

Board Paper 2018.5

Location of 2019 Young Scholar Academy and Conference

It has been our recent custom to alternate between African and Asian locations for our annual events. By that rule, we need an Asian location for 2019. Basic criteria for the selection should include cost factors (air travel and hotel costs), local partner contributions, ease of obtaining visas, etc. Ability to influence local or regional policy and regulatory processes would be an additional benefit.

Previous academies and conferences were held in the locations below (unshaded Asia; shaded Africa):

| | | CPRsouth | CPRafrica |
|-----------|------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| January | 2007 | Manila, Philippines | |
| December | 2007 | Chennai, India | |
| December | 2008 | Beijing, China | |
| December | 2009 | Negombo, Sri Lanka | |
| December | 2010 | Xi'an, China | Cape Town, S Africa (April) |
| December | 2011 | Bangkok, Thailand | Nairobi, Kenya (April) |
| September | 2012 | Port Louis, Mauritius | Port Louis |
| September | 2013 | Mysore, India | Mysore |
| September | 2014 | Maropeng, South Africa | |
| September | 2015 | Taipei, Taiwan | |
| September | 2016 | Zanzibar, Tanzania | |
| September | 2017 | Yangon, Myanmar | |
| September | 2018 | Maputo, Mozambique | |

Based on the above pattern, 2019 is Asia's year.

Positive indications have emanated from the preliminary discussions held with Chulalongkorn University (our Board Member Dr Pirongrong Ramasoota) and the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation of UN ESCAP both of which are located in Bangkok. Though our efforts to establish a structural connection with ESCAP in the form of one of the Committee's officials serving on the Board failed because the internal ethics bodies ruled it inappropriate, we do have a very good working relationship with the Committee. It is possible that we may be able to organize some interactions with the Members of Committee (if the scheduling of the meetings on both sides can be synchronized) and the conference and academy held inside UN premises. Chulalongkorn University is making great strides in international outreach and if we can work out the details, we can be confident that there will be significant benefits to both sides.

Proposal

Approval is sought for following actions:

1. Make best efforts to organize the 2019 events in Bangkok in conjunction with Chulalongkorn University and UN ESCAP with optimal policy interactions.
2. In the event the above effort does not succeed for some reason, mandate the administrative partner to explore alternative locations in Asia.

The organization of the 2019 events will of course depend on the raising of the necessary funds.