As I conclude my term as President (2012-2015) it is my duty and responsibility to report on the state of affairs of the Association. This is my report to the Association, its Councilors, officers and members.

A. Manifesto

1. As I have said in my election Manifesto 2012, I am committed to bring positive changes to the Association, namely:

(a) More roads and bridges are to be built internally

(b) Equal opportunity to members who are capable and willing to serve

(c) Through the progression of our Workshop Group to the full-fledged APAA Academy, educational seminar, professional publications and professional training will be offered.

2. In carrying out my above objectives, I shall be guided by the following principles, namely:

(a) The interest of the Association is paramount
(b) Follow the Constitution
(c) Know our members and work with and for our members

3. As promised, there was no major surgery. However, you would have noticed that there has been a lot of fine-tuning or face lift. This is important for the Association to keep up with time and remain relevant. You would have noticed the changes in the physical structure of our meetings and functional units.

4. I have always emphasized capacity building within our organization in order to strengthen our Association’s ability to take up significant roles externally to represent the interest of the Intellectual Property profession in Asia at the international level and also to support the growth of our membership and their practice, spreading our footprint beyond the existing jurisdictions.

5. The changes have been gradual. Only those that I felt were necessary were introduced, not changes for the sake of change alone. What gave me courage to pursue the changes and to embark on new programs is the thought and conviction that they are good in the long-term for APAA as a whole.

6. I am hopeful that what transpired and was carried out during my term could be the beginning of the first stage paving the way for modernization of APAA to scale new heights and meet its even greater future. I hope the next Administration will not only carry on or stop at what has been done but ride on the inertia and to launch phases 2, 3 and 4.
B. **Capacity Building:** During the three years of my term, the following structural changes and measures have taken place as part of the road and bridges building exercise:-

7. The APAA Academy (with functions in providing (i) conference/educational programmes, (ii) professional publication and (iii) professional training) was developed and elevated from the Workshop Group.

(a) **Conference Programmes**

This branch of the Academy corresponds to the previous Workshop Group.

After Alex Fider had accepted my invitation to take up the responsibility as Academy Co-Chair, I sent him a number of disks containing my working files and correspondence/documents exchanged between myself as Chairman of the Workshop Group and parties relating to (a) the organization of the Workshop(s) and (b) running of the Committees/Committee Meetings in the last few years as well as (c) Guidelines documenting our accumulated experience.

The conference programs have been running smoothly. I thank Alex for the good work he has done.

(b) **Publication**

(i) Despite reservations were expressed on the additional burden which an official publication may impose upon the Groups/Co-Chairs of our 6 Standing Committees, we do see the value and benefits which authoritative and timely publications by the Association can bring. The question is how to make it a success and how can this be realistically achieved given the practical limitations.

(ii) After careful discussions and deliberations within the Excom/Adcom, it was decided that a book on a chosen subject matter to be written with an Asian focus (“the Book”) would be published in due course. In the meantime, an annual journal based on the materials submitted by members of the Standing Committees for the (i) Recognized Group Report and (ii) Report on Special Topics which the Committees decide every year (“the Bulletin”) would first be organized.

(iii) The Editorial Board (headed by Mr. Pravin Anand as Academy Co-Chair (Publications)) would collect, review and edit the reports to render them more readable and appealing for publication in the form of a bulletin. It turned out that it was not so easy as originally thought to digest and condense 1600 pages of materials into about 400 pages. Tremendous efforts were required of the in-house team even with the help of Lexis Nexus. Guidelines for preparing reports in Bulletin publication compliant format are now introduced to lessen the burden.

(iv) We can see the value of the publications not only as a means of dissemination of knowledge amongst our members and observers with an Asian interest, but the publication themselves can be used as a means for promoting the Association. They can be distributed to relevant authorities/institutions/professional bodies/judiciary/ academia within and outside Asia to raise the profile of our Association. With the editors/authors benefiting from the exposures involved, it will attract more people to volunteer as editors/contributing authors. We also believe that when the Committee members know that their reports are to be published and
circulated to the “world”, it may further raise the standard/quality of their reports. We do see multi-benefits in this exercise.

