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# Minutes

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## Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union 2005 Conference,

### June 17-18, Lodge Maishima, Osaka, Japan

Attendees: Fiona Clark (Australia), Allan Frederick (Australia, / APLU Executive), Albert Lai (HKG/ APLU Executive), Louis Hou (HKG), Hiroshi Kimura (JLA), Tomohiro Takasaka – Tak (JLA), Yasuhiko Hayakawa (JLA / APLU President), Yusuke Sasaki (JLA), Katsuki Hisano (JLA), Kou Teramoto (JLA / APLU Executive), Shoko Koide (JLA), Tamae Saito (JLA), Won Jae Park (Korea / Deputy of APLU Executive)

Observers: Zhao Xiu Zhong (China), Mao Quan Fun (China), Ronal Tuhatu (Indonesia), Shinji Kato (JLA@Beijing, China), Chew Kim Soon (Malaysia)

Chairperson: Tomohiro Takasaka

Coordinator: Yasuhiko Hayakawa

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## Day 1: Friday, June 17, 2005

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Opening remarks by Mr. Hiroshi Kimura (JLA)

Self-introduction of the conference delegates

### I. Constitution (9:00 – 10:35)

Circulation of Constitution (draft)

Explanation by Albert Lai

#### 2.3 Membership:

Takasaka: It is probably better to expand the region as much as possible so that more people can participate. It is especially good to have the essence of North America where lacrosse originated from. Because of the concentration of lacrosse on the east coast of America, a competition such as ASPAC tournament would provide an opportunity for Hawaii to compete, as they don't have the same opportunities as those on the mainland.

Allan: In the last meeting, the American representative expressed that Hawaii should not be an official member as it is part of the United States.

Albert: It was also discussed that the country's national body should attend the conference, however, Hawaii would not be able to represent its national body.

Hayakawa: There is a possibility of having them participate as an affiliate member.

Takasaka: It is also important to have more countries and regions to participate considering the aspect of promoting lacrosse in this region.

Allan: Agree to the point, but Hawaii will not be an official member. In the future, when a union is established in the American region, it is expected that they will join that union.

## **5. Officers**

Albert: Refer to 5.6 for Membership

Fiona: Member countries should have their own constitutions.

Albert: If the country has separate organizations for men's and women's lacrosse, each organization may send a representative to the conference, however, one country may have only one vote. No vote for affiliate members

Fiona: In order to give credibility, even an affiliate member should pay a nominal amount of membership fee.

Takasaka: How was the reaction of the USA when Australia invited teams from Hawaii and the West coast?

Allan: Teams from Hawaii and the West coast were invited to the tournament in Australia, as they are on the Pacific-rim or in the Pacific Ocean; however, they were clear that they were not official members and could not win the championship.

Fiona: Pacific-rim is a more general terminology compared to Oceania. Hawaii could be included in the Oceania region. Southeast Asia could be considered as a part of Asia, and therefore, "Asia Pacific-Rim" could cover all the regions that we are targeting.

## **II. Competition (10:55 – 11:10)**

Distribution of the materials related to 2005 tournament.

Explanation by Kou (coordinator)

Kou: In the original plan of the tournament, women's teams were invited to participate, however, as the timing clashed with the World Cup, women were not able to send their teams.

Allan: Any questions from the participating teams?

Hisano: Not many questions, but we had good discussions related to rules.

Kou: There was a question related to the number of players in the team and the situation of tie-break.

Allan: They will be specified in the bylaws.

Fiona: In international rules, IFWLA has a "mercy rule," whereby if the goal differential is more than 12, the score will be brought back to 12 goals maximum difference. For example, if a team won by 25 to 0, it will be recorded as 12 to 0 (for the purpose of a tie-break situation).

Kou: There were also questions related to the participants' eligibility. Are the players allowed to participate in the US-West team even if he/she is from an east coast

university? Should there be an age specification? At this point, I have not given them any clear answers.

