

INSIDE this issue

REPORT ON THE 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- By the Hon. Gen. Secretary, Ms. Sharon Lim Boon Hong



On 27th March 2022, PAAM held its 37th AGM at the Saujana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Saujana Resort, Jalan Lapangan Terbang, SAAS, Shah Alam, Selangor. The total attendance was 31 life members. They were invited to a buffet lunch before the AGM.

The outgoing President, Ms. Sharon Lim Boon Hong chaired the meeting stating that 2021 was unprecedented where the Government re-introduced MCO, CMCO & RMCO restriction across various states between January to October 2021. It was also a year where vaccination was introduced nationwide. The Central Committee managed to conduct some talks through zoom and also organized a visit to a health related company in December 2021. We managed to produce one newsletter, Issue No. 86 for the term 2020-2022. The annual report for 2021 and the audited accounts for 2021 were read and duly passed.

Nominations for the election were submitted from members by a stipulated date in the notice of 37th AGM. The nominated election chairman, Mr. Tan Teng Ek then proceeded with the election with the presentation of the list of nominations. As the list contained only one nomination per position, no contest was necessary and the election chairman pronounced all the nominated candidates as duly elected when no objection came forth from the floor. The new Central Committee for 2022-2024 consists of the members as follows:

President	Mr. Yap Choon Ming
Vice President	Ms. Cheong Lye Foon, Valerie
Hon. General Secretary	Ms. Sharon Lim Boon Hong
Asst. Hon. Gen. Secretary	Dr. Stephen Wong Kam Sun
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. Yeong Soon Seng
Committee Member	Ms. Lee Sin Peng
	Ms. Stephanie Yap Geok Lan
	Mr. Tan Kean Hock

37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PRESIDENT 2

WHAT IS AOTS? 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS 2

INTRODUCTION TO CCM – LEE SIN PENG 3

PAAM CCM AND ADVISORS ... GET-TOGETHER 3

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT 3

PAAM TRAINING 3

PAAM NITE 4

TANABATA FESTIVAL CELEBRATION 5

ONI - THE JAPANESE DEMONS 6

JAPANESE BASIC CONVERSATION CLASS 7

VISIT OF SAITO SAN TO MALAYSIA 7

MIN'YO MUSIC CONCERT OF JAPANESE FOLK SONGS 7

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 7

NOTICE FOR 38th AGM 8

PROGRAMME FOR 38th AGM 8

NOTICE FOR 38th ADJOURNED AGM 8

Persatuan Alumni AOTS Malaysia (PAAM)

No. 52A Jalan SS22/25,
Damansara Jaya, 47400
Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Tel: 03-7726 2863
Fax: 03-7728 2348
Email: paam@aots.org
www.aots.org

Printer: Ang Teck Seng, Seng Hoe Printing Process (KDN PQ1780/3427)

No 33, Jalan Hang Tuah 2,
Taman Salak Selatan, 57100
Kuala Lumpur.
Tel: 03-7956 2600

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all Members of PAAM!

The Covid-19 Pandemic had brought about challenging times and many changes. Whether we like it or not, the Covid Virus is not going away anytime soon. Wearing of masks and vaccinations will be part of the "New Norm". However, that did not stop PAAM's Central Committee from organizing various physical activities for members.

AOTS Japan has organized various trainings and the same were emailed to all PAAM members for their information and participation. PAAM hoped more eligible Malaysians will consider participating in some of the training programs.

Besides participating in activities, some members become writers contributing interesting articles for this newsletter of 2023. More details and photos are presented in the following pages for your reading pleasure.

Our AGM is around the corner. This is another opportunity for members to catch up with each other and enjoy some good fellowship. Please confirm your attendance early to avoid any disappointment. I like to take this opportunity here to wish each and every one good health, happiness and success.

Cheong Lye Foon, Valerie
President PAAM (Oct 2022-2024)

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PRESIDENT

Valerie L.F. Cheong's journey with PAAM began with her training in AOTS in Yokohama, Japan in the early 1990's. She was sent for a Management Course and on her return became a Life Member of PAAM. Having previously held various positions in PAAM's Central Committee, she was last the Vice President before taking up the President's post.

