

# SUN GENERA ASSEMBLY 2024 REPORT

*“Strengthening the Network Power of  
SUN for Fostering International  
Cooperation and Collaboration among  
Member Universities of SUN.”*



Co-hosted by

UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI  
**L'ORIENTALE**



THE SILK-ROAD  
UNIVERSITIES  
NETWORK



**CANADIAN  
UNIVERSITY DUBAI**  
Your portal to Canadian education

The 9th General Assembly of  
Silk-Road Universities Network

| contact |  
[secretariat@sun0822.org](mailto:secretariat@sun0822.org)  
Please visit [www.sun-silkroadia.org](http://www.sun-silkroadia.org)  
for further details.

## UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES **L'ORIENTALE**

**November 11-15, 2024**  
*University of Naples L'Orientale  
in Naples, Italy*



# Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Welcoming Dinner
- Opening Ceremony
- Administrative Proceedings
- Appointments
- Award Distribution Ceremony
- UPSUN Workshop
- USSUN Workshop
- IASS Conference
- SUN-Board of Directors Meeting
- Closing Ceremony & Farewell Dinner

## INTRODUCTION

Established in 2015, Silk Road Universities Network (hereafter SUN) is a non-profit non-governmental association network of eighty-three universities/higher educational institutions spread over sixty-two cities of twenty-seven nations located on the ancient Silk Routs. The motto of SUN - “Co-existence, Collaboration, and Co-prosperity” exhibits its aims and objectives. Since its inception, the SUN has been thriving for its objectives through diverse higher educational activities with the proactive support and participation of member universities.

The General Assembly of SUN is held every year at any of the member universities that voluntarily offer to organize in consultation with the Secretariat of SUN. The purpose of having the annual General Assembly of SUN is to review its annual progress and to chart a plan for the upcoming year.



# Welcoming Dinner

November 11, 2024

In keeping with the cherished tradition of the SUN Annual General Assembly, the host university organizes a welcoming dinner on the inaugural evening. This event serves as a formal yet convivial gathering, providing an opportunity for representatives from member universities, including presidents, professors, and students, to reconnect, introduce themselves, and foster new relationships.

Before the dinner commences, guests are cordially welcomed by the SUN office, where formal introductions are exchanged. The evening then unfolds with a captivating cultural program, enhancing the ambiance as attendees enjoy a delectable meal.



On the opening evening of the 9th General Assembly, the University of Naples L'Orientale extended a warm welcome to attendees with a captivating Oriental music concert at the prestigious Conservatorio della Musica, Sala Scarlatti. The evening continued with a delightful Pizza Party at Da Mamma, Santa Brigida, where guests savored the city's famous pizza and traditional Italian cuisine.



Professor Roberto Tottoli, Rector of the University of Naples L'Orientale, officially welcomed the SUN family to the beautiful heritage city of Naples located on the Mediterranean coast. In his opening remarks, he hoped that the 9th General Assembly will yield desired results.

As the evening unfolded, attendees immersed themselves in the vibrant atmosphere of Naples, fostering connections and anticipating the productive discussions to happen.



# Opening Ceremony

## November 12, 2024

- A beautifully planned and well-organized opening ceremony of the 9th General Assembly of SUN was held in Basilica San Giovanni Maggiore, Rampe San Giovanni Maggiore.
- At the outset, the 9th General Assembly of SUN observed silence to mourn the loss of lives and properties due to ongoing wars or calamities across the world.
- On announcing the 9th General Assembly of SUN by Prof. Karim Chelli, Chairman of SUN & the President of the chair university CUD, the General Assembly began playing the National Anthem of Italy.
- As per the custom of the opening ceremony of the SUN General Assembly, A **flag-raising ceremony** was observed to show our sense of pride and loyalty to the university we belong to, and raising together the flags of the member universities symbolizes the sense of togetherness and willingness to collaborate for co-prosperity. In this unique event, Presidents/Rectors/Vice-Chancellors/representatives of the member universities participated in wearing the official convocation dress of their respective universities.
- Professor Roberto Tottoli, Rector, Università di Napoli L'Orientale **cordially greeted** the participants of the 9th General Assembly and IASS annual conference of SUN and wished for a grand success of the 9th General Assembly and a comfortable stay in Napoli.