(v) An additional Co-Chair to each of the Standing Committees was appointed with a view to sharing out the task.

(vi) **The APAA Bulletin** is the first of the series of annual publication that the Association intends to publish. It differs from the previous APAA News in that the original unedited contents rich high quality reports from our Recognized Groups have now been edited and formatted for enhanced presentation. Other than having a different look and feel, the materials are now customized in an electronic format which can readily be uploaded onto our newly revamped APAA website. The Bulletin was uploaded onto the APAA website on the 16th October this year. I congratulate Mr. Pravin Anand and his team in the APAA Academy for their industry and dedication which made publication of the Bulletin possible. You may read the Bulletin at :-


(c) **Professional Training**

(i) The professional training course is intended to be a multi-functional and cross cultivation tool.

Other than raising the patent skill of our members generally by training on patent drafting and studies on comparative patent practice, professional training courses to be held in jurisdictions of the smaller Groups (especially those where their infrastructures are inadequate for hosting our annual conferences of 1,500 participants) will involve them in the Association’s activities, help to promote their professional stature locally in the eyes of their government, intellectual property department, judiciary and professional bodies.

In addition, meetings with local industries like Chambers of Commerce may also be arranged at the same time to promote the status of the local Groups/our Association locally.

(ii) Preparations for the course started in early 2013 with my trip to WIPO. Following such discussions and having studied the contents of material developed by WIPO, it was considered that those were suitable for use in the context of the Patent Drafting Course to be specially adapted for our members within the APAA jurisdictions which are at different stages of their industrial and economic development with different degrees of sophistication in their patent systems.

Following further discussions, APAA was licensed to use the WIPO materials. Supplemental tools were developed in aid by Mr. Anton Blijlevens (APAA Academy Co-Chair – Professional Training) to facilitate the conduct of the training.

(iii) A survey was conducted prior to launching the course to ascertain the level of interest and the depth of training which was most suitable. The course materials were then refined and marketing materials developed before the course was advertised in May 2015.
The patent class has 18 participants from 8 jurisdictions (Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macau, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand).

(iv) Macau was chosen as the venue for various reasons. We would like to engage those Recognized Groups which have not hosted an APAA conference to participate in meaningful projects of the Association. It would provide opportunities for the local group to gain experience in organizing Association activities. Additionally, weaved into the programme is a workshop on the final day when local professional and business communities are invited to participate. That is intended to further raise the local group’s profile locally, promote their interactions with the industry and attract new members.

The course venue chosen is designed for small class lectures, being our preferred approach in a training of this type.

We were lucky to have the full support of the Macau Group led by its President Mr. Nuno Sardinha and Rui Cunha Foundation of Macau (a charitable foundation which promotes cultural activities in Macau). A well-furnished lecture theatre with 25 comfortable seats with audio and visual equipment was provided to us free of charge for 5 days. The Macau Group was determined to give all participants a connoisseur experience of providing lunches to them at the Club Militar with food prepared by a chef flown in from Portugal. The final lunch with VIP guests invited to join the participants was served in Club’s Gallery where art pieces were displayed.

(v) The 1st APAA Patent Drafting course took place from the 6th to 10th June 2015. I kicked start the course on Day 1 with introductory remarks and joined the course again on Day 5 as a speaker on IP Alternative Disputes Resolution when some 60 participants took part.

(vi) A follow up survey was conducted by the APAA Academy Co-Chair on feedback of the course for further refinement of future courses.

Snapshots taken during the course are available at 

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/30c2begb64r0f0i/AABam59qCVy3VUM2TiFL3GHEa?oref=e&n=295890071

A lot of thoughts were put into this course by Anton Blijlevens including our target audience, size of class, appropriate venue, length of course, how much to charge, partnering with WIPO etc.

