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Update

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ANSO
Alliance of International
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THE FIFTH ANSO GOVERNING BOARD MEETING HELD ONLINE

The Fifth ANSO Governing Board Meeting was held online on 28 November 2022. The meeting was attended by the heads or representatives from all the 9 Governing Board organizations. Prof. BAI Chunli, President of ANSO, gave both a welcome and a concluding speech. Prof. Ferenc Hudecz, Vice President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), kindly chaired a major part of the meeting at the invitation of the presidium of ANSO. Prof. CAO Jinghua, Executive Director of the ANSO Secretariat, presented the ANSO progress report 2022. Prof. LIU Weidong, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences also attended the meeting.

Prof. BAI Chunli expressed sincere gratitude to all the Governing Board members for their strong support for ANSO. He once again emphasized the importance of solidarity, partnership, and collective effort within the ANSO family to address common challenges such as the pandemic, climate change, food insecurity and the promotion and advancement of the UN SDGs. He called for a more active cooperation and synergy with other international science organizations to promote the further growth and impact of ANSO.

The Governing Board reviewed the annual report of ANSO presented by Prof. CAO Jinghua. Prof. CAO elaborated on the strategic considerations of the ANSO Secretariat which had been mapped out early in the year, along with major accomplishments, highlights, progress of ANSO programs and initiatives, and financial expenditures. He also put forward several strategic

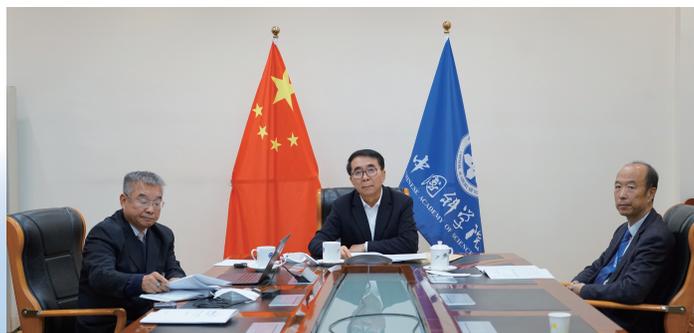
proposals and suggestions for 2023 and briefly touched upon a few issues of concern and challenges ahead.

The Governing Board reviewed and endorsed the annual report and commented on the high performance given the continuing challenge as a result of the ongoing pandemic. The Governing Board also reviewed and endorsed applications for ANSO membership from three new organization (applications received since the Second General Assembly). The Governing Board also agreed to hold the three General Assembly and the Sixth Governing Board in Beijing, China sometime in 2023 when the pandemic situation allows. This consensus decision was reached on account of the current international situation preventing the meeting occurring as previously agreed.

As usual, the Governing Board participants put forward lots of good advice and suggestions for further development and enhancement of the international impact of ANSO. For instance, there was a suggestion to further expand ANSO's impact and membership through engagement and collaboration with other international science organizations such as UNESCO, UN Technology Bank for LDCs and WAITRO; increased emphasis on actions and activities related to open science and similar UN initiatives; preparation and release of more policy-oriented strategic reports at major international events; increased emphasis on the study and investigation of green energy options, eco-environmental protection and the green and circular economy, and further collective effort in science communication.

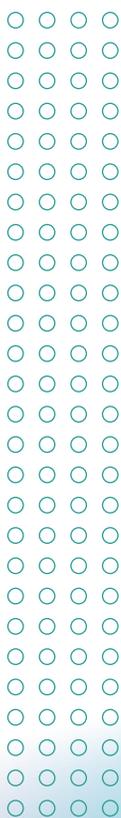
“We shall actively promote ‘Open Dialogue’ and communication among ANSO members and we shall reflect what is suggested by our members and the Governing Board in particular in our practical actions and in the improvement of the ANSO works”, concluded by Prof. BAI Chunli.

On this note, this briefing also seeks advice and suggestions from all ANSO members as to how ANSO can further develop and improve of our performance towards the goal of global green and sustainable development.





Clinical Trials of the Second-generation Recombinant Vaccine for COVID-19 Omicron and Delta Variants Launched in Uzbekistan



A round table meeting was held online on 7 November, 2022, to kick-off clinical trials of the second-generation COVID-19 recombinant vaccine specifically targeted at combatting the Omicron and Delta virus variants. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan, the Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co., Ltd, and the Institute of Microbiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IMCAS). ANSO was invited to join in the initial meeting due to its significant and critical role in bridging this cross-country partnership.

Presentations at the meeting were given by Prof. Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov, Minister of the Ministry of Innovative Development of Development of Uzbekistan, Prof. George Fu GAO, Member of the

Chinese Academy of Sciences and former Director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Prof. CAO Jinghua, Executive Director of the ANSO Secretariat, Mr. Nishanov Shukhrat, Chief Physician and Head of the Medical Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan, and Mr. LI Wanju, Chairman of the Board of Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co., Ltd. All speakers expressed their congratulations on the launch and their gratitude to each of the parties involved for their efforts in moving the partnership to a new phase.

Prof. CAO mentioned that the Chinese President XI Jinping made reference to the recombinant protein vaccine in his article during his trip to Uzbekistan this September 2022, signifying the importance of the joint effort of China and Uzbekistan to combat the Pandemic. Prof CAO expressed his particular gratitude and appreciation to Minister Abdurakhmonov for his dedication, strong sense of responsibility and hard-work in successfully carrying out the third phase clinical trial of the recombinant vaccine, which led to the vaccine's approval in both countries. He extended his best wishes on the joint development of new product for the benefit of both countries and the world.