Besides being a member of PAAM, Valerie was also a member of the Rotary International Movement. With her experiences accumulated over the years in the Medical field, Sales and Marketing and Financial Services, she is now involved in helping people achieve their lifestyle goals.

What is AOTS?

AOTS or the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarships, a Japanese agency, jointly supported by Japan METI and the industry, is entrusted with the task of developing human resources in the third world. It has trained over 8000 Malaysians over the last 3 decades.

All AOTS ex-trainees are entitled to be admitted as a member of the Persatuan Alumni AOTS Malaysia (PAAM) which is the alumni association for all who have participated in AOTS training programs or even events conducted locally by PAAM.

To be a member all you need to do is to fill up a membership application form and submit it to the Secretariat office. There are 3 categories of membership ie life member, ordinary member and affiliate membership.

PAAM OFFICE

No. 52A Jalan SS 22/25, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: 03-77262863 Fax: 03-77282348 Email: paam@aots.org

Announcements



VACANCY WANTED

Japanese Teacher

wanted – Japanese teacher wanted – PAAM is looking for freelance Japanese Language teachers who can teach small groups during daytime or evenings in clients' office premises. The person must have teaching experience and must be able to speak the language fluently if he/she is not a native speaker. Must have own transport. Interested – please write in to paam@aots.org for further details etc.

INTRODUCTION TO CCM - LEE SIN PENG



A Chemical Engineer by profession with experience in Mining, Manufacturing and Construction. She was selected for the CWPS, (Company Wide Problem Solving) Course in 1996 at Chubu Kenshu Centre in Nagoya. She had worked in Guangdong, China and Malacca, Malaysia.

She is a life member since 1996, had taken up the post of Honorary general secretary and had attended the AOTS convention twice in Japan. She is now retired since 2021.

PAAM CCM AND ADVISORS ... GET-TOGETHER

On 29th September, 2022 a get together dinner to meet up with 3 PAAM advisors was arranged at the Ole Ole Bali Restaurant inside Empire Shopping Gallery. Present at the dinner included past President Yap Choon Ming, treasurer Yeong Soon Seng and CCM Lee Sin Peng.

From left: Tan Teng Ek, Dato Nik Mohd Kamil Nik Daud, Yap Choon Ming, P Kandiah and Yeong Soon Seng.



RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT

RESIGNATION

Name of member	Position	WEF from
Datuk Lim Fung Chee	PAAM Advisor	16 th March 2022
Tan Kean Hock	Central Committee member 2022-2024	9 th April 2022
Yap Choon Ming	President of PAAM 2022-2024	19 th October 2022

APPOINTMENT

Tan Teng Ek	PAAM Advisor - due to Datuk Lim Fung Chee's resignation	6 th April 2022. Tabled and Approved at CCM Meet No.1
Cheong Lye Foon, Valerie	Vice President to President - due to Yap Choon Ming's resignation	19 th October 2022. Tabled and Approved at CCM Meet No.7



After more than two years since the Covid-19 pandemic and a series of successful webinars in 2021/2022, AOTS Japan is starting its physical management training programs in 2023. Several programs announced since November/December 2022 for training in Japan received overwhelming support from applicants around the world. AOTS Japan will periodically announce further programs in 2023 for members or friends wishing to apply. Some very important points to take note:

1. AOTS Japan will NOT accept direct applications from individuals from Malaysia. All applications will have to be submitted via PAAM.
2. Info on intention to join any of the physical programs should be sent to paam@aots.org early as interviews need to be conducted and visit to factory to be scheduled and any other supporting documentation to be prepared on time before deadline.
3. Applications should not be dispatched to PAAM via courier without getting procedures on submission of the documents etc.
PAAM's official contact: - office telephone 03-77262863 or write to paam@aots.org.
4. Deadline in Malaysia is different from Japan as date is earlier due to item (2).

PAAM NITE

A Fellowship “PAAM NITE” was held on the 10th December, 2022, at Sheraton Hotel, Petaling Jaya, attended by 56 adults and 3 children. Everyone enjoyed an evening of catching up with each other and partaking of the sumptuous buffet dinner.



