eunjeong Lee (AAPPS Liaison Officer). Keun-Young Kim (Treasurer), Gui-Lu Long (Ex Officio Member as Former President), and council members Jodie Bradby (Australian Institute of Physics), Tao Xiang (CPS), and Nguyen Quang Liem (Vietnam Physical Society) were absent.

(1) Secretary Naka reported the presence of 12 council members out of 17 members, and the quorum was met.

(2) President Yokoyama opened the 44th Council Meeting and welcomed all the participants, including division chairs Baonian Wan, Weiping Liu, chair-elect Sang Pyo Kim, and Hiroyuki Nojiri, who is a representative of the to-be-formed Division of Condensed Matter (DCM). Yokoyama mentioned that this council meeting was planned to be held in person in Hong Kong, but the meeting in person is postponed to next year.

(3) The agenda was adopted as prepared by the president.

(4) The secretary explained that the draft of minutes of the 43rd Council Meeting was circulated in August to the council members, and it was already published as a Society News article in the October issue of AAPPS Bulletin (AB). The president briefly explained the contents. The minutes were officially approved.

(4-1) Wan, the chair of DPP, reported on the current status and activities this year, on behalf of the board of directors. He reported that the articles of incorporation were revised by redefining the representative director as the chief executive officer. At DPP's 3rd annual conference, which was held in Hefei, China, in November 2019, there were nearly 400 participants, which was a smaller number of participants than in previous conferences, due to the conference coinciding with the 14th Asia Pacific Physics Conference (APPC14). The 4th annual conference had originally planned to take place in Jeju, Korea, but ultimately, the conference was held as an e-conference. Special care was taken to assure the success of the conference online, e.g., by considering the time zone differences, assigning additional chairs to support each session, and preparing e-conference manuals and answers to frequently asked questions. There were 850 participants and 431 presentations, and the conference was very successful. Several prizes were awarded, and 12 articles were published in the Review of Modern Plasma Physics in 2020. Wan also introduced the 2021 fiscal year plans, which include preparations for DPP2021 in Fukuoka, Japan.

Liu congratulated the DPP for their activities, which were successful despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Wan added that the next conference is being planned for November 2021, with the hope that the participants will be able to meet in person.

(4-2) S.P. Kim presented activities of DACG on behalf of the division chair, Misao Sasaki. At APPC14, there was a joint session of DACG and Cosmology and Particle Astrophysics (CosPA). Several schools and workshops were endorsed by DACG in 2020. Approximately 70 participants attended the Asia Pacific School and Workshop held in Daejeon, Korea, in February 2020, with a slightly reduced number of participants due to the Covid-19 outbreak. In November 2020, the AAPPS-DACG workshop, supported by APCTP, was held online and attended by 213 participants. The best presentation awards were given to seven postdocs and students. CosPA2020 was postponed to November 2021 and will be held in Hong Kong. The DACG Executive Committee (EXCO) online meeting was held to elect the chair and to replace half of the EXCO members for the next term. S.P. Kim proposed an establishment of DACG awards aiming for APPC15, which will be discussed online.

(4-3) Liu, the chair of the Asian Nuclear Physics Association (ANPhA), presented the routine activities of the DNP. The annual board meeting will be held virtually in December 2020 and will be hosted in Hong Kong. ANPhA supported several meetings and young and talented researchers. In particular, he mentioned Dr. Nobuyuki Kobayashi, who won the CN Yang Award, and Dr. Bing Guo, ANPhA's secretary, who was awarded the Youxun Wu prize from the CPS. An article reviewing the past 10 years of activities of ANPhA, edited by Prof. Tanaka, was already published, and the organization of the nuclear astrophysics progress report in Asia will be finished soon. Liu participated in the Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee as an observer. Two nuclear physics programs have started the A3 Foresight Program to establish a top-level and in-depth research hub in Asia. Liu expressed many thanks for the support and guidance of AAPPS.

S.P. Kim requested to share the presentation slides with other divisions and Liu agreed. Yokoyama summarized that he is pleased to know that all three divisions are actively functioning and promoting physics in the Asia Pacific region.

