

**IAMCR/AIERI GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MINUTES OF THE XIXth MEETING, 7 JULY 1994  
SHERATON WALKER HILL, SEOUL, KOREA**

**1. Opening**

President Cees Hamelink opened the meeting.

**2. Agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted.

**3. Minutes of the meeting of the XVIIIth General Assembly on 20 August 1992 at Guaruja, Brazil**

The minutes of the meeting of the XVIIIth General Assembly were approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

**4. The 1994 XIXth Scientific Conference**

The President thanked the Korean organising committee and the local staff for its successful work that had brought 350 participants from 52 countries to the conference. Special thanks were extended to Professor Kim, as the chairman of the committee.

**5. Report of the President**

President Hamelink presented his report and provided a number of additional comments.

He drew attention to the healthy financial situation of the Association. Membership income considerably increased to an annual average of US \$ 46,000. The current balance exceeds US \$ 30,000 and the Association's capital is around US \$ 51,000.

For the remaining part of 1995 some US \$ 21,000 is still receivable in membership dues.

After all the 'delinquent' members had been removed from the administration, the membership has begun to increase. There are 492 individual members and 1500 individuals are covered by collective membership.

In the past years the Association has improved its public presence and the resolution on human

rights issues to be presented later manifests this among other events.

The president states that in light of the effort and investment of the past four years he regrets a possible move from Amsterdam where a beginning has been made to develop an independent administrative centre for the IAMCR. The president refers to the written report for a clarification of his position and draws the attention of the Assembly to the expenses involved in a departure from Amsterdam.

#### **6. Report of the Treasurer**

The report by the external accountant was presented and it was moved from the floor by Vice-President Mear that a reading pause was needed to carefully study this report.

The meeting was adjourned and returned to business after fifteen minutes. The accountant's report was unanimously approved.

The treasurer then commented that she had not been involved in the preparation of the Treasurer's report and that its contents were not all together transparent.

When asked from the floor whether her remarks implied a serious disagreement with the financial reports as presented and audited, she responded that she had no evidence of this.

#### **7. Report of the Secretary General**

The Secretary General reported on his activities, notably with the Newsletter, the membership directory and the book of abstracts for the Seoul conference. He stressed the fruitful and intensive co-operation with the President and the Administrative Office, which has made possible a high level of activity to the benefit of the membership at large.

#### **8. Report of the President-Elect**

President-Elect Hamid Mowlana presented his report, indicating that after reviewing the financial and legal situations of the IAMCR office in Amsterdam, and in concurrence with the proposal of the Finance and Fund Raising Committee, he recommends a plan of decentralization, under which current administrative operation in Amsterdam be divided among the appropriate offices of members of the Executive Board. The high cost of labor, office maintenance and staff salaries consume the total income of IAMCR, leaving no funds for other services. Decentralization will eliminate complicated legal problems in Amsterdam, including the need for establishing an Amsterdam-based sponsored foundation for the Association's work. The President-Elect

recommended a balanced budget of US \$ 50,000 for IAMCR's operation.

There was a debate on the recommendations made by the President-Elect for the future administration of the Association. The President-Elect agreed to delete the reference to "Services Professional XL" from his report. The following amendment was proposed from the floor to the Report and Recommendations of the President-Elect: "The administrative functions of the Association will be shared, within the limits of this budget, by the offices of the President, the Secretary General, and the Treasurer in accordance with a division of labor and with procedures which will allow each of them to fulfill their tasks; all this to be agreed upon by the Executive Board." The President-Elect accepted the amendment.

It was proposed from the floor to have a secret ballot for the recommendation made by the President-Elect. The president proposed [in light of the limited time available for the meeting and the large number of issues on the agenda, and after quick consultation with the members of the Legal Committee] that the Assembly express its preferences for open or secret vote.

A large majority preferred to have a vote by show of hands.

The amended Report and Recommendations of the President-Elect was approved by a majority of 84 in favour, 16 against, and 15 abstentions.

#### **9. Reports by Vice-Presidents**

None.

#### **10. Report of the Legal Committee**

#### **11. Amendments to the Statutes**

The President introduced the Legal Committee's report and drew attention to specific items that needed voting by the General Assembly.

Amendments of the statutes. The proposed amendments on national councils and expiration of membership were approved. All relevant articles are to be amended in accordance with the adopted changes.

The proposal that the legal address of the Association should also be mentioned in the English version of the Statutes was adopted.

Of the name of the Association the Legal Committee proposed to adopt in principle a change of name and to request the Legal Committee to prepare the necessary change of statutes in time for

the 1996 General Assembly.

English name: *International Association for Media and Communication Research.*

French name: *Association Internationale des Etudes et Recherches sur l'Information et la Communication.*

The proposal to prepare a change of statutes by which Article 11 is deleted was adopted.

The proposal to prepare a change of statutes by which Article 12 para b) should read in the English version: *"Each Section shall have a President who shall be elected by the General Assembly and who shall serve ex officio on the International Council for the duration of his presidency"*, and in the French version: *"Chaque Section a un president qui est etu par l'Assemblee Generale et qui sera membre de droit du conseil international pendant la duree de son mandat"*, was adopted.

The proposal to prepare a change of statutes by which Article 5 para e) should be read in the English version. *"If a ballot is not requested (see f) and g)) (infra), the President may validly ask for vote and election by a show of hands. In this case, which constitutes the normal rule, each individual and collective member has one vote"*, was adopted.