Fifth International Conference on “Resources, Environment and Regional Sustainable Development in Northeast Asia” Successfully Held

The fifth International Conference on “Resources, Environment and Regional Sustainable Development in Northeast Asia” was held in Irkutsk both online and offline from 23 to 26 August, 2022. More than 150 scientists and experts from China, Russia and Mongolia joined together to discuss territorial development and environmental protection as well as the promotion of international cooperation.

The conference was supported by the V.B. Sochava Institute of Geography of RAS, the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology (IGA) of CAS, the International Wetlands Research League, and the ANSO International Network and other institutions.

JIANG Ming, Director of the International Wetlands Research League, gave a keynote report at the opening ceremony entitled *Wetland ecological characteristics changes and their driving forces in Lake Xingkai (Khanka), China*. Professor ZHANG Pingyu from IGA also gave a keynote speech entitled *Depopulation in Northeast China: Fact, Factor and Policy*.

The conference provided an important platform for international experts and specialists to share knowledge and experience in tackling common challenges for global wetland protection. The participants exchanged views through broad discussions on topics including trans-boundary protection and sustainable utilization of water resources, strategies for economic revitalization, urbanization, regional cooperation and land resources of Northeast Asia.

The conference facilitated the implementation of the *Changchun Declaration on Amur River Basin Protection* which was initiated by the members of International Wetlands Research League. It also helped strengthen existing cooperation among the key members of the League, who agreed to carry out trans-boundary wetland dynamic monitoring along the Heilongjiang River in order to contribute to the development of the “China-Mongolia-Russia” Economic Corridor and the Silk Road Economic Belt.



Tribhuvan University Conducted Project Activities in South Asia

The ANSO collaborative research project entitled ‘Assessing Households’ Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change in the Diverse Socio-Cultural and Geographical Landscape of South Asia’ is a joint initiative of researchers from universities and institutes from China, Nepal, India and Bangladesh. The project focuses on climate change impacts at local scales, the impact on rural livelihood and the adaptive capacity of households in different ecological regions spanning the mountains-the Ganges plain-to the lowland in Bangladesh. The project aims to synthesize knowledge by integrating both social and natural science perspectives.

In this context, the project team—Prof. Dr. Prem Sagar Chapagain (PI), and Dr. Shobha Shrestha (CoI)—visited Jahangirnagar University (JU), one of the collaborating universities, in Bangladesh from 17-21 October, 2022. Similarly, Prof. Prem and Dr. Basanta Poudel (CoI) visited the University of Delhi (DU), India, another collaborating university, from 1-5 November, 2022. The five-day visit included activities such as student training on field survey tools and meetings and project briefing with collaborators, Geography Department academics and university authorities.

Collaborators' Meeting

The PI and the team had meetings with collaborators in both countries. Meetings with available academics also shared project information across both countries. The Head of the Department expressed their strong support and cooperation to the project activities in both countries.

In the meeting with collaborators, the completed, ongoing and future activities were discussed, with special focus on the field survey in both countries that is planned for early 2023. Collaborators from both countries wanted to have more visits to each other's university/country to strengthen the exchange of ideas and networking.



Research Student Training

The project organized two days training in 'field survey tools' with selected research students from DU India, and JU Bangladesh. Day one focused on familiarization with the questionnaire and data requirements. A demonstration of operating the mobile survey tool was provided and students were trained to operate mobile survey tool to fill in the questionnaire for household surveys. Students also undertook a practical exercise and filled up 3-4 sets of questions using the apps.

Field Site Visit and Discussion with Local Community

During the visit, the team including students, visited the field study site in Paturia Ghat in Bangladesh. The site is near to the Padhma-Jamuna (Brahmaputra) confluence. The dominant means of livelihoods in the area is subsistence agriculture and fishing.

A meeting and informal discussion was initiated with farmers and fisherman on major crops in the region, the availability of fish, and other issues related to livelihoods. Locals shared that many fish species had recently disappeared from the catch and fish catch volumes had also decreased. The participation of local people was animated and discussion about livelihoods, knowledge and experience was lively.

Presentation on International/Departmental Seminar



Project PI Prof. Prem presented on climate change, its impact on water and adaptation strategies in the international seminar

jointly organized by the Geography Department and Bangladesh National Geographical Association, Jahangirnagar University on 18 October, 2022.

The Vice-Chancellor of JU was the chief guest at the seminar, which was also attended by the pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean of Social Science, and faculty and students. Dr. Liu Linshan from the IGSNRR, Beijing, China spoke as the discussant and highlighted the climate change situation and its impact in China. The presentation was followed by a discussion session in which very important issues were raised by the faculty and students. A total of 75 people attended the seminar.

Similarly, a departmental seminar in the Geography Department, Delhi University on 3 November, 2022 was also organized. Prof. Prem (PI) lectured on the climate change situation in the Nepali Himalayas, its impacts on water and agricultural systems. He also highlighted the connection between climate-water-poverty/gender and overall livelihood. The seminar was attended by about 70 participants including faculty and students of the Delhi School of Economics.

Meetings with University Authorities

As a part of the visit, the team had meetings with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Md.Nurul Alam, Pro-Chancellor Prof. Sheikh Md. Monzurul Huq, and Prof. Dr. Akbar Hussain, Dean of Social Science, Jahangirnagar University. During the meeting information about the ANSO collaborative research project was shared and the possibility of research collaboration and faculty and student exchanges were discussed.

Similarly, the project team also had very good meeting with authorities at Delhi University. The meetings including a meeting with the Head of Department of the Geography Department and with Professor Shri Prakash Singh, Director of Delhi University. There was also a meeting with Prof. Pami Dua, Director of the Delhi School of Economics, and the Director of International Relations. A possible collaboration for research and exchange of faculty and students was discussed during the meeting. A broader collaboration for Himalayan studies was also emphasized.

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