Fiona: As for women, were there any countries that showed an interest in participating?

Kou: Only Japan. Canada also showed interest but could not participate.

### **III. Competition Bylaws (11:10 – 11:30)**

Distribution of materials

Kou: Bylaws should be considered by the next tournament in 2007. The document was distributed as a reference guide.

Allan: Bylaws are necessary however we should take time to look into the detail. We should only look at the necessary items here at this stage.

Fiona: The item on “Player Eligibility” should come in the beginning.

Albert: At this stage, the focus is on the tournaments, however, we should also consider including clinics and trainings for skill transfer, especially for the development of the new countries.

Fiona: In Europe, lacrosse is played in 39 countries. The key to this was coaching. It is important to be aware of what resources are available for new countries from the International Federations.

It was agreed that Kou would take the lead in finalizing the Competition Bylaws. Each delegate is to read through the document, and make comments to Kou.

### **IV. Situation of the New Countries (11:30 – 12:50)**

Louis: Explained about the situation in Hong Kong. There are about 80 players in total. There are only a very few female lacrosse players. The male lacrosse players have played for the last 10 years and have only used women’s lacrosse rules. The women lacrosse players are mostly studying overseas, so men and women players are able to hold inter-exchange games only during the holiday season. It is our hope to promote lacrosse to other universities as well. It is important to raise the level of coaches and referees/umpires. It is easy to organize clinics and workshops, so it would be beneficial for us if teams could stop by Hong Kong in transit to other countries.

Albert: In order to promote lacrosse in Hong Kong, it is very important to raise the technical level of those who remain in the country.

Allan: Why are men using women’s rules – is it because they don’t know men’s rules or because of the problem with the equipments?

Albert: Equipment is the major issue. In order to play the sport in universities, safety is another big issue. We have to buy equipment from the USA, and therefore shipping also becomes an issue. We use a field for mini-soccer.

Park: Explained about the situation in Korea. We have been able to find some sponsors and contributors since last September. There are two club teams for elementary school

students. There are about 10 players per team. The key to approach pupils is to stress that they can practice the English language, and they can experience international exchange through sports. A clinic was held in a high school where 120 students participated – as a result, men's lacrosse is starting to grow. The only active university is Kyunghee University where lacrosse was first played in 1997, but the players at that time have now graduated. We are planning to hold a summer league so that those players studying abroad can come back for summer vacation and participate. We are hoping to hold a coaching clinic at the same time. Walker Hill (hotel), sponsors an event for those students (6-12 years old) who wish to study abroad. We approached them to introduce lacrosse in the sports section, and it was very popular. Currently, there are 5 or 6 active members that attend meetings and 12 listed staff. After studying two years in university and having started playing lacrosse, the students must then go to compulsory military service for approximately two years. It is not easy to have them continue playing lacrosse after coming back from the military service.

Kato: Explained about the situation in China. With the support of Japan, men's and women's teams were established in 1997 in the Beijing University of Physical Education. So far, 70 students have graduated who played lacrosse. The lacrosse teams still exist, comprising of 50 players in total (men and women). As there is only one team for men, and one team for women, it is not possible to hold games. The Beijing Cup is held annually, and this is the only opportunity for the players to play games (so far, 4 events have been hosted). Japan, Hong Kong, and US-West have participated in the Beijing Cup. We would like to hold an event next year on a larger scale, with the intention of promoting lacrosse in China. The Beijing Cup is held at the end of May or in early June. There are some people who experienced lacrosse in other countries, so we have several coaches. The main issue is the equipment (too expensive). Currently, the equipment is provided by Japan.

Takasaka: Expensive equipment seems to be the major issue, but aside from this, do you see any potential for increasing the number of players? Are there potential players, or is there a problem of lacrosse not being able to attract people's interest?

