

MASC meeting 2015

Location: Room 202-203, Palais des Congres, Paris, France

Wednesday, 08th July 2015, 6:45 pm – 8:15 pm

Minutes written by: Luise Brand, Joanna Friesner, Ruth Bastow

Attendees (31): Ruth Bastow, Malcolm Bennett, Siobhan Brady, Luise Brand, Pascal Braun, Karen Cone, Joanna Friesner, Frederic Gaymard, David Gifford, Marie-Theres Hauser, Joshua Hazelwood, Eva Huala, Inhwan Hwang, Marilia, K.F. de Campos, Catherine Kistner, Masatomo Kobayashi, Loic Lepiniec, Minami Matsui, Sean May, Geraint Parry, Catherine Perrot-Rechenmann, Barry Pogson, Nicholas Provart, Stamatis Rigas, Motoaki Seki, Marie-Jeanne Sellier, Giovanna Serino, Kentaro K. Shimizu, Takayuki Tohge, Chris Town, Michael Wrzaczek

1) Welcome (by Nicholas Provart)

- 50th anniversary of ICAR, 1st ICAR 1965 in Göttingen, Germany
- Great success of 26th ICAR Paris ~1000 attendees
- Summary of role of MASC since 1990:
 - Facilitation of open exchange of data and resources by initiating, promoting and reporting the development of community projects and resources, like e.g.: Arabidopsis Genome Initiative, stock centers, AtGenexpress, TAIR, IAIC, Araport, ...
 - Publishing progress and future direction of Arabidopsis research by the MASC annual report, that is given to every ICAR attendee and funding bodies to promote Arabidopsis research
 - Organization of ICARs, since 2010 only identification of future ICAR sites and passing on of information → MASC should take a greater role in organization of the ICAR, to ensure financial structure and reduce duplication of effort regarding especially abstract submission/websites/payment

2) ICAR

25th ICAR 2014, Vancouver, Canada, organized by NAASC (by Joanna Friesner)

- 625 attendees, result of ICAR survey 315 responses)
- Continued support of mix of plenary and concurrent sessions (2005 was last plenary-only)
- 92% prefer a mix of invited and selected speakers

- In 2004 and 2014 sessions chairs gave introduction into the research field of the session prior invited/selected speakers: ~60% favored this
- 70% think it is good to give especially young researchers the opportunity to give a talk
- 60% liked the new 2 min oral poster presentations during the concurred sessions
- 50% liked the selected venue – 60% of Europeans prefer touristy/more expensive site, but 60% of USA citizens prefer non-touristy/cheap site
 - ➔ ICARs in the USA always included meals in registration fees for max costs of \$US 500 and cheap dorms and hotels with wider price range were available

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Comments:

- ❖ Loic – suggestion to alternate touristy/expensive and non-touristy/cheaper venues, probably less students will attend, if it is too expensive; ICAR attendees mainly students
- ❖ Siobhan – always advertise cheap hosting possibilities like Airbnb etc besides hotels
- ❖ Joanna – international rotation between Europe/North America/Australasia important to enable regional students, in particular, to attend.

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27th ICAR 2016, Gyeongju, Republic of Korea (by Inhwan Hwang)

- Organized by the Korean Society of Botany at historic site Gyeongju
- Key issue was price to attract students especially from Asia, tried to keep costs low
- Plan to invite all attendees to the gala dinner at the end of the meeting with final party
- Chairs of the 6 sessions will organize speakers of their respective field to give especially young researchers the opportunity to speak
- Transport from Seoul to venue takes about 3 h from the airport, directions can be found in 4 languages (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, English)

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Comments:

- ❖ Luise - MASC workshop in Paris about Novel Tools and Techniques was a great success (~130 attendees), a workshop dedicated by MASC with 5 min introduction of MASC at the beginning should be held e.g. Novel Tools and Techniques or Translational Research or Biotechnology – could also be good to attract sponsors
- ❖ Suggestion to have it organized by ICAR organizers, although they have already a lot to do
 - ➔ Option to recheck via mail after the meeting, if somebody else from MASC volunteers to propose a workshop

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Action item: Inhwan proposed to organize workshop “Photosynthesis C3/C4”

Post MASC meeting note: Inhwan gave a 5 min presentation at the end of the ICAR in Paris and distributed some small souvenirs to advertise ICAR

Post MASC meeting note: Ruth suggested that video could be included on ICAR2016 webpages if possible

Site selection NAASC, 28th ICAR 2017 (by Siobhan Brady)