- In the opening remarks, Chairman of SUN Prof Karim Chelli once again welcomed the delegates of the 9th General Assembly of SUN and called for the academia to discuss, deliberate, ideate, disseminate and collaborate to create a knowledge society that can empower the students who can better handle future challenges and societal conflicts. \*\*\*\*
- In their welcoming Speech, Dr. Francesco Senese, Advisor to the Mayor of Naples on international affairs, and Professor Adriano Rossi, President of ISMEO, Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l'Oriente extended greetings on the occasion of the opening of the 9th General Assembly and underlined the importance of the theme of the General Assembly.
- In their congratulatory speech, Prof. Tiziana Lipiellow, Rector, Ca'Foscari Univ of Venice, (through her representative), Prof Shimada Ryuto, University of Tokyo, Prof Wu Junru, Co-Director, Confucian Institute thanked SUN for allowing being a part of the General Assembly and expressed hope that SUN's efforts would lead to the creation of a knowledge network capable of meeting the intellectual needs of the communities located along the Silk Roads.





# Administrative Proceedings

November 12, 2024

This is an important session of the General Assembly of SUN in which the Secretary-General of SUN tables the report of the activities of the previous year, the audited financial report, and plans for the coming year before the House for approval.



The Secretary General of SUN, Prof. SungDon Hwang tabled the detailed annual report of the academic (IASS conferences), cultural (PHOCOS, WRICOS, SDECOS etc including events organized to commemorate the 1600th anniversary of Venice jointly organized by the Ca'Foscary University of Venice and SUN) activities and audited financial report of SUN for the year 2022 before the 8th General assembly of SUN.



On behalf of the treasurer of SUN (Prof Jeong O Park), the Secretary-General of SUN, placed the income and expenditure details of SUN for the year 2023-24 before the House. Approving the above financial statement, one of the two independent auditors of SUN, Prof D. A. P. Sharma, presented the audit report in conformity with the regulations of SUN





Under the promotion and expansion activities, the Secretary-General of SUN apprised the house that the following five universities have joined the Silk Road Universities Network :



University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro



Mu'tah University, Jordant



University Aboubaker Belkaid Tlemcen, Algeria



Setif 1 University Ferhat Abbas, Algeria



University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene, Algeria



- The House welcomed the new members with applause.

# Delegation of the Responsibilities

- Prof M. Ertan Gokmen of Ankara University, was delegated the responsibility of one of the two auditors of SUN.



# Memorandum of Understanding Signed with WeGo

- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the World Smart Cities Sustainable Organization and Silk Road University Network.



# Award Distribution Ceremony

An award distribution ceremony was held to confer prizes to the winners of WRICOS & PHOCOS competitions organized in the year 2023-24.





# The list of awardees is as follows:

WICOS PRIZES	name	university	prize
Grand Prize (1)	Byambasuren Erdenebayar	National University of Mongolia	Grand Prize(wricos-essay)
Excellence Award (2)	Mustafa Kurnaz	Ankara University	Excellence Award(wricos-essay)
	Latife Sakhi	Allameh Tabatabai University	Excellence Award(wricos-essay)
Special Selection (7)	Maria Pourlioti	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Special Selection(wricos-essay)
	Lavine Sec Yu Tian	University of Malaya	Special Selection(wricos-essay)
	Sabirov Elyor Elbekovich	Samarkand International University of Technology	Special Selection(wricos-essay)
	Minith Mey	Royal University of Phnom Penh	Special Selection(wricos-essay)
	Murat Yıldız	Ankara University	Special Selection(wricos-essay)
	Mohadesch Karimi	University of Guilan	Special Selection(wricos-essay)
	Eihab Hamed	Canadian University Dubai	Special Selection(wricos-essay)