PAAM NITE



TANABATA FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

After much consideration and discussions with the Central Committee Members, PAAM decided to hold the Tanabata festival in PAAM's office on the 9th July 2022. A brief explanation and a video presentation on the story of **Tanabata** were presented, followed by an **IKEBANA** demonstration. PAAM managed to secure the kind services of Mr. Allan Siow who is an experienced Ikebana Sogetsu Sensei who had studied in Japan and Floral Design in England. All those present enjoyed his demonstrations, the interaction during the Q & A session and the Japanese bento lunches.



Sogetsu Sensei Allan Siow and assistant.



Guests and members at Tanabata 2022.

ONI – THE JAPANESE DEMONS



This is a regular column contributed by Mr Tan Teng Ek on the peculiarities of the Japanese language as well as his observations and insights on the everyday life in Japan.

Many years ago, when I first moved into my new home in Shah Alam, I had a friendly Malay family as my neighbor. One evening as we chatted in the garden, I came to learn that they had two sons. The older son, named Faizal, was eleven years old and the younger son was about eight years old, whose name was “Oni.”

Hoping that I didn’t mishear the younger son’s name, I asked the father to repeat his younger son’s name. True enough, it was ONI. I was rather amused as I thought to myself that the name “ONI” that they called their 8 year-old son might sound endearing and innocent. But if this pious Muslim family had known that ONI in Japanese means the horrible looking demon, they might even change to a more neutral name. I won’t be surprised that whenever Japanese people come to know of this boy’s name, they would all chuckle at this funny name.

Whenever you are in Japan, especially in temple areas, you will not fail to notice the almost ubiquitous depiction of Oni in the form of massive structural motifs on top of the roofs of many temple buildings. The Japanese call these building motifs Onigawara, literally meaning demon (oni) and roof tile (kawara). Onigawara sometimes can also be found on shrines and private residences.

Oni are popular characters in Japanese art, literature, theater, manga and anime. They are often featured in Japanese folklore as colourful, fierce and evil-natured beings with immense built, often with one or more horns growing out of their heads. Because of their fearsome looks, Japanese parents often use Oni to instill fear into naughty delinquent children and hence cause them to be more obedient and compliant. Over the years, because of the numerous literature, plays and legends giving good portrayals of Oni the Japanese demon, in modern times the Japanese Oni has become less frightening creatures. Sometimes Oni are actually represented as a figure that protects

and bestows good fortunes.

In fact the Japanese has a special festival to focus on Oni called the Setsubun festival, celebrated sometime in February. This matsuri or festival announces the arrival of spring according to the lunar calendar. During the Setsubun festival, many Japanese people can be found wearing the oni mask. As a way of home-cleansing and blessing, they would cast roasted soybeans within their house as well as the outside perimeters of their home, shouting “Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!”, meaning “Oni go out! Blessings come in!”

Like people all over the world, despite their ultra-modern, progressive technological outlook, the Japanese people are basically still very traditional and superstitious in nature. They can be often found thronging in temples and shrines, seeking divine interventions for their work, businesses, marriages, education as well as ill health and other issues.



Onigawara on the roof of Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music.



A Japanese craftsman carefully carving a fierce-looking Onigawara.

JAPANESE BASIC CONVERSATION CLASS

PAAM conducted a public basic Japanese conversation class from July 17th to December 3rd 2022. Eight persons including four non-members signed up for the 16 weekly sessions conducted by Mr. Tan Teng Ek. A short graduation ceremony was held on 3rd December. Ms. Valerie Cheong, PAAM President who attended the ceremony also presented a plaque to Mr. Tan Teng Ek as token of appreciation for his time in managing the activity.