- NAASC decided against Madison because of construction taking place at site; suggestions by NAASC from their annual meeting were presented and an informational vote was held for MASC members. The results were: Portland (16), Atlanta (0), St Louis (6), Austin (2).
- NAASC intends to investigate a number of potential sites and will report back to the community once a decision is made.
- Additional information – ASPB changed their business plan, they will mainly organize international meetings and have arrangements with certain cities to reduce costs, like Austin or Portland; ASPB contracts for services and NAASC may investigate some options for ICAR 2017.
→ will continue to be organized by NAASC
- Date will probably be late June/early July 2017, though ideally not encompassing July 4 holiday.
- ASPB 2016 meeting will be in Austin

Site selection Europe, 29th ICAR 2018 (by Luise Brand and Ruth Bastow)

- Idea to have it somewhere the ICAR has never been before like Sweden or Finland
- Other option would be Liverpool, UK, Geraint (GARNet) would support organization

Action item: Follow up with country representatives of Sweden/Finland/UK

Action item: post ICAR survey, exchange of previous surveys between Joanna and Marie-Jeanne/Loic

Action item: Ensure upload of ICAR abstracts at TAIR via e.g. xls, ensure exchange of data between Eva Huala and Marie-Jeanne Sellier

3) MASC coordinator/MASC report (by Luise Brand)

- Content of MASC report is online, indexed available at arabidopsisresearch.org
- The 27th ICAR, Korea organizers managed to set up the ICAR websites on a subdomain of arabidopsisresearch.org → <http://icar2016.arabidopsisresearch.org>
- From now on it will be possible to host and easily generate access to ICAR websites for future organizers, it is not necessary to buy a new URL/hosting every year and as soon as a permanent structure for registration, abstract submission and payment is in place it can be copied to a new subdomain every year in order to reduce duplication of efforts

- Access to MASC documents – MASC reports publicly available, meeting minutes were never available, idea to create log in for every MASC member (SC chairs/co-chairs, Country representatives, Community Projects and Resources)

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Comments:

- ❖ Also the MASC meeting agendas and minutes should be publicly available.
- ❖ Voting: 25 pro publishing of the MASC meeting minutes online

Action item: Upload MASC meeting minutes and MASC meeting agenda from 2015 as pdf.

- ❖ Old meeting minutes could be online available too, but because of legal issues it is important to clarify with previous MASC meeting members, if they have any objections. Another option would be to strip the old meeting minutes

Action item: Upload of previous meeting minutes – clarify legal issues and start upload of old meeting minutes, redacted where necessary

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- Hosting of arabidopsisresearch.org can be provided due to the funds by DFG at least until December 2016

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Comments:

- ❖ Chris – Araport could also provide server space until end of 2018
 - ➔ Luise – can also buy a new hosting package from coordinator’s grant to ensure funding till end of 2018, it would also be possible to fund the website by the ICAR organizers because so far they had to buy URL/hosting for 2 years, meaning in total that the costs were double each year compared to the scenario with only one MASC domain

Post MASC meeting note: Sean – hosting by NASC/ABRC would also be an option, which would be maybe more stable on the long term perspective

Luise – my concerns are that there will be difficulties to access the servers and to easily facilitate access to the servers for new ICAR organizers every year. Private hosting by somebody from MASC would definitely be the simplest and most convenient option.

Joanna – direct access for organizers is key feature but regular backups should be made to have old versions in case something went wrong

Ruth – MASC should control its own website directly would be easier and help increase awareness

- ❖ Currently we need a private person to ensure hosting of the MASC domain no matter what kind of decision will follow the discussion about the future of MASC as Luise will step down as MASC coordinator by the end of July
 - decision - Luise continues to be owner and in case there will be a decision made in future, she will hand over the URL/hosting to ensure continuity of MASC
 - Voting: all attendees agreed that Luise will be reimbursed for MASC website costs

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Action item: Ensure hosting and availability of MASC websites <http://arabidopsisresearch.org> until end of 2018, create subdomain and ensure to give access to back end every year to ICAR organizers latest 18 months before the conference.

Action item: Registration of MASC members at MASC website to edit content: every MASC section has one website and for each of it a login will be created, no one can register oneself by oneself, i.e. one log in for each subcommittee (8 logins), each country (26 logins), Arabidopsis projects and resources (5 logins)

Action item: The MASC coordinator manual and ICAR organization manual will be uploaded also onto the MASC website and will be publicly available as download in order facilitate open and easy exchange of information – Marilia and Joanna will update old versions

- MASC report: 1000 copies were printed and handed to every attendee, progress made by the 8 MASC subcommittees can be found in the report, 22 countries contributed a report as well as 6 Arabidopsis/plant projects and resources, printed in Germany costs - 1,800€ plus 550€ for delivery
- Printing of the MASC report can't be covered by the coordinator's grant next year – other models?