Grand Prize (1)	Ilma Ahmad	Canadian University Dubai	Grand Prize(wricos-poem)
Excellence Award (2)	Pinsari Jayasundara	University of Kelaniya	Excellence Award(wricos-poem)
	Dashdulam Batbold	Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture	Excellence Award(wricos-poem)
Special Selection (7)	Maria Paraskevi Vergouli Papadopoulou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Special Selection(wricos-poem)
	Yunseo Kim	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	Special Selection(wricos-poem)
	Heng Xin Phei	University of Malaya	Special Selection(wricos-poem)
	Mina Fotouhi	University of Guilan	Special Selection(wricos-poem)

PHOCOS PRIZES	Name	University	Prize
Grand Prize (1)	Mahdi	Mohajer Technical and Vocational University	Grand Prize(phocos)
Excellence Award (2)	Francesca De Luca	Università degli Studi di Napoli Orientale	Excellence Award(phocos)
	Saman Khodayari	Allameh Tabatabai University	Excellence Award(phocos)
Special Citation (5)	Aloka wickramasinghe	University of kelaniya	Special Citation(phocos)
	Naghmeb Abbasi	Guilan University	Special Citation(phocos)
	Manfei Zhu	Canadian University Dubai	Special Citation(phocos)
	X.Монх-Уяа	School of Pharmacy, MNUMS АШИҮҮИС-Эм зүйн сургууль	Special Citation(phocos)
	rayeh ramezani	Allameh Tabatabai University	Special Citation(phocos)
Citation (9)	seyyedeh zohreh vakil	Masomieh Research Center Qom- Al-Zahra Community	Citation(phocos)
	Parisa Rahimi	Guilan University	Citation(phocos)

	Motabarch Karimi	Kashan university	Citation(phocos)
	Luyao Lei	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	Citation(phocos)
	Ninjin Enkhbaatar	National University of Mongolia	Citation(phocos)
	Ng Cia Yik	Universiti Malaya	Citation(phocos)
	Wong Kar Cheng	Universiti Malaya	Citation(phocos)
	Tasheela Shehani Vidanagamage	University of Kelaniya	Citation(phocos)
	Shadi Khodayari	Allameh Tabataba'i	Citation(phocos)

- The House approved the Secretary-General's report with a voice vote and expressed its satisfaction with the relentless work he has been doing since the inception of SUN.

# United Presidents of SUN (UPSUN) Workshop

[This UPSUN report is prepared by Prof. Ronald Steiner]

- The UPSUN Workshop is a significant segment of the General Assembly. The objective of the UPSUN workshop is to gather innovative ideas from the university leaders, facilitate collaboration among the member universities, and learn from each other to make the curriculum and campus trendy.
- At the 9th General Assembly UPSUN workshop, held at the prestigious Palazzo Du Mesnil, a lively and in-depth discussion unfolded. High-level representatives, including presidents, rectors, and professors from member universities, gathered to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities within higher education along the Silk Road. The participants engaged in a productive dialogue, exploring potential avenues for collaboration and partnership.

The following member universities were represented in the UPSUN workshop and introduced their university's programs and activities:

1. Alameh Tabatabai university of Iran
2. Al Farabi Kazak National University
3. Ca' Foscari University of Venice
4. University of Delhi
5. University of Donja Gorika in Montenegro
6. National University of Mongolia
7. Mut'ah University of Jordan
8. Serif-one University Farhat Abbas of Algeria
9. Tlemcin University of Algeria
10. University of science and technology Houmari Boumediene Algeria, and
11. Mongolian national University of arts and culture





## Various Proposals and considerations discussed

The University of Bucharest (UB) proposed adjustments to the speech and debate contest. The idea would be to combine UB's alignment with civis. EU and its blended intensive programs to supplement the speech and debate contest with online teaching blended with short-term, face-to-face study to increase student learning and engagement

Ca' Foscari University and others remarked on their commitment to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research and finding ways to promote research that is attentive to cultural diversity in the spirit of SUN, and to have member universities advance, practical levels of interaction among the actual hands-on researchers

The University of Delhi hoped to see SUN increase as a catalyst for a broader exchange of knowledge, especially through the proposed forums which can carry on the work regularly throughout the year and not just at periodic annual meetings

It was suggested that SUN sponsor perhaps with UDG a program of sports festivals involving a cooperative model of competition to inspire student interaction.