(vii) The APAA course is not intrusive on the local professional bodies or systems. It is supplementary and complementary in nature. If our training programme is considered useful by the local Groups, they may on an entirely voluntary basis, recognize or accredit it for satisfying some local qualification requirement. If not, we are equally happy as it would have achieved our primary goal of raising patent knowledge and skill amongst our APAA members generally in the region. However, we believed that if local Groups had not already designed a training programme, it would be unlikely for them to set up their own training course if we could offer a useful training programme for them. This is because of the tremendous input required for such exercise.
(viii) I should also mention that the APAA Academy (with its 3 branches) also aims to promote the quality of our conference and enhance its educational/professional contents. This is not only desirable but essential for us to remain relevant. It is an indispensable organ of the conference with impact before, during and after the conference.

I have continued to monitor and mentor the 3 Academy branches to ensure that they are on track to achieve the purposes they were aimed at achieving.

8. Conference Committee

(a) The success of our Conferences has been an important feature of our Organization.

(b) Briefly to recap, the objects and aims of this Committee are to do 3 things namely:-

(i) Considering the acceptance of bids and determining competing bids.

(ii) Setting the right policies on size of conference, choice of venue, ratio of sharing loss/surplus, control of activities during the conference and setting of registration fees;

(iii) Knowledge management (we need to properly record our accumulated knowledge, examine and analyze what brings us success or failure in the organization and running of our conferences);

(c) These issues are related and involve cross Committees/Group considerations, namely Special Projects (SPC), Statutes Revision (SRC), 3 Branches of the Academy, Website, Members Extension and Financial Advisory).

(i) If the Membership Extension and Development Committee works hard to increase the membership and enlarge our footprint in Asia, it would not be realistic to expect the size our conferences to remain unchanged. This is because one of the main purposes of joining APAA is to attend its conferences.

(ii) At the same time, there is legitimate concern on the possible change in the character and quality of our conferences once the size of our conference has grown beyond certain limits. This has been considered by our Special Projects Committee.

(d) The Japan Group took the initiative to produce a first draft of standard Form Bid document which was carefully reviewed and revised by the Conference Committee.

(e) The Secretariat circulated an invitation to all the Presidents and Vice Presidents of our 18 Recognized Groups on the 22nd December 2014 enclosing for the first time our newly devised Stand form Bid Document [See Appendix 1] inviting bids by the 31st January 2015.

(f) As a matter of standard procedure (whether there be one or more bids), now all parties who have submitted a bid which has not yet been approved by the Council will be invited to the Conference Committee Meeting to present their bid.
We set out to produce a Conference Manual as a knowledge management tool. Three drafts of Conference Manual were prepared by SVP Patrick Kim and amended by Hon. President Asamura. It is felt desirable to circulate the draft of manual more widely before finalization so that the firsthand experience of our past conference hosts groups (problems and solutions) may complement the concerns, views and practical advice at the Management/Secretariat level. Together, the Manual will be more complete and wholesome for future guidance.

The revised final document will include:

(i) Factors for determining competing bids – possible criteria:

   (a) First in time;
   (b) Records on profits generated previously by those groups;
   (c) Comparative strength of infrastructures at the proposed venue;
   (d) State of preparation of the meeting;
   (e) Budgets and estimation of profits/loss;
   (f) Degree of compliance of guidelines generally;

(ii) Possible methods for resolving competing bids by agreement to resolve the competing bids in any one of the following manner:

   (a) Negotiation;
   (b) Drawing lots (lucky draw);
   (c) Agreeing to a determination by the Conference Committee through a round of voting by secret ballot;
   (d) Dealing the above determination, by voting at Council Meeting.

(iii) Payment methods and foreign exchange considerations;

(iv) A list of “dos” (to succeed);

(v) A list of “don’ts” (to avoid failure);

(vi) Other practical matters like considerations in negotiations with hotels on terms of payments/reservation of rooms, standard template for the contract between Host Group and APAA/APAI, indemnity and insurance (the incident in Penang did cause us concern) etc. may be usefully included as annexures (though not in the body of the Guidelines which is more focused on policies and procedures in the planning, organization and running of our conferences);

9. **The Roundtable Meeting** between Recognized Group leaders with our working groups/committees was set up. This follows my principle of “know your members, work with and work for your members”. It is a cozy briefing session of our projects in the coming year. We want to tell you what we are going to do and know what you think about it.

