

GrEAT telecon minutes

Wednesday September 9th 09:00 UK/ 16:00 CST

Present:

Siong
Jordan
Nils
Patrick
Chalisa
Stuart
Wenbiao
Yiming

Agenda:

Planning for GrEAT network meeting

-Timing: late November? 2 x 2 hour sessions (over 2 days)?
-almost certainly virtual (Zoom?)

-Goals:

- discuss how GrEAT can best operate in a world with travel restrictions
- how should we deliver training?
- how should we encourage, facilitate collaborations?
- how to fund activities?

-Any other goals? Brainstorming sessions? match-making/ice-breaker sessions in breakout rooms?

Action:

- Agree on a date for the next meeting in late November. Time: 9am UK / 5pm China
- Discuss small group session to deliver training
- Spending of remaining funds. Construction of fibre pulling machines for China, paid zoom accounts for Chinese students/staff
- New webinar and call times (doodle poll)

Siong: Hello everyone, so part of the reason we're having a discussion is to have the opportunity to talk about the next GrEAT network meeting. We had hoped to meet in person but that looks unlikely to happen before the end of the year mainly due to travel restrictions. My question is twofold how do we have this meeting? and secondly what we should do for this great network meeting. In the agenda there are some possible goals for the next network meeting. It is possible that the pandemic will impact the world for the next year. One of the main strands of the GrEAT Network is to deliver training and we have these

webinars and also have some lectures. To give an update: we have been translating lectures and two are almost finished. There were some transcript issues, so we found another tool to find transcripts and that has helped. I think this activity of translating lectures is useful in the sense that the goal is to provide subtitles in Chinese and language is still a significant barrier for students. We think this activity of translation should continue but how we should deliver training and how to we continue to collaboration do we want to go beyond webinars. How do we fund the great network as it will end at the end of this year? STFC says there's uncertainty to go beyond but we should have to think about how to fund.

Nils: when it comes to training it's a very important question. 1) when we had the meeting in Southampton it worked really well with communication. The Indian students have been brought up with the English language, so they have no issues, but the Chinese students find it a bit harder. Once they started communicating, they did really well. While the webinars are good, we are missing something that encourages engagement.

2) My second point relates to India, so we are involved with running project with a couple of master's students and we meet with them once a week or so online and that seems to work well.

The key point is for smaller groups is to communicate with people across the network.

Siong: should we have a peer-to-peer process rather than having a student to staff interaction.

Nils: Webinars are good for that but it's a bit standoffish you get people to engage with material. In a perfect world you would pair up PhD/post docs with students and they could have meetings where they can engage in a different way than to you and me. We can come up with a framework.

Siong: We could have these match making rooms and have one on one session where people discuss their science to each other. Sounds like there will be things we can discuss at the meeting.

Nils: Could we do something where the staff are not allowed to speak but have the students and PhD's speak and ask questions? Sometimes the main thing about not speaking up is through intimidation or not wanting to get something wrong. Would be good to discuss at the meeting.

Siong: These translation lecture could have a watch party where they discuss the lecture without the supervision of the academic staff.

Siong: Next agenda item: We should then discuss the timing of the meeting. We had the idea of late November does this class with any activities? Are there any objections? No, OK. The other thing to consider is the time zone overlap, in November there will not be daylight saving so the overlap will be poorer. I propose we don't have session that are too long I propose we have 1-2 hour sessions over the course of a few days (2 days probably).

Yiming: I went to the LISA symposium meeting where people were uploading their talks and it worked well. Can view videos independently and have discussions at the 1 hour overlap.

Siong: Any other thoughts on this? Meetings will probably start at 9am in late November. That's as much as I wanted to discuss about the planning at this point.

Siong: Another item is that we have some money left in the budget which was for travel. £2-3. What should we do with this? There's some flexibility in this.

Patrick: is there restriction?

Siong: if we buy anything those should go to China. For example, we previously used these table top interferometers to provide to institutions in China.

Patrick: could we ask for extension? Perhaps to hire a professional translator.

Siong: I am not sure of the rates of this service. At the moment our translation service is our colleagues in China, and I am thinking of ways of rewarding them. It's very difficult to get money into the Chinese system.

Patrick: We will have to identify what is it we most want to achieve that we haven't done yet.

Siong: One of the things we wanted to do is support the construction of fibre pulling machines in China. I'm not sure how we can do this, the drawings are open I'm not sure how we can continue.

Yiming: Seems zoom is not supporting free service to Chinese accounts. Maybe we can use this money to support zoom account for Chinese that don't have access to these features?

Siong: Yes, we could do that. Let us explore a great network zoom service.

Yiming: What about LIGO in your hands?

Siong: Unsure as Borja is no longer part of Glasgow. We can talk with him about this.

Yiming: I have this teaching duty that is conflict to normal time. Can we think about a new set time for these discussions.

Siong: Yes, we can create a doodle poll to see new time. Any other business?

Siong: OK thank you everyone.