It was proposed that SUN may seek collaborations with UNICA, which is a consortium of major universities in European capital cities fostering research in public policy and urban affairs. This might be connected to a proposal to advance physicians as disciples of Hippocrates, including an annual conference on Kos Island, the home of Hippocrates, to focus on medical ethics and contribute to preserving the Hippocratic site itself.

It was proposed that the SUN might create its own ranking system to systematically evaluate schools based on metrics defined in ways that advance the mission of SUN and ~~address some of the long standing and common critiques of the existing ranking systems.~~

Finally, the University of social scientist and humanities of Vietnam national University and others hoped to promote increased engagement by students in the various competitions and in other ways, increasing student and community involvement, especially encouraging students to create networks on their own using social media and other resources

In general, UPSUN participants sensed that SUN has reached an inflection point and must proceed to a higher level of demonstrated achievement of value to member institutions.

# USSUN Workshop

[Report from Professor Dorota Sylwia Majewicz, USSUN adviser]



On November 14, 2024, during the 9th General Assembly of the United Students of the Silk-Road Universities Network (USSUN) held in Naples, Italy, Professor Dorota Sylwia Majewicz chaired the USSUN workshop. The assembly served as a platform for academic and cultural exchange among member institutions, advancing the objectives of the Silk Road Universities Network.

## Key Workshop Themes and Proposals:

The workshop commenced with participant introductions, wherein students presented their academic backgrounds and affiliated universities, fostering a collegial atmosphere. A video address by the 2023–2024 USSUN Secretary-General, Rasoul Firouzi (Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran) was followed by the presentation made by Coordinators of SUN, highlighting the network's achievements and aspirations. Subsequently, elections for the new USSUN leadership took place.

The elected officials are USSUN Secretary-General Elia Pizzato (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy), USSUN President Maria Pourlioti (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), and Vice President Muhayyo Odilxojayeva (Uzbek State University of World Languages, Uzbekistan). The new leadership emphasized inclusivity, collaboration, and innovation in their vision for the network.

Under Professor Majewicz's guidance, the workshop addressed critical topics to enhance USSUN's functionality and visibility. A primary concern was the need for improved recognition and accessibility of USSUN activities across member universities. Participants advocated for better integration of USSUN information on institutional websites to facilitate faculty and student engagement, thereby increasing participation in events such as the SUN General Assembly. Regular communication and comprehensive announcements were deemed essential for effective outreach.

The limited representation at General Assembly meetings was another significant issue. Increasing the number of representatives was seen as beneficial for enriching the diversity of perspectives essential for informed decision-making, enhancing the visibility of smaller or less-represented institutions, and expanding networking opportunities. Participants emphasized that greater representation would strengthen relationships among member universities.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of establishing student exchange programs among member universities. Such initiatives were recognized as valuable for fostering cultural understanding and offering unique academic and personal development opportunities. Additionally, the idea of international research collaborations, supported by SUN and USSUN Advisors, was proposed to connect students across borders on shared academic challenges.

The need for mentorship programs tailored to student needs was underscored. These programs, involving experienced academics and professionals, would provide guidance and skill development, empowering students to navigate academic and professional pathways effectively. Furthermore, creating cross-cultural bridges to support and expand student activities was discussed, promoting greater collaboration and mutual understanding within the network. Participants stressed the importance of inclusivity and improved communication within USSUN, advocating for better visibility of SUN on member university websites to facilitate access to events and initiatives.

## Strategic Recommendations:

The workshop concluded with several strategic recommendations. Foremost was the call for more effective promotion of USSUN activities to enhance visibility and accessibility. Participants underscored the need to improve inclusivity and communication within the network and to ensure that USSUN's mission and events are prominently featured on member university websites, providing a centralized resource for information.

Prioritizing increased representation at General Assemblies was deemed essential for equitable participation and enriched dialogue. Expanding exchange programs and establishing mentorship initiatives were identified as practical strategies to foster academic growth and cultural exchange, aligning with USSUN's overarching goals of addressing global challenges collaboratively. These programs would also serve as mechanisms to enhance the cross-cultural competencies of students.