(a) (i) However, we are mindful that while the Roundtable is a good means to facilitate internal communications, the Council is the governing body.

(ii) That is why we have invited up to 2 representatives (the President and Vice President) instead of 1 (unless they choose to and some do) from each of the 18
Recognized Groups, so that the Groups may have a maximum of 2 representatives
to discuss among themselves and have 2 channels of communication back to the
Groups’ Councilors.

(iii) That is also why we have the Roundtable Meeting on Day 1 of the conference so
that there is an opportunity to know and discuss the issues among yourselves before
the Council Meeting.

(b) The Roundtable is different from the Council Meeting, in that it is forward looking and
proactive session. (Basically, to tell you what we will be doing next year and we want to
know what you think about it). In the case of the Council Meeting, it is more focused on
what has been done and to seek Councilors formal approval on various things. They may
overlap but they are quite different.

(c) During the Roundtable Meeting, presentations were made by the administrative
committees i.e. the 3 branches of the APAA Academy (Programmes, Publication and
Professional Training), Statutes Revision Group, Website Group, Conference Committee,
Special Projects Group, Membership Extension and Development Committee.

(d) After the Roundtable was first introduced in 2013, it is now further complemented by the
Group Presidents Meeting (an even smaller group discussion which is more conducive
to intimating our thoughts freely) took place. All these sessions are designed to prepare
the Groups well for the Council Meeting to follow.

10. The Asian IP Forum has replaced the former Open Council Meeting since 2013. The
report from the Recognized Groups and the report from the 6 Standing Committees will
be shared by all participants openly instead of a session labelled as “Council Meeting”
which may suggest that it is a session for internal administrative matters.

11. We have also set up the machinery and Guidelines for Charitable Donations following
typhoon Yolanda which caused devastating damages to the Philippines.

Making charitable donations is not so simple as one might think as just writing a cheque
out by the Association as one might thought. There are practical and legal considerations
from the Management view point. As Management, we need to consider the following
carefully:-

(甲.a) The donation with Association money may be ultra vires our constitution and/or
outside the approval given by Council on the Budget which was meant for specific items.
The contingency fund in our budget was meant to cover inadequacies of those items
which have already been specifically approved. It is unsafe to use Association money for
the purpose;

(甲.b) We may not wish the amount of donation to be limited by or linked to the amount
of Contingency Fund provided for under the Budget;

(甲.c) If donation is intended, we wish to achieve increased participation by our members
in a worthy cause, to show their care of our fellow members;

(甲.d) In principle we do not wish to impose any material obligation on our members. If
any Group or member is unwilling for any reason (e.g. some Groups/individual members
may have already made donations directly or through other associations etc.), they
should not feel obligated to agree or to join in the donation and we shall not impose this upon them.

(甲.e) We could be setting a possible precedent which may require the Association to make donations regularly in the future as natural catastrophes or manmade disasters (typhoon, flooding, fire) are happening more and more often. When similar mishaps of different scales occur within our 18 Groups and 24 jurisdictions, they may expect similar donations and if we don’t, they may feel ignored or unfairness in treatment. When do we donate and when not as well as how much if we do, will become a regular administrative issue which we cannot cope with, given our limited human and financial resources.

(甲.f) In the end, the following was done:-

(i) We issued an announcement to appeal to the general membership for voluntary donation within a specified time

(ii) payment should be made into a designated bank account.

(iii) It was emphasized that whether any donation is to be made and if so, of what amount is entirely at the discretion of our individual members and/or Recognized Groups.

(iv) As a general policy, we would therefore leave the decision to the local Recognized Groups to make a request for a general appeal in appropriate circumstances.

