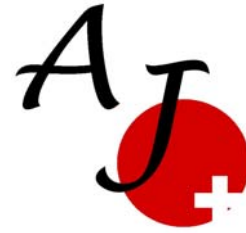


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Swiss-Japan Association for
Engineers and Scientists

Minutes of the General Assembly

Date: 28th November 2002

Place: Residence of the General Consul of Japan, Geneva

The meeting started at 19:20. 35 members and guests participated to the Assembly and YY members were excused. Mr Yasuaki Nagawa, the General Consul of the Japanese Consulate at Geneva, had kindly invited the Association in his official Residence.

1. Welcome words

Nadia Nibbio (NN), the AJ President, welcomed the members and addressed her special thanks to the General Consul for welcoming us in his Residence as well as for his support in the organisation of the meeting. NN thanked also Mr Nakajima, Vice- Consul, and Mr Kamei, JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) for joining us.

NN indicated that there would be some modification to the general assembly programme, noticeably to the statutes' amendments, as the legal procedure was not perfectly performed in their announce.

2. 2002's Activity report

NN presented the activity report of 2002.

- The second EPFL course on "Technology policy - the Japanese case" took place during the academic year 2001-2002. NN and other members participated actively.
- The Picnic was replaced by a dinner held at Jean-Michel's place on 27th September 2002. About 6 people participated.
- Sanne Stijve (SS) is in charge of the AJ website. A new Internet provider has been selected and a full new and beautiful website has been developed by SS. Many thanks to him for this great job.
- The mailing list project, proposed by Cedric Oelhafen, is almost ready. The aim of the project is to improve the contact between the AJ members by creating a forum to exchange information or post questions of interest for all members. The service should be accessible on the website early 2003.
- The next bulletin will come out in spring 2003 but as decided will not be printed. Considering the difficulties to collect articles, the Committee will have a brainstorming session to address the issues of marketing and communication of the association. This, in order to define the most appropriate actions for the future.
- The members' database has been updated by Nathalie Piguet (NP). Still, some information is missing and we would appreciate that our members informs us of any change of address.

- The CV database module has been developed by NNs' friend. It will enable our members to build their online CV, that could be then forwarded for example to head hunters by each member. The issue of confidentiality and privacy still has to be cleared.
- The EPFL extended its financial support for the Japanese courses proposed to the EPFL's trainees in Japan. NN and Prof. Hannes Bleuler had a meeting with Ms. Maya Frühauf from EPFL on this issue.
- NN participated to the farewell party of the Consul's predecessor and thanked him for his invitation.

3. Accounts

Emile Tasev (ET) presented the accounts, which were approved by the auditors and accepted by the assembly, with no additional remarks. Some members have not been paying their membership contribution for more than two years. Their exclusion will be decided by the committee after verification and members will be informed.

	Dépenses		Recettes	
1	Impôts anticipés	1.95	Etat de caisse de l'exercice précédent	3166.50
2	Frais gestion de compte postal	36.-	Intérêt compte postal	5.50
4	Envois postaux	76.90	Cotisation 2001 (n = 5)	150.-
5	Internet : nom de domaine + hébergement chez Bluewin	383.30	Cotisation 2002 (n = 17)	510.-
	Dépenses sous-total :	498.15		
	Reste sur compte :	3333.85		
	TOTAL	3832.-	TOTAL	3832.-

4. Presentation of the 2003 budget

Amédée Zryd (AZ) presented the budget for 2003. Questions arose about the financing of the grant over the time. It was proposed that members make voluntary contribution besides the membership fees to support this grant. The budget was accepted by the assembly.

Active		Passive	
Fortune	3'000.-	General expenses	800.-
Membership fees	600.-	Pic-nic	200.-
		Grant	1'500.-
		Web site	300.-
		Surplus	800.-
Total	3'600.-	Total	3'600.-

The assembly decided to assign the amount of 1'500.- for the first AJ grants, dedicated to any student, engineer or scientists professional stays in Japan: application's rules will be submitted later by MG and ET to the committee for acceptance. They will be in charge of the applicants selection during the year.

5. Election of the Committee and statutes' amendments

AZ presented his resignation of the Committee as vice-president. NN warmly thanked him for the great job he did during 7 years. ET informs that the amendments should have been included in the agenda to respect the law and therefore they cannot be voted on at the present assembly. After some discussion, it was proposed not to make formal modification of the statutes but have derogation for one year to allow the Committee to pursue its work. This proposal was accepted. The new Committee, composed of 6 members for one year, was then elected with no opposition.

Mr Daniel Perruchoud, who owns a company active in Japan, is willing to sponsor AJ activities and to have his company's name on our website. After discussion, it was agreed that for such sponsoring action, the minimal contribution should be CHF 100.-. This amount should also vary with the company's size. The members also asked that the website should not be overloaded with advertising. NN confirmed that it is up to the Committee to filter these sponsoring activities and it will do so.

6. 2003 Activities

The 2003 activities are as follows:

1. EPFL course for the academic year 2002-2003
2. The Picnic will take place on 14.9.2003 and will be organised by Amédée Zryd
3. Mailing list implementation
4. Online member's CV book implementation
5. AJ Bulletin
6. Grant project
7. Search for new members

7. Miscellaneous

Mr Martial Geiser (MG) announced that the SATW project "Un ingénieur en classe" is proposed now. For more information, see <http://www.satw.ch/F/jut/ingindschule.html>. If any AJ member might be interested in participating to that project, contact MG at martial.geiser@hevs.ch.

8. Final Words

The General Consul joined the General Assembly and in the name of the association NN gave him a present.

Finally, the General Consul said a few words. He thanked the members for coming and hoped that together we can contribute to reinforce relations between Japan and Switzerland. He then proposed to start the buffet, which was a delight.

The Assembly ended up at 20.10