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REPORT ON THE 38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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



From Left to Right: Dr. Stephen Wong, Ms. Sharon Lim, Valerie Cheong, Mr. S.S. Yong, Ms. S.P. Lee & Ms. Stephanie Yap.

PAAM convened its 38th Annual General Meeting on 30th April, 2023 at the Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Selangor. The total attendance was 29 life members and they were invited to a sumptuous buffet lunch before the AGM.

Acting President Valerie Cheong Lye Foon chaired the meeting. She welcome members to write in/or give implementable ideas for the benefit of the members. She also hope that more members will participate in the future AGMs and also activities organised by PAAM. The Annual Report for 2022, the minutes of the 37th AGM, the audited accounts were presented and duly passed.

During the AGM, the amendments to update PAAM's constitution Clauses 1.2; 3.1; 3.7; 4.1; 21 and 23 were deliberated and passed. The amendments were filed with ROS and the date of approval was on 21st June 2023.



After the AGM, some of the members stayed back for networking.

ANNOUNCEMENT

39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
PERSATUAN ALUMNI AOTS MALAYSIA

SUNDAY, 28TH APRIL 2024, 2 PM
@ CRYSTAL CROWN HOTEL PETALING JAYA

2024
PAAM'S
AGM

ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am glad to extend my warmest greetings to each one of you through this 88th edition of our PAAM newsletter.

As we reflect on the challenges in this post Covid-19 era, it fills me with a sense of pride to witness the remarkable adaptability at the way the Central Committee and PAAM members come together to face changes.

The turbulent economy had led to the reduction of Japanese classes. With the collaboration and cooperation between the Japanese teachers, the students' employers, the Central Committee Members and PAAM administrative staff, PAAM managed to conduct some classes.

AOTS Japan had rolled out training courses which are conducted in Japan. We are pleased that some successful candidates had come from Malaysia.

Some events were organized with good support from members, members' family and friends. Change is the only constant, and PAAM is not exempt. Collaboration and supportive members had been a cornerstone for the success of the activities organized. Together with your support PAAM can achieve more, and I encourage each member to actively participate in the activities.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff and central committee members for their passion and commitment.

As we look ahead, our vision for PAAM can only be as ambitious and active as how active the members want. PAAM will strive forward with your continued support and active participation.

Wishing you all a wonderful, healthy and prosperous year ahead filled with growth and success. Thank you for being an integral part of PAAM.

Cheong Lye Foon, Valerie
Acting President, PAAM

What is AOTS?

The Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships (AOTS) is an organization for human resources development in developing countries to promote technical cooperation through training, expert dispatch and other programs.

All AOTS ex-trainees are entitled to apply to be a member of the Persatuan Alumni AOTS Malaysia (PAAM) which is the alumni association for all who have participated in AOTS Japan training programs or training 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

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Announcements



JAPANESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS 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.

TALK ON COSTING

The talk on “Concept of Costing” given by Mr. Kom Yew Hoo touched on a pivotal aspect of financial management designed for sustainable business growth. The process is not a simple addition and subtraction for determining profit or loss.

He talked briefly about various costs:-Floor cost, Distribution cost, Marketing cost and Overhead and Fixed cost. Adapting to the post pandemic era and fluctuating business environment required a multi-stage costing approach to stay competitive. His talk ended with a Q&A session and networking.



Attendees at the “Talk on Costing”.

VISIT TO THE SECRET GARDEN



Botanical Consultant, Dr. Francis S.P. Ng (6th from left) with some PAAM members, members' relatives and friends.

On a bright sunny morning, a group of PAAM members, family members and friends visited the Secret Garden on the rooftop of 1 Utama Shopping Mall. It is one of the largest rooftop gardens in the world, displaying many species of carefully nurtured, rare and tropical plants. Dr. Francis S.P. Ng, the botanical consultant of The Secret Garden was invited by PAAM and he had so kindly given us all an enlightened and interesting tour of the lush greenery and assorted floral attraction. Dr. Ng also pointed out that this garden adopts high performance technologies such as chilled water irrigation and rainwater harvesting.

TALK ON 5S



Attendees listening attentively to the talk.



PAAM's past president Mr. Michael Lim (3rd from left) was the speaker on 5S

In the realm of organizational efficiency and personal development, Mr. Michael Lim's talk portrayed a unique approach using the Self 5S, the renowned Japanese Housekeeping System. This framework goes beyond mere tidiness; it encapsulates a comprehensive Living Skills System to bolster success in all aspects of life. The talk on Self 5S rested on the principles of Sort, Set in order, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain – key tenets borrowed from the Japanese methodology to align with personal growth and achievement.

THE CONCEPT OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BY MR. KOM YEW HOO



Mr. Kom Yew Hoo

With my many years of working experience in the corporate sector in Malaysia, China and Hong Kong, I am happy to share some of my insights on the "Concept of Management System".

