

AWRN 2025 Business Meeting Minutes

Date and time: Saturday, July 12, 2025, 17:00-17:40

Venue: Hsinchu (hybrid)

Participants: Junji Nakagawa; Lisa Toohey; Tomohiko Kobayashi; Yueh-Ping Yang (Alex); Tsai-Fang Chen; Yuka Fukunaga; Henry Gao; Chang-fa Lo; Colin Picker; Rajesh Babu; Datuk M. Supperamaniam; Heng Wang

1. AWRN 2026 Conference

Junji announced that the AWRN 2026 would be hosted by the Korean members. The dates and venue are:

Dates: July 9th – 10th, 2026

Venue: Seoul National University

Accommodation for two nights at the SNU Guest House will be provided by the Seoul National University.

Many members participating in the meeting expressed a preference for a retreat style conference.

Colin proposed dedicating half a day for a free discussion and producing an outcome document such as a joint statement. The proposal was supported by the participating members. Alex suggested that he could offer a venue to publish the document.

Chang-fa reminded the members that publications resulted from the AWRN's activities, such as those on the Appellate Body and ADR, were successful and had a significant impact on discussions in Geneva.

Details will be decided in consultation with Jamine.

2. AWRN 2027 Conference

Junji invited the members to suggest dates and a venue for the AWRN 2027.

3. Inactive members

Junji recalled that the members had agreed at the AWRN 2024 business meeting that a member who hadn't participated in three consecutive meetings would be asked to confirm that he/she wishes to remain as a member. If he/she no longer wishes to remain as a member, the rest of the members from his/her jurisdiction suggest a person to replace the retiring member. The suggestion will be circulated to the members via email, along with the suggested person's CV, for provisional approval. The approval will be formalized in the next AWRN business meeting.

As of the time of the meeting, the following members hadn't participated in the past three consecutive meetings:

Rajesh Sharma (Australia);

Ma. Joy V. Abrenica (Philippines);

Kittibodee Yaipool (Thailand).

Junji will reach out to them to ask if they wish to remain as a member.

Chang-fa suggested opening the membership a little further.

Henry offered to reach out to the WTO chairs from Asian jurisdictions with no AWRN members, such as Vietnam, to ask if they are interested in joining the AWRN.

Junji thanked the participants and concluded the meeting.