## Conclusion:

The workshop, chaired by Professor Majewicz, was instrumental in shaping the future direction of USSUN. Through thoughtful dialogue and innovative proposals, participants outlined a vision for enhancing USSUN's impact by prioritizing inclusivity, strengthening communication, and boosting cross-cultural collaboration. These efforts position USSUN to achieve its mission of promoting academic excellence and mutual understanding among its members. The outcomes of this workshop underscore the network's potential to drive meaningful change and establish a robust foundation for future endeavors.



12-14 november 2024

*From Silk Roads  
to World History  
Civilizations*

**HEROES  
CONQUERORS  
and  
ADVENTURERS**



**DAY 1  
12 NOVEMBER, TUESDAY**

**PLENARY SESSION**

A special session dedicated to the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Matteo Ripa's Return to Italy from China

**"Matteo Ripa and the Chinese College"**

Venue: *Basilica San Giovanni Maggiore, Rampe San Giovanni Maggiore*  
Chair: **Augusto Guarino**, Vice Rector, University of Naples L'Orientale  
**Donatella Guida**, University of Naples L'Orientale,  
President of the Research Center on Matteo Ripa  
*Matteo Ripa's Journey: From Kangxi's Court to a New Vision for China*  
**Annachiara Trapani**, University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Building a Legacy: Matteo Ripa and the Chinese College in Naples*  
**Carlo Vecce**, University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Towards a Global World: Matteo Ripa's Literary Legacy*

*Q&A*

19:00-21:00 *Dinner*

Venue: *Restaurant "Mamma" Via Santa Brigida, 65*



**DAY 2  
13 NOVEMBER, WEDNESDAY**

**Cultural Tour to Eboli and Paestum**

07:45 Departure to Eboli by bus  
10.00 -11.00 Guided tour to Eboli, the birthplace of Matteo Ripa, founder of University of Naples L'Orientale  
11:00 Special Session on Matteo Ripa organized by the City of Eboli  
13:00 Lunch offered by the City of Eboli  
14:30 Departure to the archaeological site of Paestum  
15:00 Guided visit to the Paestum archaeological park and museum  
17:00 Departure to Napoli





## IASS SESSION ONE

Venue: Palazzo Du Mesnil, Conference Hall, First Floor  
Via Chiatamone 61/62

### Panel 1

#### Japanese Trade and Residence in Southeast Asia in the Early Modern Period

08:45-10:45 Chair: Antonia Soriente, University of Naples L'Orientale  
Ryūto Shimada, University of Tokyo  
*Tenjiku Tokubei: An Invisible Japanese Hero who Went to Ayutthaya in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*  
Ubaldo Iaccarino, University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Early Modern Japanese Residents in the Philippines. A close look at Manila's Nihonmachi*  
Pierre-Emmanuel Bachelet, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon  
*Luxuries from afar. Trade and consumption of fragrant woods from Southeast Asia to Japan (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries)*  
Giuseppe Giordano, University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Blades and Bullets: The Shinsengumi and the arrival of Western military technology*  
Q&A

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

### Panel 2

#### The Maritime Silk Road: looking for connections across disci

11:00-13:00

Chair: Pia Brancaccio, University of Naples L'Orientale  
Elizabeth Lambourn, De Montfort University, Leicester  
*Neither heroes nor conquerors: craft mobility in the Indian Ocean world before 1500*  
Francisco Apellániz, University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Mamluks, Nakhudbas, and Eunuchs: Muslim networks in the Indian Ocean before Da Gama*  
Victoria Almonte, University of Tuscia  
*The perceptions of the others: some encounters between China and the Mediterranean area along the Silk Roads*  
Alexia Pavan and Chiara Visconti, University of Naples  
*Tales from Arabia: Explorers and Merchants in Zafār through texts and archaeology*  
Q&A

