



CONSTITUTION OF THE ASIAN PHYSICS EDUCATION NETWORK (ASPEN)

Preamble

ASPEN was created as a result of the recommendation of the UNESCO Consultative Meeting held in Khon Kaen, Thailand, in November 1981. This meeting was held in conjunction with a regional conference on Methods of Teaching, and attended by representatives of 12 countries (Afghanistan, Australia, People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, USSR and Thailand). The meeting unanimously agreed that a program of cooperation in the field of university physics teaching was of urgent priority for the Asian region and such a network "would provide considerable benefit to all concerned".

The first ASPEN Coordination Board consisted of representatives from Thailand (elected as Chair), Australia, People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia (elected as the Executive Secretary), UNESCO and COSTED. The Secretariat was located at The National University of Malaysia.

ASPEN operates under the auspices of UNESCO.

Name of Network

1. The name of the network shall be the Asian Physics Education Network, hereafter called "ASPEN".
2. There shall be a coordinating centre of ASPEN, hereafter called the "ASPEN Secretariat" situated at the office of the Executive Secretary of ASPEN.

Primary Objectives

3. The objectives of ASPEN are:
 - a) to contribute towards efforts in promoting the overall development of university physics education in the Asian region;
 - b) to establish a program of cooperation amongst members in university physics education and related areas;
 - c) to establish effective channels of communication in physics education and related areas; and
 - d) to disseminate information on physics education and related areas.



Principles

4. For all or any of the above-mentioned objectives, ASPEN will be guided by the following:
 - a) ASPEN is a network based on the principle of self-help and mutual cooperation.
 - b) The organisational structure will allow each member and their institution to contribute as best as they can, and to seek assistance directly from other members and other institutions in other countries.
 - c) Regional and subregional activities organised or sponsored by ASPEN are expected to contribute to national objectives in university physics education.

Activities

5. For all or any of the above mentioned objectives, the activities of the network shall include but are not limited to the following:
 - a) Organisation and sponsorship of conferences, symposiums, seminars, workshops and meetings on topics associated with university physics education.
 - b) Supporting collaborative and cooperative programs of activities between institutions.
 - c) Supporting programs or exchange of visits between individuals from different institutions.
 - d) Supporting research and development programs in university physics education.
 - e) Publication of reports, proceedings, newsletters or journals associated with university physics education and related areas.
 - f) Engaging in other activities that foster the objects of ASPEN.

Membership

6. Membership of ASPEN is admitted through the appointment of National Points-of-Contact of countries in the Asian region by the ASPEN Coordination Board.
7. The nomination of any National Point-of-Contact, hereafter referred to as the 'NPC', shall normally be made by UNESCO's National Commission of the said NPC's country. Notwithstanding, the ASPEN Coordination Board may seek other nominations through the Executive Secretary.
8. Any country shall only be represented by one NPC. The term of office of an NPC normally shall be for five years.
9. Any NPC may withdraw membership of ASPEN by giving a written notice to the Executive Secretary. In such an event, a new nomination shall be made according to Article 7.



10. The ASPEN Coordination Board shall have full discretion as to the admission of membership.

Duties

11. All NPCs shall be bound to further, to the best of their ability, the objectives and interests of ASPEN. The duties of an NPC shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) Promotion of the overall development of university physics education in their own country.
- b) Coordination of ASPEN activities held in their country.
- c) Dissemination of information regarding ASPEN and its activities on a national level.
- d) Keeping in close contact with the ASPEN Secretariat and other NPCs on matters pertaining to physics education, ASPEN and other related areas.

General

12. ASPEN shall, in addition to its other meetings, hold a General Assembly every five years. Due notice of the General Assembly shall be given to NPCs. The General Assembly shall be held at a time and place that shall be decided by the ASPEN Coordination Board.

13. The Chair, or in whose absence the Vice-Chair, or in the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, a member of the ASPEN Coordination Board chosen by it shall preside as Chair of the General Assembly.

14. The General Assembly shall carry out the following business:

- a) To receive a report from the ASPEN Coordination Board of the activities carried out.
- b) To elect the Chair, Vice-Chair, Executive Secretary and Members of the ASPEN Coordination Board, for the next 5 year period.
- c) To discuss other matters tabled to the General Assembly.

15. Announcement of the next General Assembly, giving details of dates, time, place and the agenda shall be sent to each NPC by the Executive Secretary not later than 3 (three) months from the proposed date of the General Assembly. All papers for discussion and proposals for the amendment of the ASPEN constitution, shall normally be sent to the Executive Secretary not later than 3 (three) months from the proposed date of the General Assembly.



16. At the General Assembly, other than for the purpose of election of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Executive Secretary and Members of the Board, unless a ballot is demanded by at least 10 (ten) percent of the members present, a declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried or lost shall be conclusive evidence of the fact.

17. For the purpose of election of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Executive Secretary and Members of the ASPEN Coordination Board, and for when a ballot is demanded, each NPC shall have 1 (one) vote.

ASPEN Coordination Board

18. There shall be an ASPEN Coordination Board consisting of the following:

- a) Chair;
- b) Vice-Chair;
- c) Executive Secretary; and
- d) 4 (four) Members.

If needed to ensure continuity, the Board may co-opt an additional member from the immediate past ASPEN Coordination Board.

19. The term of office of the members of the ASPEN Coordination Board shall be five years. Retiring members will be eligible for re- election. If a Board member is unable to complete their term, the next NPC from their country will assume the position for the remainder of the term. If the Executive Secretary is unable to complete their term, then the Board will select a replacement from among its members.

20. The ASPEN Coordination Board may meet for the dispatch of business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings as the board thinks fit. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chair, may at any time summon a meeting of the ASPEN Coordination Board.

21. The Chair, or in whose absence the Vice-Chair, or in the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, a Member of the ASPEN Coordination Board chosen by its Members shall preside as Chair at every meeting of the ASPEN Coordination Board.

22. The ASPEN Coordination Board shall have control over the affairs of ASPEN, and shall prescribe the program of activities for ASPEN, provided always that the activities carried out are to further the objectives and interests of ASPEN.



23. The ASPEN Coordination Board may delegate all or any of their powers to the Executive Secretary.

24. One representative of UNESCO shall be invited to the General Assembly and the meetings of the ASPEN Coordination Board.

In addition, if necessary, the ASPEN Coordination Board may invite representatives of other bodies with objectives and activities similar to those of ASPEN to attend these meetings.

Executive Secretary

25. The duties of the Executive Secretary shall include the following:

- a) implementing the decisions of the General Assembly and the ASPEN Coordination Board;
- b) recording the minutes of the General Assembly and the ASPEN Coordination Board meetings;
- c) running of the ASPEN Secretariat; and
- d) performing other activities to further the objectives of ASPEN.

Amendment of Articles

26. These articles may not be altered or amended except by a resolution of the ASPEN General Assembly.

Dissolution

27. ASPEN may be dissolved by a resolution of not less than two-thirds of its NPCs

ASPEN is a regional cooperative program
supported by UNESCO