(v) The Association through the Secretariat will upon such request as soon as practicable, organize an announcement for appeal to the general membership and make their best efforts to assist.

12. Overhaul of the APAA website with interactive capabilities

Compared to visiting the APAA website 3 years ago, your visit now will give you a completely different experience. Our website has been completely re-vamped with the good work of Tan Tee Jim and with the able assistance of the Japanese Group. We now have search functions and mobile friendly features. The lay out of the different sections have been rationalized and our contents much enriched with pictures to liven up the site. It can now be used and indeed much used as a vehicle for dissemination of information and knowledge, updating local group affairs and supporting our important activities such as the patent training course and our annual conferences.

13. The Special Project Group

I thank Mr. Philip Thoreau and his Group for their insightful observation on our Association and original ideas in coming up with possible changes and solutions to improve the association structure and conference. These have included a code of conduct for our meetings, a mid-year meeting and APAA foundation.

14. Statutory Revisions

This has always been a busy Group which is constantly required to review various provisions of our Constitution to meet new challenges. Thanks go to the unfailing support of Henry
Wheare leading his SRC Group. Their works have covered reviewing and proposing amendments to

(i.a) The Statutes relating to Indemnification for Officers of APAI [Article 2.4(a)], Membership [Article 5], Senior Vice President - term [Article 12.5], Sanctions for Breach [Article 6.3], Committees [Article 15], Vice Presidents [Articles 13.2 and 12.4], compared to the position of Group Presidents in Article 7.4.

(i.b) Regulations relating to meetings [Regulation 4], Attendees [Regulation 7], Suspension of Members and Recognized Groups [Regulation 10].

(i.c) Private parties standard clause was produced "APAA Secretariat and the Host Group advise that non-official business functions outside the official programme events not organized as part of the official programme are strictly forbidden during the period of the meeting from [8 to 11 November 2014] except for private functions. Private events are allowed between 1800 to midnight on the Excursion Day, [10 November 2014]. A "private event" means any event that is organized for personal friends and not intended primarily for promoting the business of the person hosting the event."

(i.d) Implementing Rules and Regulations on Presidential Election ("IRR-PE") had an updated version approved at the Penang Council Meeting which would be able to serve the Association in future elections until a new system is designed and approved.

(i.e) The SRC was also asked to consider the structure, leadership and succession planning of the Association. A paper is in preparation which will be further developed for discussion. Further researches on empirical data will be required in support of possible options and recommendations.

15. Election Committee ("Elecom")

By virtue of Rule 2 (composition) of the Implementation Rules and Regulations of Presidential Election ("IRR-PE") which took effect on 11th November 2014 and pursuant to Article 15.1 of the Statutes of the Association and the approval of the 63rd Council Meeting of the APAA in Penang, the President was authorized to establish the Presidential Election Committee ("EleCom").

Pursuant to such authority, I appointed Past President Alonzo Ancheta as Chairman of the EleCom on the 15th March 2015.

Following the recommendations of Mr. Ancheta on the 6th April 2015, I confirmed the appointments of Mr. Kingson Lai and Mr. Amarjit Singh on 8th April 2015 (both being qualified). I further confirmed the appointments of Secretary General Kozo Takeuchi and Treasurer Yew Woon Chooi as ex-officio members of the EleCom.

On its establishment, the EleCom has a life of its own and will operate in that capacity independently from the Executive Committee/Advisory Committee, their members and the President. The Treasurer has also been authorized to approve the necessary or incidental expenses in relation to the performance of the EleCom’s duties.

Subsequently, Elecom under the Chairmanship of Alonzo Ancheta gave effect and implemented Article 11.3 of the APAA Statutes by adopting and promulgating the
Implementing Rules and Regulations on said Article (“SIR-11.3”) patterned after the principles of initiative and referendum in democratic environments.

C. **Internal relationship**

16. At the beginning of my term, I visited the Secretariat in Tokyo to familiarize myself with the flow of Administrative matters and how things work at the Secretariat.