13:00-14:00

Luncheon

### Panel 3

#### People, Goods, Ideas along the ancient Silk Roads

14:00-16:00 Chair: Michele Bernardini, University of Naples L'Orientale  
Tommaso Raiola, University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Greeks searching for paths to the East: On the traces of the ancient Silk Roads*  
Irene Calà, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  
*Greek medicine on the Silk Road: Constantinople and the physicians*  
Laura Massetti, University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Tales from the Silk Road and Their Western Resonances: A Case Study*  
Q&A

## SESSION TWO

### Panel 4

#### Literary Exchange on the Silk Road

Venue: Palazzo Du Mesnil, Third Floor, Conference Hall  
Via Chiatamone 61/62

9:15-10:45 Chair: Natalia Tornesello, University of Naples L'Orientale  
M.Ertan Gökmen, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies  
*One of the First Intellectual, Poet and Thinker of the Silk Road Society from Turkic-Islamic World: Yūsuf Hās Hājib*  
Seda Gülsüm Gökmen, Ankara University  
*Mahmud Al-Kashgari: Diwān Lughāt al-Turk/Compendium of the Languages of the Turks*  
Tomoko Morikawa, University of Tokyo  
*Sindbad the Sailor and 'Aja'ib al-Makhlūqat (The Wonders of Creatures) on Medieval Maritime Silk Road and Beyond*

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break





## PANEL 5

### A Bridge for Knowledge on the Silk Roads

11:00-13:00

Chair: **Bruno Genito**, University of Naples L'Orientale

**Asim Jannatov** and **Roja K. Mirzabayova** (online),  
Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

*Foundations of intellectual exchange along the Silk Road*

**Mohammad Idris Laurey**, Punjabi University

*Silk Route as a cultural bridge: Studying the contribution  
of Sufis between India and the medieval Asiatic world*

**Sharma Dwivedi Anand Prakash**, Delhi University

*Examining the Political Utility of War in the Light of Kautilya's  
"Kūṭa Yuddha" and Machiavelli's "Total War"*

**Adele Cozzani**, University of Naples L'Orientale

*Hu Dengzhou and the Jingtang Jiaoyu: linguistic  
and cultural aspects of Islamic education in China during Ming era*

13:00-14:00

*Luncheon together with the GA participants*

## PANEL 6

### A Glimpse on Contemporary Silk Roads World

Venue:

Palazzo Du Mesnil, Third Floor, Conference Hall, Via Chiatamone 61/62

14:00-15:45

Chair: **Tommaso Trevisani**, University of Naples L'Orientale

**Cristina Zhou**, University of Coimbra

*Conquering the "limitless Sea"- a peculiar version  
of cultural Silk Roads in Fernando Pessoa's spiritual cosmopolitanism*

**Zheng Jie-Zhao Ji**, Beijing City University

*Revitalization and tourism development of Dunhuang cultural heritage*

**Carlos Leone**, *Blocks in international affairs*

*Q&A*



## PLENARY SESSION

A special session dedicated to the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Marco Polo's death  
"Marco Polo's Silk Roads"

Venue: Palazzo Du Mesnil, Conference Hall, First Floor  
Via Chiatamone 61/62

16:00-18:00

Chair: **Lorenzo Pubblici**, University of Naples L'Orientale

**Maddalena Barenghi**, Ca'Foscari University of Venice  
*Horse Routes and State Spaces in the Late Tang Period (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century)*

**Raissa De Gruttola**, Ca'Foscari University of Venice  
*Franciscan Friars and texts traveling along the Silk Roads through the centuries*

**Nicola Di Cosmo**, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton  
*Notes on Marco Polo's Contribution to a Cultural History of Silk Road*

**Elisabetta Ragagnin**, Ca'Foscari University of Venice (online)  
*Marco Polo's studies in Mongolia*

**Laura De Giorgi**, Ca'Foscari University of Venice  
*Marco Polo in Twentieth Century's Italian Imagery*



*Project Directors*  
**Patrizia Carioti, Sungdon Hwang**

*Coordinator*  
**Lorenzo Pubblici**

*Scientific Board and Organizing Committee*  
**Francisco Apellániz, Michele Bernardini, Ubaldo Iaccarino, Tommaso Raiola**