(5) Nojiri reported on the proposal of the formation of the DCM. He explained that the discussions regarding the formation of the DCM started approximately 2 years ago. At the beginning of 2020, work divisions and a timeline were prepared, but the process was slowed down because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The bylaws were distributed in late November 2020. The documents will be finalized in a meeting of representatives from five societies (CPS, Indian Physics Association, KPS, the Physical Society located in Taipei, JPS) and one observer (JSAP). They will join the round table on December 5, 2020, to found the DCM. If approved, a call will be made for other societies that have not been included so far. Nojiri explained that the division aims to promote the exchange and sharing of scientific knowledge and scholars. Membership can be given to regular and associate members, including students approved by an EXCO member. The core areas are diverse, and thus, boundaries of the division are difficult to define.

Yokoyama asked about the status of JSAP, and Akira Yamada answered that Prof. Tanaka will give some information in the coming meeting as the delegate from JSAP. S.P. Kim asked how one can become a member of the DCM. So far, each division is incorporated within each society, and each member should have an affiliation to some of the member societies of AAPPS. Meanwhile, nonmembers of each society also could apply to receive membership into each division upon recommendation by an EXCO member. S.P. Kim suggested that each division should set up a guideline for such a procedure. Nojiri answered that the DCM will ask for individual registration upon application. Later, it could be shifted

to group registration when the number of members is increased.

Hyoung Joon Choi commented that the participation of as many individual members as possible is important for successful division formation. He suggested to call for inaugural members when the division is ready to be officially established. Nojiri responded that they can call for the participation of as many different societies as possible in the meetings before the formal start on January 1, 2021.

(6) Kurunathan Ratnavelu reported on the proposal for the establishment of the Division of Computational Physics. Since 2012, AAPPS has created divisions to reflect the growing stature of physics in the Asia Pacific region. He explained that the Division of Computational Physics (DCOMP) in the American Physical Society (APS) was founded in 1986, and the Computational Physics Group in the European Physical Society (EPS) was established much earlier in 1972. As is seen in the focus topics lead by DCOMP for the APS March Meeting 2021, computational physics cut across all branches of physics. Organizing the Workshop for Computational Physics, to be held in November 2021 in Kuching, Malaysia, will be a good place to start forming a division or a topical group in AAPPS.

Ruiqin Zhang commented that a more detailed proposal will come next year. Some of the audience at the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) conference, organized by Zhang in Hong Kong, can be invited to the next meeting. Yokoyama asked if any society already has a division of computational physics. Ratnavelu answered that they have a group for theoretical and computational physics in Malaysia. Zhang mentioned that in China, there is a journal. Liu informed that there is a subsociety of computational physics under CPS. Yokoyama explained that JPS does not have a division of computational physics, but there are some groups of people who are trying to establish one. Yamada stated that many presentations related to computational physics are given in the biannual domestic conferences of JSAP, but there is no unified division. Ratnavelu asked about the status of the proposal for the quantum information division. Yokoyama answered that it has been suspended. Yokoyama showed interest to formulate topical or cross-disciplinary groups in AAPPS, as in APS and EPS. S.P. Kim commented in chat that AAPPS bylaws allow regular or interdisciplinary divisions (<http://aappsbulletin.org/myboard/read.php?Board=others&id=24>).

(7) Ratnavelu reported on the current status of the Malaysian Institute of Physics. There are 1506 members and 17 council members holding seven meetings per year. Their journal is indexed in the Emerging Science Citation Index. There are two divisions: medical physics

and plasma physics. The Medical Physics Division supported travel grants and conferences. The Malaysian Institute of Physics hosted APPC14 and sent two students to the Asian Oceanian Forum with travel grants. The proceedings of APPC14 are to be published in January 2021.

(8) Woo-Sung Jung reported on the ongoing cooperation between APCTP and AAPPS. The APCTP was established in 1996 on the campus of Pohang University of Science and Technology and approved as the administrative headquarters of AAPPS in 2016. APCTP financially supports AAPPS through various aspects, in areas such as the Council Meetings, APPC, AB publication, and division activities. The support to each division started in 2017, and the staff members work as administrative editors of AB. The CN Yang Awards, which are currently disbursed in partnership between AAPPS and APCTP, were changed and became annual awards. The timeline for the selection process for next year was presented.

(9) Jung reported on the current status of AB on behalf of Gui-Lu Long, the editor-in-chief of AB. The annual editorial meeting this year was held online, in addition to the monthly video meetings. Five member societies (CPS, JPS, JSAP, KPS, the Physical Society located in Taipei) and APCTP financially contributed to the printing and editorial meetings. He thanked the co-operating members who were invited to be authors. In order to publish more scientific papers, the editorial board has been reorganized. As deputy editors-in-chief, Jung takes charge of administrative issues regarding the partnership with Springer Nature while YB Sheng is in charge of scientific issues. From January 2021, AB will be published by Springer Nature. The plan, set by the editorial board, is to publish 70 articles in 2025 and to promote the journal through Springer Nature's channels, with indexing in the future.

