

APCDA Board Meeting

5/23/2019 at RMIT, Vietnam

Present: Carla Siojo, President; Woongtae Kim, President-Elect; Brian Hutchison, Past President; Momoko Asato, Secretary; Anne Chen, Taiwan Country Director, Allan Gatenby, Bylaws & Policies Committee Co-Chair; Gulnur Ismayil, Azerbaijan Country Director, Anjana Kulasekara, Sri Lanka Country Director; Hector Lin, Singapore Country Director; Elizabeth Montgomery, South China Area Director, Midori Nanogaki, Japan Country Director; Rahul Nair, South India Area Director, Gemma Williams, Bylaws & Policies Committee Co-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 6:35.

The two newest members introduced themselves, Elizabeth Montgomery from Shenzhen, China, and Rahul Nair from Thrivandrum, India.

The Board members present were encouraged to respond to concerns from members expressed at the Member Meeting or to express their own concerns about the proposed restructuring.

Carla thought smaller groups would make it easier for everyone, but that we need may need to also meet as a large group at times so we stay connected. Rahul was concerned about regional differences and wants to make sure we do not lose differences in perspective by having a Board that is not geographically representative.

Anjana asked how we chose the size of the new Board. Marilyn explained that research has found that the ideal size for a Board is 8 to 12. The new Board will have 11 members. Brian mentioned that for now, we have given priority to regional differences, but in the future, we may want to reorganize the Councils around service setting (K-12, College, Workforce, etc.) instead of by countries. He explained that, in a sense, we are role-modeling the change process and by being willing to restructure, we are setting an example for others.

Allan explained that the new structure is based on our current practices and the Bylaws and Policies Committee simply defined the new structure in a coherent manor. He felt that the primary concern is "How can we keep the first-timers engaged?" Brian explained that the new structure provides multi-layered opportunities, so newer people can hold positions with clearly defined responsibilities and move up with experience to more complex positions. Hector asked how the Country/Area Council will choose its leadership and Gulnur expressed the concern that everyone will want to be the Chair or be on the Board. Allan reminded us that the flip-side of restructuring is that it reshuffles the responsibilities, so there are new opportunities for a more diverse Board. Carla expressed the hope that people elected to the Board see themselves as representing APCDA and not just a single country or region.

Brian expressed the concern for timing. We agreed that we would announce an open comment period between now and June 15. Gemma explained that parts of the former Bylaws have been moved to the Policies and Procedures Manual, but that document is not yet ready for review, so those parts may appear to have been lost. Allan admonished us to remember that APCDA fits into a legal structure. US laws impact APCDA as well as our bylaws.

Midori commented that it is necessary to cope with change and to be a smart corporation. Anne expressed the concern that meetings be well run and there will be prompt communication among the new bodies so each has sufficient time to prepare before its next meeting. She thought we could try the new structure for a year and make further changes if necessary. Brian explained that the new bodies will make decisions at different levels. Momoko expressed the hope that having smaller groups will make it easier for everyone to be heard. Jon concurred and said the smaller bodies will make us stronger. Soonhoon and Lucy expressed concern about how the new leaders will be chosen.

Marilyn explained that the proposed restructuring is too complex for most members to vote on. Many members will look to the Board for guidance on whether to vote yes or no. The Board agreed that we can endorse the proposed bylaws changes, so the message to the members can include an endorsement from the Board for the proposed restructuring.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.