The proposal to prepare a change of Article 14 for a general Article providing for observer status at the General Assembly for non-member international organizations with which the Association has co-operative and/or consultative relations was adopted.

On postal voting. In the light of the possibility of a rather 'non-representative' meeting of the General Assembly it had been proposed by the General Assembly (1992) to explore the possibility of postal voting. The International Council (1993) had asked the Legal Committee to prepare a proposal voting that can be implemented before the General Assembly meeting of 1996. In 1996 the next round of elections will take place. The International Council had decided (1993) that postal voting would only take place for the election of Executive Board members.

Since the option of postal voting is at present not provided in the statutes, a paragraph should be added to Article 5 on General Assembly Meetings and Votes. The General Assembly decided to adopt the following formulation as proposed by the Legal Committee. *"Voting in connection with the election of the President-Elect, the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General, the Treasurer and the Vice Presidents shall take place by postal vote."* In the French text: *"Le vote pour l'election du President elu, du Secretaire General, du Secretaire General Adjoint, du Tresorier et des Vice-Presidents est effectuee par correspondance"*.

Procedure for postal voting. After a broad discussion the following procedure (to be further elaborated by the Legal Committee) was approved.

On General Principles: All current voting principles are maintained, in particular the free candidacy for all elected offices. A technical election committee composed of three members appointed by the International Council will be appointed to oversee the postal voting procedure and a tellers committee will be appointed to process the ballot.

On Candidates: Each candidate, only paid-up members, should be sponsored by five paid-up members from at least two different countries. The notification of candidacy (plus a 100 word CV) must be sent by registered letter to the Technical Election Committee 90 days before the General Assembly.

Candidates can apply only for one category of office on the Executive Board.

Postal voting procedure. All paid-up members will receive the following material to be sent no later than 60 days before the General Assembly:

- one ballot paper containing the names of all candidates for each position;
- vitae of all candidates;
- one voting envelope for the returned ballot paper;
- one pre-printed return envelope.

Members should sign over the backflap of the return envelope, which must be received by the Technical Election Committee no later than 21 days before the General Assembly.

Timetable and procedure for processing the ballot. A tellers committee of seven members already present and registered for the scientific conference will be randomly drawn under the supervision of the Technical Election Committee just before the ceremonial opening session, on the evening preceding the first day of the Scientific Conference.

The Tellers Committee will process the votes brought by the Technical Election Committee during the first day of the Scientific conference. The Tellers Committee will announce the result of the ballot on the same day.

Unsuccessful candidates for the Executive Board may still apply for election to the International Council which will take place under current voting procedures on the following days of the Scientific Conference.

A motion from the floor proposed that the Assembly instruct the International Council to look into procedures for the removal of elected officers. The motion was adopted by the Assembly (none against, 1 abstention).

#### 12. Report of the Committee for Fund Raising and Finance

The Committee for Fund Raising and Finance, after reviewing the financial and administrative operations of the Association, recommended that the current administrative operation in Amsterdam be distributed among the appropriate offices of members of the Executive Board.

#### 13. Report of the Membership Committee

Vice President Hutin reported on behalf of the Committees and proposed a new fee structure which was approved.

Normal membership	80 US \$
Student membership	40 US \$
Low income countries	20 US \$
Normal institutional member	400 US \$
	(up to 10 members; 40 US \$ per additional)
LIC institutional member	200 US \$
	(up to 10 members; 20 US \$ per additional)
Individual supporting member	> 80 US \$
Institutional supporting member	> 800 US \$
Life Membership	10 x normal membership fee

#### 14. Report of the Publications Committee

Report to be published in the Newsletter.

#### 15. Report of the Section Review Committee

The committee recommended the Participatory Communication Research Group be granted status as section. Motion adopted.

#### 16. Report of the Research Policy Committee

17. **Report of the Development Co-operation Committee**
18. **Composition of Committees**
19. **Reports of Sections**

Reports to be published in the Newsletter.

**20. Election of Presidents of Sections**

Rohan Samarajiva was elected president of the Communication Technology Policy section. Liesbet van Zoonen was elected president of the Gender and Communication section. Abbas Malek was elected president of the International Communication section. Jan Servaes was elected president of the Participatory Communication Research section. Manjunath Pendakur was elected president of the Political Economy section.

**21. Admission of new members**

The list of new members prepared by the Administrative Office and ratified by the International Council was taken *ad notam*. There were 146 new individual members, 15 institutional members and one new associate member (The Chinese Communication Association).

**22. Public presence of the IAMCR**

Under this item a resolution was presented for adoption by the assembly, by members Stig Hjarvard and Ib Bondebjerg, Denmark, condemning the fatwas against authors Taslima Nasreen and Salman Rushdie. The resolution was adopted by a majority vote of 68 in favour, 9 against, 19 abstentions.

The assembly urges the President to communicate this resolution to the governments involved and to the relevant human rights organisations.

**23. Honorary life membership for Tamas Szecsko**

The assembly resolved unanimously to grant Tamas Szecsko life membership of the association.

**24. Changeover of Presidents**

President Hamelink handed over the chair and its insignia to President-Elect Mowlana, who thus took presidency of the Association. President Mowlana gave a speech in honour of now Past President Hamelink, and closed the meeting of the XIXth General Assembly.

*Signed:*

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