*SUN Secretariat Staff*  
**Garam Lee**, Principal Coordinator of SUN Secretariat on WRICOS  
**Yujeong Lee**, Principal Coordinator of SUN Secretariat on General Affairs  
**Amali Ranavi Thanthrige Saumya**, Principal Coordinator of SUN Secretariat on Event Planning  
**Minju Sung**, Coordinator of SUN Secretariat on PHOCOS  
**Minsong Kim**, Coordinator of SUN Secretariat on General Affairs

*SUN-IASS UNIOR Secretariat Staff*  
*Secretariat Head Coordinators*  
**Davide Picone, Sabrina Zingone**

*Information Technology Management*  
**Alessandro Nappa, Ettore Grasso, Giulio Romano**

*Public Relations and Student Activities Coordinators*  
**Carmen Neglia, Laura Di Cuffa**

*Additional Staff*  
**Blanca Tagliatela, Gaia Russo, Lorenzo Colferai, Monica Montella**

---

# SUN Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** November 14, 2024, **Location:** Palazzo du Mesnil, Naples, Italy,

**Background:** Held during the 9th General Assembly of SUN, hosted by the University of Naples “L’Orientale.”

## **Chair: Prof. Karim Chelli**

Chairman of SUN and President of Canadian University of Dubai

## **Secretary: Prof. Sungdon Hwang**

Secretary-General of SUN

## **Board Members Present:**

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Ankara University, Ankara, Türkiye

Ca’Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy

Canadian University of Dubai, Dubai, U.A.E.

Chapman University, Orange County, California, U.S.A.

Mu’tah University, Karak, Jordan

National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Samarkand International University of Technology, Samarkand,  
Uzbekistan

University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

University of Delhi, New Delhi, India

University of Naples “L’Orientale,” Naples, Italy

Uzbekistan State University of World Languages, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



---

# Reporting Items

## **(1) New Member Universities:**

The Secretary-General reported the addition of the following universities to SUN:

University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro

Mu'tah University, Jordan

University Aboubaker Belkaid – Tlemcen, Algeria

Sherif-1 University Ferhat Abbas, Algeria

University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene, Algeria

## **(2) New Appointments:**

The Secretary-General apprised the board about the following appointments:

1. Prof. M. Ertan Gökmen of Ankara University was appointed as an auditor of SUN.
2. Prof. Dorota Majewicz of Koszalin University of Technology, Poland, was appointed SUN's student advisor.



---

# Agenda and Decisions:

## Agenda Item 1: Planned Activities for 2025

The Board unanimously approved the following academic and cultural activities for 2025 proposed by the Secretary-General:

- Marco Polo Commemoration: Ca' Foscari University of Venice will lead four contests to commemorate the 700th death anniversary of Marco Polo.

### **Silk-Road Forums:**

- Silk-Road Museum, History, and Archeology Forums: Jointly led by the University of Naples “L’Orientale” and Professor Emeritus Richard T. Griffith of Leiden University.
- Silk-Road Language and Literature Forum: Led by the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages.
- Silk-Road Nature Conservation and Climate Forum: Jointly led by the University of Delhi and the National University of Mongolia.
- Silk-Road Inter-Disciplinary Research Forum: Led by the Canadian University of Dubai.
- Silk-Road Medical Forum: Led by UNICA (a network of European capital universities) in collaboration with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
- Silk-Road Sports Forum: Led by the University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro.

### **SUN Contests for students:**

- The Speech and Debate Contest of SUN (S-DECOS): Led by the University of Bucharest, Romania.
- SUN PHOCOS-2025 and WRICOS-2025: Led by the SUN Secretariat.



