

APCDA
Asia Pacific Career Development Association
APCDA Officers Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026

Special Topic: Proposal by Charlotte George on Asia Career Practitioner Digital Hub (Career Sphere Asia)

- Proposal to enhance career development competencies for Asian career practitioners through the creation of a digital platform.
- The proposed platform would include knowledge resources, AI tools, a career coach hub, and community engagement features.
- The initiative would be piloted in 2026-2027 with 3-5 APCDA member countries participating.
- While Hafiz would be involved, Kinobi would not be.
- The platform would likely require a vendor for development.
- The platform would be governed by APCDA.
- APCDA, PCDA, and Kaplan cannot fund it. Perhaps organizations like ASEAN, UNDP, and the World Bank might fund it. Agreed to pursue potential investors and discussed forming a working committee to advance the project
- Charlotte will present the proposal at the conference and discuss funding opportunities with interested parties.

President's Message – Elisabeth

- Presidents Awards this year will include President's Award, Advocacy, and Leadership.
- We will celebrate our 15th anniversary in Singapore

Treasurer's Report – Nila

- Conference income exceeds expenses so far, though real expenses would be incurred in May-June
- Interest in the Vanguard fund is sufficient to support many scholarships.

Discussion: Proposal to add a new Advocacy Award

- Advocacy award available to the public: Approved. Will be added to the list of awards for 2027.
- Motion approved allowing the president to use discretion in determining resilience and other awards, with input from officers or board members.

Discussion: How do we select future conference locations?

- We were warned by our major funding source that we should select locations for conference that are popular with our members rather than going where we are invited.
- Agreed to use the Member/Friend Survey to gather member preferences for future conference locations.
- We need clear guidelines for venue selection, including safety perceptions, movement between East Asia and Western Asia, growth potential and network development.
- We need a transparent decision process.
- Discussed the potential for future conferences in Pakistan versus Vietnam, with Sini suggesting a member vote would be appropriate given travel and safety considerations.

2026 Conference

- Registrations have exceeded last year's numbers with 406 registrations so far.
- Leadership retreat plans include four key components:
 - Online briefing on March 24th
 - A retreat experience in Kuala Lumpur on April 27th for board members who did not attend last year's retreat
 - Main Retreat May 1st will include all board members (in-person and remote)
 - Two follow-up online sessions over the next 12 months.
- The retreat will focus on developing a 3-5 year vision and growth plan, with outcomes to be documented in a communique for the annual members meeting.

- Some key participants will be remote. Due to geopolitical circumstances, some Board members may not be able to travel.
- Sini, Allan, and Elisabeth are working on a document that they will share soon.
- We need follow-up meetings to ensure the retreat's outcomes are implemented and scalable, with two meetings planned within the year to maintain momentum.

2027 Conference

- The group also reviewed artwork for the 2027 conference in Singapore, which features iconic local structures.
- It is not common to have a co-organizer, but PCDA has that role this year which could be applicable to future conferences in Australia and New Zealand.

Discussion: Fellowship Program Naming

- The Circle of Wisdom will revert to using "fellowship" instead of "elder" as it is more universally understood.

Sini Parampota

Mrs. Effrosyni (Sini) Parampota

Secretary

Asia Pacific Career Development Association