17. Following that trip, arrangements were put in place to share the correspondence files between Mr. Okuda in Tokyo, Mr. Kozo Takeuchi in Osaka and myself in Hong Kong.

18. Similar arrangements were set up for the sharing of financial information and documents between Tokyo and Singapore where our 2 bank accounts with DBS bank are maintained. These correspondences/documents were also copied to me in Hong Kong.

19. On the invitation of the Indian Group, I attended their celebration ceremony of India Group’s 20 years of APAA on 23rd November 2013 in New Delhi.

20. I celebrated the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Hong Kong Group with my fellow Hong Kong Group members on 20th October 2014. We were so glad that we were joined by our Councilors from Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Philippines and Taiwan as our honored guests.

These are all very happy occasions of our local Recognized Groups. The celebration of these anniversaries reflects the establishment of our local groups as important professional bodies with well connection with the local IP authorities in their respective jurisdictions and contributing to the development of local IP law and practice.

21. In support of the Myanmar Group, I attended the Grand Inaugural Ceremony of IP Proprietors Association of Myanmar (IPPAM) (with Mr. Thein Aung, Myanmar President Group also being its Secretariat General), in January 2015. Some 300 attendees from different sectors gathered there for enthusiastic discussions, a very good sign of IP awareness and room for IP protection in the country.

22. In March 2015, I attended the ASEAN Intellectual Property Association (AIPA) Conference in Bangkok (despite the warnings of bomb threats!) upon the invitation of its President, Ms. Tin Ohnmar Tun when Mr. Chew Phye Keat was appointed its new President. It was my first attendance of an AIPA Conference which gave me tremendous insight into the Organization. The speeches delivered by various speakers were enlightening on what’s happening on the Asean front. It also enabled me to meet the newly elected Presidents of INTA and AIPPI when we exchanged views on our respective Associations. I was honored to be invited to deliver congratulatory remarks at the commencement of these meetings.

23. Naturally, we had our usual ExCom/AdCom management meetings at the beginning of the 3 years to brainstorm and decide on our work we need to do in that year. I thank all the ExCom/AdCom members for making their time and efforts in support of my endeavors and providing me with their constructive comments and insight.

24. Terms of References of our Group and Committees were prepared to let others know what our administrative and academic groups are doing as well as to guide our groups and committees to focus on their work.
D. **Equal opportunities**

25. I have the honour to invite and appoint the first woman ExCom member to serve as our Association’s Treasurer. I am thankful to Ms. Yew Woon Chooi of the Singapore Group for agreeing to take up this onerous task upon my invitation. Other than overseeing the operation of our Singapore bank account, she has been working closely with our former treasurer Hirohito Katsunuma in Tokyo to ensure the smooth operation of the two accounts and keeping of proper accounting records.

26. I am honoured to be asked to endorse the “Women in APAA” at the 64th Council Meeting by Ms. Jennifer Lin of Taiwan and her co-initiators. The credit for this of course goes to them but I am glad that this has happened during my administration and I would like to think that the ambience of this administration has made it conducive for the promotion of such ideas and request for endorsement.

E. **External relationship**

27. As mentioned earlier, at the beginning of my term, I visited WIPO in 2013 where I met Director General Dr. Francis Gurry and our other good friends there whom I have become acquainted over the years. One of my focus points was to get resources for the APAA Academy and professional training for our members. The fact that I was welcomed and had these face to face private personal meetings at WIPO which lasted for about 6 hours speaks for itself. Those meetings with WIPO officials are meaningful and have bolded well for our future cooperation. The visit was a strategic one. The possibilities of wider co-optations were explored with his officers before the meeting with DG.

(a) APAA is regarded as a blue chip organization representing IP practitioners in Asia. There is synergy between APAA (with wide and deep rooted connections in Asia) and WIPO (with worldwide network and technical resources).