Zhao: If the problem with equipment could be solved, the speed of development will be faster. Perhaps it is possible to ask the helmet producing motorbike companies to produce lacrosse helmets. However, without being able to promote lacrosse, the companies would not agree to produce them. If we are able to produce equipment in China, the problems could be solved.

Allan: What is the ratio of men and women lacrosse players?

Zhao: About the same. In the past 8 years, more than 100 students graduated from BUPE who experienced lacrosse. They are willing to teach lacrosse in the schools that they teach now, however, the equipment is too expensive to buy.

Fiona: Have you ever asked the ILDC for support to promote lacrosse in your country? The ILDC's role is to provide support to the development of lacrosse in new countries. New countries should apply to the ILDC for this support.

Park: If the equipment is donated, there is a tendency that it will be kept in storage and not be used. Although expensive, we should encourage the players to buy their own equipment so that they have a sense of belonging – this will encourage the players to stay involved.

Soon: In the case of Malaysia, we need to get approval from the Ministry in order to introduce new sports. Without their approval, the sport will be considered illegal. Under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Sports Division, there is the New Sports Development Division. It is necessary to approach this division. Last month, I met the Minister of NSDD and submitted the proposal, but so far there is no response. If it were to be approved, the New Sports Section will be responsible for promoting lacrosse in the country, so the development would not be so difficult. This will be done through the Ministry of Education. It is, however, important to establish an Association in Malaysia. There is no problem with venues, as there are soccer fields in Malaysia. As for equipment, if the government approves the program, each school will establish a lacrosse team, and the schools will find sponsorship (government or private companies) to buy the necessary equipment. The problem we may see is that female high school and university students do not wish to get sun burnt. Therefore, it may be better to start with indoor lacrosse. Once students start playing lacrosse, it is likely that they will continue after graduation, as working hours finish at 17:00 and people tend to enjoy sports after work.

Fiona: In order to introduce lacrosse to Malaysia, perhaps it is better to have an endorsement from the International Federation to your Ministry? It is probably also important that someone who knows lacrosse should do a presentation?

Soon: I think so too. It is also necessary to have some coaches to come to Malaysia when we receive an approval from the Ministry.

Albert: It was mentioned that the cost of the equipment is not a problem, however, if the government considers introducing lacrosse at the national level, it may become a problem if the equipment is expensive.

Allan: There are, however, some children who think wearing helmets are “cool stuff.”

Soon: Personally, I think the promotion of lacrosse is not difficult once the approval is given by the Ministry. However, I don't know about establishing an Association, as I have no experience in this area. In Malaysia, sports have certain categories, such as the Malay play football and the Chinese play badminton. However, since lacrosse is a new sport, we can promote it as a sport for all races. If we started a new sport without approval from the Ministry and someone was to report this to the Ministry, it would be a problem.

Ronal: In Indonesia, the situation is similar to Malaysia, but approval by the Government is not necessary. However, when starting a new sport, it is recommended that this be registered with the Indonesian National Olympic Association (not mandatory but beneficial if you register). The Ministry of Youth and Sports promised to give support when they heard about lacrosse. Also, there are some alumni members of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP, an international youth exchange program sponsored by the Japanese Government in cooperation with the ASEAN governments) that are teaching in schools, so this network can be used to promote lacrosse. In addition, the SSEAYP network exists across the nation, so it will be possible to expand it to different regions within the country. Regarding the equipment, as the Korean representative said, the problems will exist, but it would be better to have individuals purchase it rather than donate in full, so that the players will have a sense of ownership. The initial target is to introduce lacrosse to university students. The best season to hold clinics would be June – July, or October – November. The season is not a problem, as it is summer throughout the year. Playing fields would not be a problem either. It would be helpful to have mentors from other countries or the ILDC. In order to register with the National Olympic Association, it is necessary to have the chapters in 10 states within the country. In order to get people motivated, I would like ask if proposal to hold a tournament for new countries in 3 or 4 years after initial set-up of lacrosse is appropriate.