---

## **Agenda Item 2:**

### **Future General Assemblies and IASS Conferences**

The Board unanimously decided that:

- The 10th General Assembly and 9th IASS Conference will be held in 2025 by Samarkand International University of Technology.
- The 11th General Assembly and 10th IASS Conference will be held in 2026 by Jordan University.
- The 12th General Assembly and 11th IASS conference will be held in 2027 in Algeria.
- The 13th General Assembly and 12th IASS conference will be held in 2028 by Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan **OR** by the National University of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

## **Agenda Item 3:**

### **Change of SUN Headquarter and the Office of SUN Secretariat**

The Board unanimously decided that a two-member committee comprising Prof. Tiziana Lippiello (Rector, Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and Prof. Ronald Steiner (Chapman University, California) will evaluate the feasibility of relocating the Headquarter of SUN and the Office of SUN Secretariat and that the committee is requested to recommend the options to the Secretary-General by the end of January 2025.

## **Agenda Item 4:**

### **Other Matters (regarding the operation of SUN)**

The Board discussed the upcoming term of the Secretary-General and resolved to consider constitutional amendments to allow for potential extensions. The above-mentioned two-member committee will explore necessary amendments and report to the Chair.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

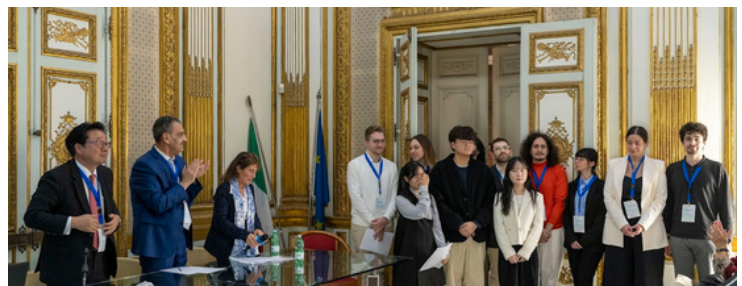
# Closing Ceremony & Farewell Dinner

- The closing ceremony of the 9th General Assembly of SUN concluded at Conference Hall, Palazzo Du Mesnil, on the evening of November 14 in which a brief report of the major events of the 9th General Assembly of SUN was read before the audience.
- The Secretary General of SUN Prof. Sungdon Hwang, and the Chairman of SUN Prof Karim Chelli both conveyed heartfelt thanks to the President of the University of Napoli La'Orientale and Prof Patricia Carioti for organizing the 9th General Assembly of SUN an 8th IASS conference memorable.
- The Secretary-General and the Chairman of SUN expressed gratitude to the heads & representatives of member universities and delegates for their active participation and benign presence.
- The Secretary-General and the Chairman of SUN and the participants showered praise with thunderous applause on the students and staff who have worked hard to make the 9th General Assembly and 8th IASS conference a grand success.
- Upon the recommendation of the Secretary general of SUN Prof Sung Don Hwang the participants unanimously elected Prof Mohammad Galety, a professor of Computer Science, Samarkand International University of Technology of the president of IASS 2025.



Mohammad Gouse Galety, a seasoned professional in computer science, is currently a Professor at the computer science department of Samarkand International University of Technology, Samarkand, Uzbekistan. His research interests encompass a wide range of computer and information science, focusing on Web Mining, Computer Vision, IoT, Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence. His impactful research has led to the (co) authorship of several journal papers and international conference proceedings indexed by Springer, Web of Science, and Scopus, holding four patents and writing six books. His standing in the academic community is further solidified by his role as a Fellow of the IEEE and ACM.

With a career spanning over two decades, Mohammad Gouse Galety has served in many national and international organizations, solidifying his expertise in the field. His teaching experience includes roles at Sree Vidyanikethan Degree College, India; Emeralds Degree College, Tirupati, India; Brindavan College of Engineering, India; Kuwait Educational Center, Kuwait; Ambo University, Ethiopia; Debre Berhan University, Ethiopia; Lebanese French University, Iraq; and Catholic University in Erbil, Iraq. He imparts his knowledge to undergraduate and postgraduate students, teaching various courses in computer science and information technology/science engineering.





# Farewell Dinner

- The farewell dinner was wonderfully organized at Restaurant Da Mammino where the participants enjoyed delicious Italian cuisine. After the wonderful dinner, the participants enjoyed a cake and toast party organized at Circolo Rari Nantes which was full of fun and festivity.
- On November 15, the guests left for their respective destinations with sweet memories.