This involved comprehensive exploration of effective corporate management. Some of the critical key components such as defining corporate purpose, establishing a logical organizational structure, and formulating job specifications were delved into. Placing emphasis on the significance of standard operating procedures (SOP) interlinked across departments, stressing on the collaborative role of sales, marketing, finance and production, warehouse and logistics. Delegation, training, and monthly assessments of departmental managers were crucial aspects and cannot be overlooked.

Drawing from my personal experiences at one of the companies, the Quality assurance and procurement departments were revamped by diplomatically placing the Quality Assurance Manager directly under the Assistant General Manager for unbiased judgments. The procurement department was positioned under the finance department to prevent conflicts, supported by a Procurement Requisition system. The hierarchy of management systems over human resources were emphasized, shaping corporate culture and ensuring adherence to established norms. My journey was not without obstacles, opposition and strong resistance. Glad to say I have a very supportive boss.

I would like to highlight the importance of defining corporate purpose, establishing an efficient organizational structure, and formulating clear job specifications. Emphasis were placed on interconnected standard operating procedures (SOP) across departments, with a focus on collaborative efforts between sales, marketing and finance. With the vital elements of a successful corporate management system in place, this was followed by successful improvements in profitability, product quality, and market position of the brand. The significance of delegation, relevant training, and regular assessments of departmental managers and unbiased quality assurance leading to a well-structured management system pivotal for corporate success.

ME (目) OR EYES AND HARA (腹) OR STOMACH



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.

Like any other languages, the Japanese language uses a lot of expressions or idioms related to the anatomy or the human body parts. A human anatomy often used is the eye or me (目) in Japanese. My first impression of the Japanese idiom using the word eye is that the word me (目) is often used to indicate hierarchical status.

For example, if someone is your superior or senior, that person is referred to as your 目上の人めうえのひと; literary “a person above the eye”. In the place of work, the “person above the eye” will be your “kacho” ie your section chief or manager, “bucho” ie Head of Department (HOD), “kaicho” ie Chairman or “shacho” ie Company President.



Me shita no hito (the person who is “below your eye level” or your subordinate)

The person who is your inferior or subordinate is called your “me shita no hito (目下の人(めしたのひと))”, literally “the person below the eye.”

When the Japanese expresses to you “me ga katai (めがかたい)” literary meaning “my eyes are hard”, it is sometimes very difficult for us, foreigners, to figure out his actual meaning. Is he saying that he has some medical issues with his eyes (infected eyes?). Or is he saying his eyes are very tired; that’s why his eyes are “hard”? In actual fact, when the Japanese makes this expression, he’s saying that he’s not sleepy and therefore is not ready to sleep yet.

Another interesting body part often referred to by the Japanese in their conversations is hara (腹). This Japanese word can mean ‘abdomen,’ ‘belly’ or ‘stomach.’ Its synonym is onaka (おなか).

When the Japanese says “hara ga tatsu” which literary means “my stomach stands”, he actually means “I get angry”.

However when the Japanese refers to someone as “hara ga kuroi”, literally meaning “his stomach is black” what he’s saying is that someone is a scheming type or has bad motives.



Onaka ga peko peko (stomach hungry)

Onaka (stomach) is sometimes used interchangeably with hara. For example, in a casual conversation, they will say “onaka ga peko peko.” (お腹がぺこぺこ), literally translated to “my stomach is groaning with noises” or “stomach is caving in”. However, what is actually meant is “I am starving” or “I am very hungry”.

On a more serious note, in the olden days the bushido (literally meaning the way of the samurai) would maintain a culture of taking responsibility for failures, samurais, army or government officers included. As the ultimate act of honoring the Emperor, country and atoning for their failures or shame, these traditional Japanese officials commit suicide. This act of honor is called hara-kiri, literary meaning cutting the stomach as an act of self-execution via disembowelment. It is also known as “seppuku” in Japanese. Seppuku is a more ritualistic act often performed in the presence of other people and this word is more often used by the Japanese whereas hara-kiri is more often used by foreigners.

ME (目) OR EYES AND HARA (腹) OR STOMACH CONTINUE FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

After World War Two, many Japanese military leaders chose to commit seppuku to atone for the shame of their failure in the war. The last high profile incident of seppuku in modern history was performed by a Japanese author Yukio Mishima in 1970 when he failed to persuade the armed forces to stage a coup d'état.

In our daily interactions with our Japanese friends and associates, knowing some Japanese idioms involving the anatomy will be of great help. And if your Japanese friend ever makes the remark that if he fails in this particular assignment, he might have to commit hara-kiri, don't panic. I believe that this ancient practice of hara-kiri doesn't hold true anymore to the modern Japanese society. Even those high officials who have been caught for corrupt acts, do not commit seppuku or hara-kiri. In the worst-case scenario, they would just resign from their high office as an admission of responsibility and accountability.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRAINING

In 2023 PAAM successfully secured a contract from Denso Malaysia Sdn Bhd to conduct in-house Japanese Language training for the period from August till November 2023. Denso has been a very strong supporter of PAAM over the years in engaging PAAM as their Japanese Language training provider.