Takasaka: It is not a problem to hold such a tournament, however, you would need some people to support you, as there will be some basic fundamental elements you need to consider, which will require human resources.

Takasaka addressed the agenda for day 2 before concluding day 1 of the conference.

Agenda for day 2:

- Constitution
- Bylaws
- Next tournament
- Development Plan for new countries

----- **Lunch Break, End of Day 1** -----

## **Day 2: Saturday, June 18, 2005**

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Additional attendees from day 1: Peter Noble (Australia), Kentaro Shimizu (Japan), Jina Bae (Korea)

Absent: Shoko Koide (JLA)

Overview of day 1 outcomes presented by T. Saito.

### **V. Philosophy of APLU (13:15 – 15:20)**

Circulation of material: Conference Program (Draft) by Yas

Significance of APLU as presented

- Improvement of all member countries through lacrosse exchange in each member country
- Increasing the number of lacrosse playing countries
- Rise of AP lacrosse in the world lacrosse

5 oaths

- Unified organization
- Regular competition
- Positive cooperation to developing countries
- Positive cooperation to new countries
- Keep positive communication with each other

Takasaka: proposed to read through the above items and discuss at the next conference.

Unanimously agreed.

### **VI. Presentation of Equipment (13:20 – 13:30)**

New sets of men's and women's equipment and resource materials were presented to the representatives from Indonesia and Malaysia by JLA and ILDC.

#### Items:

Sticks : Men's Short (2) / Women's Short (2)/ Soft Lacrosse (6)

Balls : 12 / 6 (of Soft Lacrosse)

Equipment (men's) : Helmet(2)/Shoulder Pad (2)/Elbow Pad(2)/Glove(2)

Videos : Japanese Games(2) / ILF CD-Rom (10 including from ILDC)/

JLA Women's Coaching for Beginner (2)

Rule Books : IFWLA(4 including from ILDC) / ILF(4 sets of copy)

Others : Original Uniform Printed the Country Name and LACROSSE (2) /

Brochure of

IFWLA World Cup 2001 (3) / Stick Case (1) / Big Bag (1) / Leaflet of ILF

World Championship 2006 (1) /

### **VII. Competition Bylaws (13:30 – 14:45, continued from day 1)**

## **1. Competition – General**

### **1.1 Schedule**

Fiona: Consider the date of the event and be aware of the date of the World Events so that there is no clash of dates.

Ronal/Soon: As for Indonesia and Malaysia, June and December are ideal as these are the school holiday seasons.

Albert: As for Hong Kong, end of December to early January is not the best timing but can be made possible; June/July would be the best season.

Allan: As for Australia, even if the ASPAC tournament clashed with the World Cup, those players not involved in the national team could participate.

### **1.2 Location**

Allan: Should rotate. We may consider having new countries to host the event.

Park: Should mention minimum requirements.

Fiona: Should add a basic template to bid for the tournament.

### **1.3 Eligibility**

Fiona: Categorize by membership status – should be a member for 12 months

### **1.4 Competition Committee**

Allan: Responsibility of the host country to abide by the competition bylaws, approved by APLU.

## **2. Venue**

Fiona: General areas (e.g. venue, dates, accommodation, etc.) that are included in the guidelines should be addressed in the bid-to-host template.

Allan: Should host country prepare the flags for the participating countries?

Fiona: APLU could buy one set of flags and pass them to the next hosting country.

Hisano: Too much detail should not be included in the bylaws.

## **15. Committee Disciplinary Powers**

Allan: Consideration to be given to item no. 15.1, suspension.

Fiona: In Australia, there is a separate document related to this issue, as it is important but does not have to be spelt out in the guidelines.

Takasaka: Summary – There should be a committee to penalize any players/teams for misconduct.

## **Others**

Allan: Application process should be included.

Fiona: Consider naming rights (possibility of the sponsor's name to be included in the tournament name).