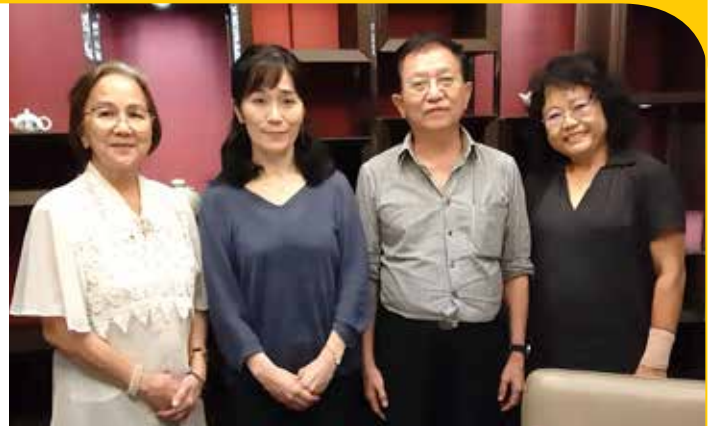


Some graduates with Sensei Tan Teng Ek.

VISIT OF SAITO SAN TO MALAYSIA

Ms. Kazuko Saito from the office of AOTS Jakarta, visited Malaysia for a few days and took the opportunity to meet up with PAAM Exco to introduce herself to the team. On 1st September, 2022 the President, Vice President and Gen Secretary got together to meet up with Ms Saito for a casual dinner in downtown Kuala Lumpur.

K. Saito (second from left) AOTS Japan, Indonesia branch with PAAM CCM members.



MIN'YO MUSIC CONCERT OF JAPANESE FOLK SONGS

This Music Concert of beautiful medley of Japanese Folk Songs was held on the 4th and 5th March, 2022 at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre. Those present were entertained to Min'yo, a form of traditional Japanese music seldom performed outside Japan. Ms. Valerie Cheong attended on behalf of PAAM.



JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL ON 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

This Festival was organized by the Japan Foundation in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia. This event was graced by the Japanese Ambassador, His Excellency Takahashi Katsuhiko and various dignitaries who later enjoyed the screening of the opening film, "**Anime Supremacy**".

At the Film Festival event, Valerie Cheong with some members from the Japan Foundation, in Golden Screen Cinema in Kuala Lumpur.



PERSATUAN ALUMNI AOTS MALAYSIA

38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PAAM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 38th Annual General Meeting of PAAM will be held, details as follow:

Date: 30th April 2023 at 2 pm

Venue: Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya, 12, Lorong Utara A, off Jalan Utara, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

AGENDA:

1. Attendance registration for pre-registered members for the PAAM 38th AGM.
2. Address by President of PAAM.
3. Presentation and Adoption of the 2022 Annual Report of PAAM.
4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting held on 27th March, 2022.
5. Matters arising from 37th AGM Minutes.
6. Presentation and Adoption of the Statement of Accounts for the Year ended 31st December, 2022.
7. Tabling of proposals for Amendments to PAAM Constitution as presented in Appendix A.
8. Any other business of which prior written notification has been received.
9. Adjournment of the PAAM 38th AGM.

Sharon Lim Boon Hong
Hon General Secretary

Date 18 February 2023

PROGRAMME FOR THE 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12.00 pm to 1.30 pm	Buffet Lunch at Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya
1.30 pm to 2.00 pm	Attendance Registration of AGM pre-registered Members
2.00 pm	Welcome Address by President of PAAM
	AGM Proceedings commence
	38 th AGM Adjourns

Please Note: Arrangement has already been made with the Hotel for fix minimum number of lunch pax and also for conducive seating arrangement during the AGM. Hence, it is imperative that the CCM request that pre-registration arrangement (RSVP) be made to facilitate a successful AGM for PAAM.

RSVP: Reply for attendance : 7 April 2023 (5 pm)

ADJOURNED 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PAAM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Adjourned 38th Annual General Meeting of PAAM will be held, details as follow:

Date: 30th April 2023 at 2.30 pm

Venue: Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya, 12, Lorong Utara A, off Jalan Utara, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

AGENDA:

1. Attendance registration for pre-registered members for the PAAM 38th AGM
2. Address by President of PAAM.
3. Presentation and Adoption of the 2022 Annual Report of PAAM.
4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting held on 27th March, 2022.
5. Matters arising from 37th AGM Minutes.
6. Presentation and Adoption of the Statement of Accounts for the Year ended 31st December, 2022.
7. Adjournment of the PAAM 38th AGM.

Sharon Lim Boon Hong
Hon General Secretary

Date 18 February 2023