The training during this period was a combination of 2 months zoom and 2 months physical by different sensei assigned for the program.

Post Covid 19 era, PAAM is facing new challenges in relation to Japanese Language training. There have been a host of different language training modes by other trainers mainly via social media. Due to more options available to the end consumer, the choice of selection is now different for commercial business sectors.

ASCA AND SPIRA SPICA FROM SACRA MUSIC

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in Malaysia included a special Anime, Comics, and Games (ACG) celebration event in Kuala Lumpur. The inclusion of ASCA and Spira Spica from Sacra Music aimed to incorporate Japanese music and entertainment into the celebration, providing fans especially Malaysians with the opportunity to enjoy live performances. The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur's invitation to PAAM was accepted, and acting President Valerie Cheong attended on behalf of PAAM.

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

It is with great sadness that we received the news of Mr. Hiroo Nagawaki's passing. We in PAAM came to know and appreciate the late Mr. Nagawaki's help and precious contributions to PAAM when he served as the AOTS General Manager to Malaysia from 1991 to 1994.

As AOTS GM to Malaysia, the late Mr. Nagawaki had been instrumental in getting many Japanese corporations to support the various training programs and activities of PAAM.

On behalf on the Central Committee and PAAM members, we wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Hiroo Nagawaki, whom we will missed deeply. RIP Mr. Hiroo Nagawaki!

PERSATUAN ALUMNI AOTS MALAYSIA

NOTICE OF THE 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 12th January 2024

Dear PAAM Members,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN for the 39th Annual General Meeting of PAAM to be held as follows:

Date: 28th April 2024

Venue: CRYSTAL CROWN HOTEL PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR
12, Lorong Utara A, Off Jalan Utara, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Time: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

AGENDA:

1. Attendance registration for members who had submitted prior confirmation of attendance for the PAAM 39th AGM
2. Opening Address by current acting President
3. Confirmation of minutes of the 38th AGM
4. Matters arising from the 38th AGM minutes
5. Presentation and Adoption of 2023 Annual Report of PAAM.
6. Presentation and Adoption of PAAM's Statement of Accounts ending 31st December 2023
7. Proposal for Amendment to PAAM Constitution as presented in Appendix A
8. Any other business for which prior notification had been received (if any)
9. Dissolution of PAAM Central Committee for 2022 – 2024
10. Appointment of Election Chairman and Scrutineers
11. Election for PAAM Central Committee for 2024 – 2026
12. Appointment of PAAM Auditors
13. Announcement of the Central Committee for 2024 – 2026
14. Announcement of the various State Representatives
15. Message from the newly elected President 2024 – 2026
16. Adjournment of PAAM 39th AGM

Sharon Lim Boon Hong
Hon General Secretary

PROGRAMME FOR THE 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12.00 pm to 1.30 pm	Buffet lunch at abovementioned venue
1.30 pm to 2.00 pm	Attendance Registration for Members
2.00 pm	39 th AGM Call-to-Order
5.00 pm	39 th AGM Adjournment

PERSATUAN ALUMNI AOTS MALAYSIA

NOTICE OF THE ADJOURNED 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 12th January 2024

Dear PAAM Members,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN for the Adjourned 39th Annual General Meeting of PAAM to be held as follows:

Date: 28th April 2024

Venue: CRYSTAL CROWN HOTEL PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR
12, Lorong Utara A, Off Jalan Utara, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Time: 2.31pm - 5.00pm

AGENDA:

1. Attendance registration for members **who had submitted prior confirmation of attendance** for the PAAM **Adjourned** 39th AGM
2. Opening Address by **current acting** President
3. Confirmation of minutes of the 38th AGM
4. Matters arising from the 38th AGM minutes
5. Presentation and Adoption of 2023 Annual Report of PAAM
6. Presentation and Adoption of PAAM's Statement of Accounts ending 31st December 2023
7. Any other business for which prior notification had been received (if any)
8. Dissolution of PAAM Central Committee for 2022 – 2024
9. Appointment of Election Chairman and Scrutineers
10. Election for PAAM Central Committee for 2024 – 2026
11. Appointment of PAAM Auditors
12. Announcement of the Central Committee for 2024 – 2026
13. Announcement of the various State Representatives
14. Message from the **newly elected** President 2024 – 2026
15. Adjournment of PAAM **Adjourned** 39th AGM

Sharon Lim Boon Hong
Hon General Secretary

PROGRAMME FOR THE Adjourned 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2.31 pm	Adjourned 39 th AGM Call-to-Order
5.00 pm	Adjourned 39 th AGM Adjournment