All: APLU logo and/or flag – bring ideas for the next conference.

Allan: Programs

Allan: Age groups



Allan: Post report of the event

Fiona: Insurance requirement – not the responsibility of APLU

Fiona: Colors of the uniforms should not clash with each other.

Fiona: Need to stipulate the color of the playing ball.

Allan: Ice and water should be mentioned.

Fiona: Practice field should be mentioned under venue.

Fiona: Need to differentiate between the names of the “groups attending” i.e. teams/ umpires or referees/ VIPs. 3.3 Official party could refer to referee/umpire/technical delegates party **and** VIP party. Team party refers to players and support staff (coaches, managers, physio).

Hisano: Need to confirm the number of players.

Fiona: “As per the ILF/IFWLA international rules”

----- **Break (14:45 – 15:00)** -----

### **VIII. Constitution (15:00 – 15:45, continued from day 1)**

Albert went through the APLU Constitution from item 6 to 11.

#### **7. Financial**

Fiona: Women’s Lacrosse Australia is would like to donate a trophy for the women’s ASPAC tournament.

#### **Others**

Albert: The constitution should be finalized by the end of August 2005.

Tamae: The list of Asia-Pacific countries should come from a reliable resource.

Hisano: Where will Mission and Vision statement be listed?

Fiona: Mission and Vision statements should be included in the Strategic Plan. Objectives be included in the Constitution.

Takasaka: Calendar year and APLU fiscal year are different: how about ASPAC tournament year?

Albert: It should be mentioned that the tournament will follow the calendar year.

### **IX. Development Plan for New Countries (15:45 – 16:15)**

Takasaka: What kind of support do you think is needed in Indonesia and Malaysia in order to promote lacrosse?

Soon: In the case of Malaysia, the information has been passed to the Malaysian Government. The next step is to contact the Malaysian Government to find out their interest. Then I need someone to go to Malaysia to do some presentations and workshops. The second step, after the government has agreed to introduce lacrosse, is to have the Malaysian

government delegation visit lacrosse playing countries. We would need at least two sets of equipment for two teams.

Ronal: In the case of Indonesia, the initiative should come from us. I will propose to one university a pilot project to introduce lacrosse in Indonesia. Advice from other countries as to how lacrosse should be spread is needed. A marketing strategy, do's and don'ts, lessons learned etc. University students who are more open to new sports will be targeted for introducing lacrosse.

Takasaka: In the case of Japan, everything was initiated by students.

Yusuke: In the first year we only had 8 players: and by the end of year it became 15. The "catch" was that you have a high potential of becoming a national team player. We also promoted lacrosse in other universities. The following year, the head coach from the John Hopkins University was invited to conduct a lacrosse clinic, which was a big step to help us to move forward – this clinic was also introduced through TV as a new sporting event, which was a good way to promote lacrosse.

Soon: If the government approved, they would be interested in how to contact the equipment suppliers. The cost is not the major issue as finding sponsorship is not difficult – sponsoring the sports approved by the government could be tax exempted.

Fiona: Getting good coaching at the beginning part is critical – it is the responsibility of the already established countries to support the new countries with this.

Kato: We would like to hold a big tournament next year in China, and we would like to hear from Japan regarding their experiences in organizing and also preparing umpires/referees.

Kimura: In order to have more people involved, it is essential to establish an Association in your country. It is also important to develop the players who love the sport.

## **X. Next Tournament (16:15 – 16:20)**

Allan: Australia would like to help New Zealand to host the next tournament in 2007. If this fails, Australia would be prepared to host the tournament in Australia.

## **XI. Miscellaneous (16:20 – 16:30)**

Contact points

Agreed to have Yas send everyone the information.

Agreed to make a list of contact details.

A vote of thanks was given by F. Clark on behalf of delegates to JLA for hosting the conference.

Closing remarks made by Mr. Takasaka.

Conference concluded at 16:30 and was followed by a group photograph.