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Comments:

- ❖ Sean - NASC/ABRC would offer to pay for the MASC report in exchange for a free booth at ICARs, if it is not more than 3,000 €
- ❖ Other options would be: print the executive summary only and have the report online available
- ❖ Print only 500 copies per year and mainly send to funding agencies
- ❖ Luise – MASC coordinator could make fundraising by having advertisements of sponsors e.g. at the inside of the cover

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Action item: Printing of the MASC report is essential to showcase activities of Arabidopsis research – ensure the printing and dissemination of at least 500 MASC reports especially to funding agencies

Action item: Reminder to country representatives – dissemination of the MASC report to the funding agencies in order to act as liaison between the Arabidopsis community and funding bodies by e.g. providing the address to the MASC coordinator or requesting hard copies from the MASC coordinator and sending them

4) MASC future (by Nick Provert)

Proposed models by the MASC future subcommittee:

- 1) Arabidopsis Society → registration as not-for profit organization necessary, membership fee, pro revenue stream, con high overhead (e.g. handling of fees), con society fatigue
- 2) Not-for profit organization /charity in association with ASPB/SEB/GPC → to help with membership, conference organization, accounts: pro some expertise assoc. w. plant organizations, con benefit versus Model 3?
- 3) Not-for profit organization/charity → bank account, financial reporting, leverage with Plantae.org for communication, explore possibilities for continuity of conference management reorganization for MASC (liaise with US ART-21 project), Rethinking MASC report: pro lowest overhead, pro start simply and grow structure if needed

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Comments:

- ❖ look at maize society, who has organization of conference as one of their key subcommittees
- ❖ NAASC could serve as positive example for option 3, because they manage to fund 40% NAASC coordinator position by securing sponsors and advertisers via funding efforts at every third ICAR
- ❖ 2013 ICAR funds could serve as seed money

Post MASC meeting note: ICAR 2014 and ICAR 2015 had/will have negative balance

- ❖ possible to include support for MASC in ICAR registration fee e.g. 20-50 US\$ (600 attendees = 12.000 – 30.000 US\$
 - unclear, what MASC does in return, there will be a transition phase until MASC can provide e.g. accounting, cyber infrastructure for conference organization, help with conference booklet
 - to help with fundraising is very difficult because of language barriers, distances and time differences
- ❖ Siobhan: what would be the responsibilities/job description of the MASC coordinator?
 - MASC coordinator could help with websites for ICAR and abstract handling, conference booklet; EventBrite could be used for ticketing about 6.000 US\$ costs

Post MASC meeting note: costs for MASC coordinator (e.g. MASC report assembly and dissemination, ICAR abstract handling, ICAR booklet, handling of ICAR fees, MASC website) would be on the order of a

25- 50% position, with the higher percent dependent on a full range of duties. A 50% position, including benefits, is estimated at - ~45.000 US\$/year (with PhD qualification), with a salary (excluding benefits) on the order of approximately \$30,000 for 50% effort.

- ❖ How does MASC see itself and its role in future?
 - facilitate collaborative funding approaches by different funding agencies versus continental focused activities only
 - integration of different projects and approaches, reduce duplication of efforts
 - consider using plantae.org as communication platform, in addition to the MASC webpage.
 - Formulation of MASC mission statement required and should include:
 - 1) ICAR meeting – provide infrastructure (e.g. by MASC coordinator)
 - 2) Annual report – outreach to agencies, make it public what Arabidopsis community does also to facilitate outreach
 - 3) Promote international collaborations, reduce duplication of efforts
 - Should MASC continue to go from guiding to reporting?
- ❖ Karen Cone (NSF): The new 5 year NAASC ART-21 grant presents a possible mechanism that, in bringing together scientists to discuss the future of Arabidopsis research and education, might also provide a mechanism to help MASC to redefine its mission for the next 5-10 years. Other questions that MASC might find useful to consider are how MASC integrates into the ASPB decadal plan, and the role of MASC/Arabidopsis community within the larger plant community. [These questions may possibly be relevant to discussions in some of the ART-21 planned activities.]
- ❖ Catherine Kistner (DFG): the printed version of the MASC report is a valuable resource that should be continued, mission statement should include that the community is open and makes data free available, MASC should develop standards for the community and provide guiding, MASC can help to attract students for science
- ❖ Loic: MASC figure about translational research is very valuable for researchers when applying for grants etc., should be available in future

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- Voting about MASC future models: unanimous decision for option 3!

Action item: MASC future subcommittee should continue the development of MASC as not-for profit/charity organization (option 3) e.g. in UK, Canada, or US (redefine who is member of the subcommittee, identify country for registration, register MASC and write constitution, open bank account, recommendation MASC fee for ICAR), check also requirements to apply as ‘MASC’ for grants in different countries

Action item: MASC future subcommittee should formulate/redefine a draft of the MASC mission statement (details see minutes role of MASC)

5) MASC appointments

- New MASC chair 2015/16 is Loic Lepiniec, France
- New elected MASC co-chair is Inhwon Hwang, Republic of Korea