S.P. Kim commented that the editorial board should announce the scope of the articles. Jung answered that in terms of disciplines, the AB covers every area of physics, and in terms of paper categories, most of the articles to be published next year will be review articles. In 2022, the hope is that 10–20% of the articles will be regular articles. S.P. Kim highly appreciated Jung's efforts and mentioned his optimistic view that some authors may submit their original research papers, once every article in AB is indexed, not necessarily by SCOPUS or SCIE but by Springer Nature. Jung answered that indexing in SCOPUS in 2 years (2023) and SCIE in another 2 years (2025) is planned.

Jung reported that the contract with Springer Nature was signed in October 2020. Yokoyama asked Jung who signed the contract with astonishment. Jung answered he himself signed it as a council member of AAPPS to

make quick progress after consulting with the editor-in-chief, Prof. Gui-Lu Long. It should have been consulted to the council and to the president beforehand, and Yokoyama voiced that AAPPS cannot give any financial commitment. Jung admitted his mistake and agreed that APCTP deals with Article Processing Charge (APC). S.P. Kim suggested that for the future the contract should be signed at the "top level," i.e., between AAPPS and Springer Nature presidents. Jung will propose this to Springer Nature.

Yokoyama pointed out that from the authors' side, the template prepared by Microsoft Word is not comfortable for writing science-oriented reports. Jung explained that Springer Nature will provide a LaTeX template from January 2021, and the new online system could accept both Microsoft Word and LaTeX formats. Yokoyama expressed his thanks to APCTP not only for financial but also administrative support, and particularly to Ms. Eunjeong Lee for her dedicated help.

(10) Yokoyama and Choi recently learned that IUPAP does not have any permanent legal personality in any country, but they take a legal personality or some appropriate status every 6 years when their administration office is moved. As the AAPPS administration office is in APCTP, the possibility of taking legal personality according to the law of Korea has been researched by Choi and Jung.

Choi explained as follows. In Korea, a bank account can be given only to a legal entity, i.e., to a real person or a person in law. Although the bank account of AAPPS is presently in the treasurer's name, the Korean government recognizes that the assets belong to AAPPS rather than to the treasurer. To have a legal entity, a Board of Trustees (BT) consisting of nine or fewer trustees and one auditor is suggested. The legal entity should be independent and should make its own decisions on financial and accounting issues.

Choi explained that to abide by the law, full members of the BT should come to Pohang to establish physical presence every year. So, it is not convenient practically for full council members to participate in the BT. S.P. Kim pointed out that it is important to maintain a BT in harmony with the AAPPS Council. Choi responded that everything works based on trust. More study is required on these issues.

(11) Choi reminded the council meeting participants that 21 months are left before APPC15, which will be held in Gyeongju, Korea, starting on August 22, 2022. The floor plan and a tentative timeline were introduced: the first announcement (June 2021), the list of invited speakers (January 2022), the submission deadline (April 2022), notification of acceptance (May 2022), and the final schedule (June 2022). A council meeting has been planned to take place on August 21, 2022. The topics for

APPC15 will include all fields of physics. We wish to request the participation of all (probably five) divisions and division chairs to take charge of sessions in their areas of expertise.

Other issues to be decided are organizing committees, participation of other organizations in the Asia Pacific region, publication of proceedings, and financial support. S.P. Kim expressed concern that inviting speakers 7 months before the conference might be too late. Choi answered that the date is the last moment to finalize the list. All contact needs to be made early; as many events were canceled in 2020/2021, 2022 may be a particularly busy year with many events. Liu agreed to this point. Yokoyama suggested to have a dedicated council meeting with the division chairs in March.

S.P. Kim asked how many participants are expected. Choi answered that the first goal is more than 1000, and it will be very successful if it is more than 2000. Wan suggested the possibility to combine APPC15 with annual division meetings. Liu agreed that if many divisions come in conjunction with this event, it could encourage interdisciplinary intersections with different divisions. Ratnavelu asked how long the conference will be, and Choi answered that he anticipates 4 days, from Monday to Thursday. S.P. Kim added that Gyeongju is a wonderful and convenient place for conferences.

(12) President Yokoyama announced that the meeting will be continued to the second part, scheduled on December 15, 2020, and closed the first part of the meeting.