(b) Items discussed were wide ranging. WIPO itself would adopt a positive attitude to our requests in terms of such non-monetary resources they may have. In addition, if funding is required, WIPO would be happy to broker and facilitate contacts for funding from various funds, trusts, national and regional patent offices such as WIPO, UN Development Programme, World Bank, AIA, SIPO, KIPO, JPO, EPO and USPTO. It may also facilitate in sourcing experts for our course. They may consider being sponsors or partners to the programme in such form as we may further agree.

Meeting with Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry took place on 21st January 2013 when I thanked Dr. Gurry for WIPO’s support and explained to him our plans for the next 3 years including the APAA Academy to which he responded positively.

Meeting with Erik Wilbers and Ignacio Decastro (Director and Deputy Director) respectively of WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre) whom I knew well personally was also one of the highlights. Positive responses were received.

The meeting with Mr. Yo Takagi (Assistant Director General, Global Infrastructure) and Ms. Carlotta Graffigna (Executive Director of WIPO Academy and IP Human Capital Development) was very useful. We had a video conference together with Mr. Denis Croze, Director of WIPO Singapore office to standby for a video conference to discuss
possible assistance which they may provide from Asia. The meeting was soon joined by Ms. Graffigna (Head of WIPO Academy).

Meeting with Mr. James Pooley (Deputy Director General, Innovation and Technology) concluded with a pledge of positive support from WIPO.

Through the diligent cultivation by our earlier Administrations, APAA enjoys very considerable goodwill from Geneva which we may usefully benefit from in our future endeavors. My conclusion form the trip was that while keeping our own interest in mind, it is conducive to our interests to join force and achieve our common goals.

28. (a) While I delegated considerable travelling to other officers to allow a wider presentation by the Association in international venues and exposure by our senior officers, I attended the following conferences myself, including the LESI Global Technology Impact Forum (GTIF) in Geneva in January 2013, AIPLA Spring 2013 Seattle Meeting and INTA Dallas Meeting (combined trip), Global IP Summit at their 2013 meeting and AIPPI Forum and ExCo Helsinki Meeting in September 2013 (combined trip), INTA meeting in May Hong Kong 2014, LESI meeting in Moscow May 2014, the AIPPI September 2014 World Congress in Toronto and International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys (FICPI), Cape Town World Congress 2015.

(b) During these meetings, I met with the leaders of our sister organizations and was able to observe the official proceedings and conference operation first hand. It gave me insight as well as inspirations on how different organizations may operate to suit their members' needs. I took stock of what I saw in these meetings and hope to bring home some useful ideas for APAA.

29. On the China front, due to the climate across the Straits in the last three years, further advancement of the position to have Mainland IP practitioners as our members was not timely. However, with the meeting between leaders of the two sides of the Straits just took place on the 7th this November; there may be better openings in the future for such advance. We shall keep on watching out for the right time, right people, and right place for the right push.

F. A big thank you

The above Report covers items that are at various stages of development.

I owe a lot to my TEAM: the ExCom, the AdCom, the Council Members, the International Vice Presidents, the Group Presidents, the Committee Chairs and Group Heads and their members, and the general membership. Each of them contributed bricks with which to build a stronger APAA, both internally and externally.

I thank many of them for their encouragement without which I would not be able to persevere. I also thank them for being generous in sharing their constructive criticisms without which I would not have corrected myself or would have taken many things for granted. They have made me give matters deeper thoughts and greater resolve to do what I believe is right. There are rooms for further development and improvements.

If I have disagreed with any of my fellow members on certain issues or if I stood firm on matters uncompromised, I ask for their kind understanding but I assure them that they were
all meant to uphold the Constitution and to advocate my personal convictions and in the best interests of APAA, nothing else.

I want to assure everyone that I have persevered a lot from the time of my election in 2012 up to now in order to discharge my duties and serve the Association to the best I can. Whether I have been successfully or not, I am not the judge. What comforts me is that I know we are together in working towards a Brighter and Greater APAA.

Thank you all.

To be delivered in Okinawa, November, 2015.

C. K. KWONG
President of APAA
2012 - 2015