

## **The 2004 Annual Report on Japan Chapter**

### **1. Current Membership**

Our current membership would be around 120, while the exact number is only known to the headquarters.

### **2. Chapter Conference**

Our 2003 Chapter Conference was, as usual, held jointly with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of JAIBS (Japan Academy of International Business Studies) under the main theme “Rejuvenation of Japanese Corporations and Industries – Global Perspective –” at Meiji University in Tokyo, Japan from October 24 through 26, 2003. The number of participants was well over 300. And then our 2004 Chapter Conference will also be held in joint with JAIBS 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, whose main theme “Global Strategy of Service MNCs”, at Kwansai Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Japan from November 5 thorough 7, 2004.

In the meantime, the east and west divisions of JAIBS are respectively holding its own divisional study meetings several times a year. Most members of AIB Japan Chapter attend these study meetings where averagely 3 to 5 presentations are made, primarily contributed by younger scholars. Some of these presentations go to the JAIBS annual meeting finally with some modifications based on senior scholars’ suggestions and advices.

### **3. Schedule Conflict with AIB Annual Meetings**

Like most Japanese academic organizations, JAIBS holds its annual conference in October or November, so AIB annual meeting in late fall was inconvenient for Japanese members. Last year, however, the time of Monterey meeting was changed to July, and this is also the case for Stockholm this year. This schedule change is much better for members of Japan Chapter than late fall.

July, however, is still difficult time for most of them to leave for overseas, because it is the last period of the spring semester for Japanese universities. Recently at most Japanese universities, the spring semester or the first semester ends up in late July. I strongly want to attend Stockholm meeting this year, but at the last minute I was convinced that I had no choice to give up leaving Tokyo this busy time of period, particularly because I am now serving as Associate Dean of my school, and there are a lot of tasks and documents compiled on my desk in the dean’s office toward the end of the spring semester. My case might be rather special, but generally speaking, for Japanese scholars, August through early September should be the best season for attending overseas conferences.

### **4. More Collaboration with JAIBS**

Almost all the members of AIB Japan Chapter are concurrently affiliated with JAIBS, whose current membership is 653 individuals and 2 institutions (as of July

5, 2004). In fact, I myself serve as one of the executive directors of JAIBS as well as serving as Chair of AIB Japan. JAIBS is now one of the most active and attention-inviting academic associations in Japan, so we need to keep more active collaboration with each other.

#### **5. Possibility of Hosting 2008 AIB World Annual Meeting**

As a part of possible collaborations with JAIBS, we are now carefully doing a feasibility study about a joint world conference of AIB Japan and JAIBS. This actually means that we are studying whether or not AIB Japan will be able to host AIB World Annual Meeting in maybe 2008 when it goes out of the U.S.

In Asia-Pacific area, Singapore and Seoul has already hosted the meetings in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Beijing will do in a few years. Then we know that people expect Tokyo to be the candidate after Beijing.

In that case, the most likely conference venue would be Waseda University, because it has all the necessary facilities within the campus, such as spacious conference halls, a number of high-tech classrooms available for each presentation and so on. A luxury hotel available for the headquarters also exists in the campus. And more construction of high-tech buildings will be over until 2008.

In the meantime, the problems to be cleared would be date and cost/finance. The date must be sometime during summer holidays, which means early August through mid September, because during school days, it is absolutely impossible to use those facilities exclusively for our conference. I am not sure that period of time can be convenient or attractive to all the AIB members overseas.

Cost problem means that, according to a certain report launched recently, Tokyo is ranked as the most expensive city in the world, which, I am afraid, makes AIB overseas members reluctant to visit Tokyo. Above all, finance is the greatest factor on which we finally decide to host 2008 annual meeting. We actually had a simple internet discussion with the former secretariat in Hawaii about this point. But they were in transition period of transferring secretariat function to Michigan, so we need to communicate with the new Michigan Secretariat in more details for final decision in the near future.

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